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Appleby Town Council Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr Davidson
Cllr Connell
Cllr Hilsden
Cllr Kemp
Cllr Smith

Also in attendance:

Clerk's Assistant

Rev Andrew Burrell opened the meeting in prayer and left.

C1/07/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Anderton, Cllr Chalmers, Cllr Curley, Cllr Heap, Cllr Pape, Cllr Potts, Cllr Railton and Cllr Rooke.

C2/07/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in respect of this meeting.

C3/07/25 Public Participation

The Clerk has received concerns from a local resident and business owner which Cllr Davidson read out. They expressed their concerns about the state of our town and lack of pride we have in it. Some of the buildings, particularly ones on Bridge Street and High Wiend, look really unattractive and put our town to shame. This reflects on the businesses that make an effort to look after their properties and shop fronts. The Crafty Ladies trail is amazing, however it is a shame to see the river walk overgrown with grass and weeds and also lots of dog poo, and this could put visitors off returning. The playground is also looking really sad and uninviting, again with overgrown areas. (*W&F were late doing their summer cutting, etc and this has subsequently been done.)*

Do the council have anything in the pipeline or can they help get these issues sorted for our town?

The Clerk had asked the resident if they had an ideas. They suggested a 'be proud of your town', holding an Appleby Smarter day where businesses and residents are encouraged to spend some time making properties smarter. Employing a part time gardener/handy person to help make the town look its best. They also asked if we had any contact details for the empty shops in town so we can get in touch with them?

It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting in September.

C4/07/25 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 25th June 2025** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any resolutions. Recommendations and resolutions approved unanimously.

- **Planning and General Purposes Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Planning & General Purposes** Committee held on **Monday 14th July 2025** 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 14th July 2025** as a true and accurate record and to approve recommendations as follows:

- The Management Accounts for June 2025 were accepted.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 14th July 2025** as a true and accurate record.

C5/07/25 Unitary Authority Reports

Cllr Connell's report was received and accepted.

A parking consultation being carried out by Westmorland and Furness Council is still open for responses. Its aim is to work out a way of providing parking for residents in properties whose parking space is non-existent or insufficient.

The Citizens Advice Bureau has returned to Appleby between 10am and 1pm on the first and third Tuesday of every month, in Appleby Medical Practice. The CAB offers personal and confidential guidance on issues such as housing, debt, tax and employment, as well as many other topics. The next sessions are on 5th and 19th August.

C6/07/25 Police Newsletter

The Police Newsletter was received and accepted.

C7/07/25 Mayor's Report

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

C8/07/25 Clerk's Report

- **Northern Gas works**

The Northern Gas work on Bridge Street has gone really well and following a site meeting this afternoon, we have been told the new pipe has been fitted and once the road re-instatement has been done, the road will be re-opened, so if all goes to plan, Bridge Street will be re-opened before the weekend. Northern Gas will let us know precise timings tomorrow morning

It was also hoped that Highways would carry out the work to re-instate a crossing place on Bridge Street, but as the gas work isn't running over until next week, this will be put on hold, to avoid a further road closure.

The residents of Thanet Terrace were asked by W&F Council to take their wheelie bins to the end of the street as the refuse wagons would be unable to gain access along the road. Northern Gas have confirmed that they don't start work until 8am in the morning and the refuse wagons come to Thanet Terrace before this time, so there won't be a problem with access. W&F will send a further letter to residents to inform them their rubbish will be collected as normal.

- **Electricity North West**

Electricity North West were also due to repair a high voltage cable running under the road at the corner of Bridge St/Boroughgate. This work will take approx 3 days and requires a full road closure during the day while the work is being done, with traffic lights in the evening. Their plan was to carry out this work alongside Northern Gas during their second week of works.

ENWL would like to still go ahead with this work. It was agreed that as the gas pipe work has been completed much sooner than the expected 12 days and wasn't going run over the weekend, and as the work relates to a major high voltage cable, which needs to be carried out sooner, rather than later, it would be unwise to delay the work.

- **Doomgate FRMS Roadworks**

The last major road excavations for the flood defence project will take place next week on Holme Street. The road will be closed from Monday, 28th July for approx. 4 days from the junction with Chapel Street to Holme Farm bridge. Pedestrian access and emergency vehicle access for any residents needing it will be maintained at all times. Unfortunately, this means there will be no access to Edenside car park during this time. All residents and businesses in the affected area have received letters from the EA informing them of the plans and a door knock was done last week.

After this work has finished, there will be lights in this location (by the corner of Pigneys) for approx. 8 weeks and once this has been finished, there will be no more work needed that results in disruption to highways.

- **Holme Farm Bridge**

An emergency closure of Holme Farm bridge to make urgent repairs to the bridge parapet has come into effect from today by Westmorland & Furness Council for a period of up to 21 days. Pedestrian and dismounted cyclist access will be maintained at all times.

- **Double Yellow Lines**

Highways have confirmed they hope to install the double yellow lines on Station Road and on the roads around Garths Head Road up to the railway station by the end of the summer. A letter will be going out to residents to inform them that this is taking place and at the same time, residents will be consulted on suggestions made by some residents to make Garths Head Road one-way and some of the streets in this area resident parking only.

C9/07/25 Outside Body Reports

There were no Outside Body Reports in respect of this meeting.

C10/07/25 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – June 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **June 2025**, totalling £34,478.01. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

C11/07/25 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Connell reported that the phone and broadband issues on Tuesday had not been related to the Bridge Street work, rather a consequence of the thunderstorm on Monday evening.

C12/07/25 Next Meeting

To note that the Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 17th September 2025** at **7.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 17th September 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 Pamela Davidson