APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Appleby Town Council Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr Davidson (Chair)
Cllr Anderton
Cllr Connell (*arr. 6.53pm*)
Cllr Heap
Cllr Hilsden
Cllr Railton
Cllr Rooke
Cllr Smith
Cllr Turnbull

Also in attendance:

1 Member of the Public
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

C1/12/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Curley, Cllr Chalmers, Cllr Kemp, Cllr Pape and Cllr Potts.

C2/12/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Railton declared an interest in the Appleby Archaeology Group grant application.

Cllr Anderton declared an interest in the Appleby Grammar School grant application, due to being a school Governor.

Cllr Turnbull declared an interest in the Appleby Archaeology Group grant application, as her husband had submitted the application.

C3/12/24 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C4/12/24 Minutes

- **Ordinary Meeting of the Council**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the meeting to sign the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of the Council** held on **Wednesday 20th November 2024** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any resolutions.

- **Planning and General Purpose Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Planning & General Purpose** Committee held on **Monday 9th December 2024** as a true and accurate record.

- **Finance Committee Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Finance Committee** meeting held on **Monday 9th December 2024** as a true and accurate record. All recommendations were approved unanimously:

- To accept the Management Accounts for November 2024
- To accept the Budget and Precept request for 2025-26

- To recommend that the Hannah Kennington trustees review and accept the grant applications from Appleby Gramar School and Appleby Archaeology Group (amounts to be decided by the Trustees).

  The Clerk reported that the Trustees had approved both grant applications, awarding £2,000 to Appleby Grammar School, and £1,500 to Appleby Archaeology Group.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 9th December 2024** as a true and accurate record.

- **Extraordinary Parish Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Meeting held on **Wednesday 4th December 2024** as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Connell arr. 6.53pm.

C5/12/24 Unitary Authority Reports

Cllr Connell's report was received and accepted.

C6/12/24 Police Newsletter – November & December

The Police Newsletter was received and accepted. It was noted that here is police drop-in session at Appleby Library at 10am on Monday, 20th January.

C7/12/24 Mayor's Report

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

C8/12/24 Clerk's Report

- **Edenside Car Park & Doomgate FRMS**

The car park will be opening on Friday 20th. It will have 35 bays plus 2 disabled bays and will be free to use with no restrictions.

The Environment Agency have confirmed that any work which will entail road closures or traffic lights will not be starting until 21st February. The Appleby FloodHub website will be updated once the dates of the traffic management are confirmed.

- **Public Hall update**

The roof work is now complete. Depending on how much is left in the budget for building repairs, we hope to be able to carry out some internal work in the new year.

The electrician has started the EICR and has confirmed that the main fuse board needs replacing. Once this has been done, he will start the process of checking out the wiring for the whole building.

- **Tree Issues**

A tree on Battlebarrow just below the Grammar School is pushing the wall out onto the pavement. The Clerk met with the land agent, Blackett Ord and W&F highways and tree officers to look at the wall and tree. A solution is being looked into to preserve the healthy tree, fix the wall, but also retain the banking that is held up by the wall.

Some residents have expressed concerns about a giant sequoia tree in a private garden on Garths Head Road. The Clerk has spoken to W&F Council's tree officer, who advised that the correct course of action would be for the resident to get a tree specialist to assess the tree to see if any work or a removal is indeed necessary. This can then be used as supporting information should a notice be submitted requesting works or removal.

- **Signage**

Although the main shop sign at the Fat Chicken on Bridge Street has been removed, W&F Enforcement Team have confirmed they cannot insist on the removal of the vinyl stickers inside windows, as it is within the property and therefore the proprietor's choice.

ACTION: It was agreed the Clerk would try and make contact with the owners to ask them to remove the stickers.

- **Community Achievement Awards**

The Clerk has circulated a draft nomination form and criteria for Councillors to consider.

- **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

Following a public consultation exercise, new PSPOs for the whole of Westmorland & Furness have been issued for 3 years covering alcohol consumption, anti-social behaviour and dog control. No changes have been made in Appleby.

Cllr Heap commented that she had been speaking to the PSPO officer, who had advised that although they have been issued, this does not mean they cannot be changed. The Clerk confirmed that changes could be made, but that there would need to be strong evidence to support any request for changes and would involve a consultation process.

- **St Anne's Almhouses**

Work on St Anne's Almshouses is due to start at the beginning of January, which will take approx. 12 months. A family firm from Lancaster will be leading on the contract.

- **Forthcoming Meetings**

Friday, 14th March – Appleby Public Hall will be hosting BBC Radio 4's Any Questions – more information and ticketing will be publicised in the new year.

Thursday, 8th May – 80th Anniversary of VE Day – this will be added to the agenda in the new year to decide what the Council would like to do to commemorate the day.

- **Office and TIC Christmas opening/closing days**

Office will close from Monday, 23rd December and re-open on Thursday, 2nd January.
TIC will close from Tuesday, 24th December and reopen on Thursday, 2nd January.

C9/12/24 Outside Body Reports

- **ACAT**

Cllr Anderton reported that Sparkle Day had been a great success and expressed thanks to everyone who had contributed. The Clerk added that many compliments have been received about both the Christmas lights and the Crafty Ladies displays. Cllr Anderton added that there will be additional fundraising next year to replace lights on the trees lining Boroughgate.

C10/12/24 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – Month 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **November 2024**, totalling £23,130.83. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

C11/12/24 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Turnbull reported that Lady Garth's path is in a bad state of disrepair and tree roots on the path are causing it to become very uneven. It is one of the main routes to Primary School and school children are frequently tripping. The lighting is also very poor on the path and is not helped by a big Leylandii tree blocking a lighting column.
  Action: The Clerk will report this to Westmorland & Furness.

- Cllr Heap asked about a previous request for additional bike parking in the town centre. Cllr Connell advised that Westmorland & Furness have provisional plans for additional bike parking, but no details were confirmed as yet.

C12/12/24 Next Meeting

To note that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.24pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025**, the Chair of this meeting was authorised by the Council to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

Cllr Davidson