APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Planning and General-Purposes Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 9th September 2024 at 6.45pm

Present:

Cllr Connell (Chair)
Cllr Hilsden
Cllr Railton
Cllr Turnbull

Also in attendance:

Cllr Anderton
Cllr Heap
Cllr Kemp
Cllr Rooke
Cllr Smith
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

P1/09/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Curley, Cllr Pape and Cllr Davidson.

P2/09/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Railton declared an interest in the planning applications relating to St Anne's Almshouses, through his involvement in a professional capacity with his business, Eden Heritage.

Cllr Connell declared an interest in the planning applications relating to St Anne's Almshouses, as he is a trustee, and Appleby Grammar School, as he is a trustee of Appleby GS Foundation.

P3/09/24 Actions from the Previous Minutes

- **Black and White Bollards**

The Clerk reported that the new bollards on the Butts and the west side of Boroughgate have been installed. Installation of the bollards on the east side of Boroughgate has started and it is hoped to have these all installed by the end of September.

A meeting was held with Westmorland & Furness Council to discuss a solution for replacing the bollards on the Sands. The requirement is that some bollards need to be removable so emergency services can get down to the river if required. It was agreed to research potential solutions to fit this requirement. It was also discussed at the meeting that Appleby Council has used up the funds it had available for new bollards and additional funding will need to be sourced to replace the remaining ones. W&F agreed at the meeting they will look at what funding they might have available.

- **Fingerposts and Interpretation Maps**

All fingerposts and interpretation maps have now been installed. One new sign at the top of Lady Garth path to direct people into the town centre is still to be installed by Highways.

- **Doomgate FRMS Project**

The Environment Agency have confirmation that Appleby Castle are willing to make their grounds available for general parking for the two month period that the temporary car park will not be ready. The EA have agreed to put signage at both Broad Close car park entrance and on Boroughgate to direct people to the Castle parking. Parking will be available at £5 per day.

10 spaces will be retained in Broad Close car park for the duration of the two month closure, however W&F Council have confirmed to the EA that there are currently 26 permit holders. The EA are due to have a further meeting with W&F Council to discuss arrangements in more detail.

The Bowling Club have agreed to allocate 5 of their parking spaces for the duration of the flood defence work. It is unlikely that they would be able to offer any additional spaces for the two month closure period, as they already have a parking arrangement with a couple of neighbouring local businesses.

There appears to be some confusion regarding who permit holders should contact regarding parking arrangements, which needs to be resolved by W&F.

Cllr Connell thanked the Clerk for the hard work and effort that has gone into trying to mitigate the problems caused by the car park closure.

- **Heritage Open Weekend and QR Code Trail**

Unfortunately, some of the regular venues were unable to take part in this year's Heritage Open Weekend, but we contacted several other venues to see if they would be interested. As the theme for this year is Routes-Networks-Connections, Eden Valley Railway at Warcop have agreed to take part and although Appleby Train Station were contacted and said they would, they never came back with any plans.

The QR Code trail is ready to launch, with the trail map printed and QR signs are ready and will be installed at the 12 locations over the next couple of days.

Cllr Rooke will be manning the Council Chamber on the Saturday and Sunday of Heritage Open Weekend. A few more helpers are needed, so if any Councillors can help, they should contact the office with availability.

P4/09/24 Planning Applications

Under Westmorland & Furness Council's consultation process, to consider the following Planning Applications, plus any late arrivals, to prepare, under delegated authority, a response from Council:

2024/1083/FPA No comments **Gale House Farm, Roman Road, CA16 6JB** Change of use of redundant agricultural buildings to form 4 no dwellings for holiday letting. *Applicant: Mr & Mrs J Heelis*	2024/1392/FPA No comments **Westmorland Road, CA16 6SD** Variation of condition 2 (plans compliance) for the removal of Plot 1 and attach Plot 2 to Plots 3 and 4, attached to approval 22/0507. *Applicant: Atkinson Building Contractors*
2024/1130/LBC & 2024/1129/FPA No comments **St Annes Hospital, Boroughgate, CA16 6XQ** Listed Building Consent & Full Planning Application for re-roofing of Almshouses and Chapel to include installation of roof vents and additional attic insulation to dwellings. *Applicant*: *Trustees of St Anne's Almshouses*	2024/1232/DISC & 2024/1314/DISC No comments **St Annes Hospital, Boroughgate, CA16 6XQ** Discharge of conditions 3 (air source heat pump screening), 4 (archaeology) and 6 (air source heat pump specification), attached to Applications 23/0675 and 23/0674. *Applicant*: *Trustees of St Anne's Almshouses*
2024/1378/FPA No comments **Appleby Grammar School, CA16 6XU** Construction of new standalone three storey building, refurbishment and connection of original 1887 building and 1927 science building with new linked walkway, retention of sports hall and demolition of remaining existing buildings on site, and associated access,	2024/1379/LBC No comments **Appleby Grammar School, CA16 6XU** Listed Building Consent for refurbishment and connection of the original 1887 school building and 1927 science building with a new linked walkway, demolition of the remaining existing buildings on site and associated alterations

landscaping and outdoor sports facilities. *Applicant: Morgan Sindall and the DfE*	and works. *Applicant: Morgan Sindall and the DfE*
2024/1468/TPO No comments **4 Friary Fields, CA16 6UT** Sycamores subject to TPOs, crown reduction and thin *Applicant: Mr Simon Walton*	

P5/09/24 Planning Decisions

Under Westmorland & Furness Council's consultation process, to consider the following Planning Decisions:

2024/0826/TCA – Tree CA No Objection **Appleby War Memorial Swimming Pool, Chapel Street, CA16 6QR** Conservation area tree works to Horse Chestnut Tree *Applicant: Mr Roy Wilson, W&F Council*	23/0338 – Disposed Of **Land at Junction of Glebe Road/Colby Lane** Outline application for residential development. *Applicant: Mr Maurice Bailey* Dormant application with no progress made. New application would be required to pursue.
2024/0723/FPA Approved with conditions **17 Goldington Drive, CA16 6FE** Proposed garage extension to side elevation. *Applicant: Mr Paul Crawford*	

P6/09/24 Chairman's Report

There was no Chair's report in respect of this meeting.

P7/09/24 Update on Highways Issues

- **Crossing on Boroughgate**

Following a request by Appleby Council to investigate the viability and potential need for a Zebra crossing on Boroughgate, Highways carried out an assessment of both the footfall crossing the road and vehicle traffic on the stretch of Boroughgate from Bridge Street to High Wiend.

The assessment identified that although pedestrian usage was high, there was minimal pedestrian/vehicle conflict and vehicles regularly stopping to allow pedestrians to cross (with no pedestrians having to wait more than 30 seconds to cross), both at the location of the raised table and along the whole length of the observed stretch of road.

Vehicle speeds were observed to be low and generally within the 20mph speed limit, although northbound traffic coming down the hill was faster than southbound.

It was also noted that if a formal zebra crossing were to be introduced, the introduction of mandatory 8m zig zag markings on either side of the crossing would mean the loss of approx. 10 parking places and the bus stop/bus parking would have to be relocated to accommodate the crossing.

Taking into consideration the findings of the assessment, the location was deemed to be generally safe, although improvements could be made, especially for northbound traffic. As the raised table is already identified as an informal crossing point, this would be around improving visibility of it by the use of road markings and/or advanced signage to warn of pedestrians crossing. Additionally, some form of bollards could be installed to highlight pedestrian crossing points.

The Council noted the observations regarding pedestrian/vehicle behaviour and conflict on the stretch of road assessed and that based on the data gathered in the assessment, the location is generally safe, but improvements could be made, especially for traffic coming north down Boroughgate.

- **Speeding on B6542 at Shining Stars Nursery**

Following concerns expressed to Appleby Council by parents using Shining Stars Nursery about speeding vehicles, Highways carried out an assessment of traffic flow on this stretch of the B6542.

The data and information collated from the assessment made the following recommendations:

- To extend the 40mph speed restriction to before where the road bends. Unfortunately, as this is not included in this year's Highways budget, it will be put on an action plan for next year.
- In the interim period, measures to reduce traffic speeds along this stretch of road through a review of the existing road markings and signage will be implemented, which will make people more aware that they should slow down. It is planned to implement these in this financial year.

- **High Wiend**

There have been multiple reports recently of vehicles going the wrong way up High Wiend. Highways have reviewed this and agree that the no entry signs can be missed by vehicles turning right out of Doomgate, as they are very high and close to the bend. Also, the no entry road markings are very worn and need re-painting. This is on Highways work list to do.

P8/09/24 Dog Issues Working Group

Cllr Heap gave an update from the Dog Issues Working Group (a report had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting). Cllr Heap reported that the clean-up day had been successful and well supported and the group plan to hold further events in the future. They also plan to work with W&F to carry out initiatives to raise awareness of the various issues, including visiting local schools. The group also hope to recruit additional members, as the project is ultimately to be community-led.

Cllr Turnbull mentioned that she has received complaints from a few people who had helped in the clear up day, but who had not been thanked in the Herald article. Cllr Heap confirmed that the press release sent to the Herald had included a full list of everyone who had contributed to the event, but they had not printed the list. The Clerk advised that newspapers don't always publish the contents of a PR in full and suggested in future it would be better to do a broad thank you, and then send individual thank you letters. However, the PR was published on the Appleby Council website in its entirety, including the full list of thank you's, a few days after the clean-up day.
See https://applebytown.org/appleby-community-cleans-up-the-town/

P9/09/24 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Railton reported that he had been approached by a resident who had expressed concerns that Lady Garths path was not gritted in icy weather conditions. This has been raised in the past with W&F, who said it was not their responsibility. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the issue with them again.
- Cllr Hilsden mentioned that no work had taken place on the Golden Ball building for some time. It was agreed that the Clerk would get in touch with the owners for an update.

P10/09/24 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Planning and General Purposes Committee will be on **Monday 14th October 2024** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.28pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 18th September 2024**, the Chairman of this meeting was authorised by the Council to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

Cllr Connell