APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Planning and General Purposes Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 8th December 2025 at 6.45pm

Present:

Cllr Curley
Cllr Connell
Cllr Davidson
Cllr Railton
Cllr Turnbull

Also in attendance:

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

P1/12/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pape.

P2/12/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

P3/12/25 Actions from the Previous Minutes

- **Street Cleaning Operative**

Our new street cleaner, Stephen (Stevie) Metcalfe, started on Tuesday 2nd December, and has already made a positive impact, receiving many compliments from shop owners and residents. He is contracted to work 10 hours a week over two days, which will usually be Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 1pm. If members of the public raise any areas of concern, Stevie will make a note of any suggestions and we can look to add them to his work schedule.

- **Bus service electronic signs**

This was raised by Cllr Smith at last month's Full Council meeting. The Clerk has been in touch with Westmorland & Furness Council, and although there are no plans for electronic bus service signs to be installed in Appleby in the near future, they have been trialled in Barrow and there are plans to install them in areas and stops with high passenger use. It is likely that Penrith railway and bus stations, which are on the 563 bus route will be on the initial list, along with the main town centre stops in Kendal and Barrow, as well as Lakes' hotspots. It is hoped to receive continuation funding, so Appleby might be in the next batch. In the meantime, there is a QR code at the bottom of bus timetables, which are displayed at all bus stops, which shows passengers the bus in real time, so you can see if it is running late.

- **Christmas lights**

There have been a few issues with power supplies, especially on the trees on Boroughgate and although ACAT volunteers are doing their very best to sort out any issues, they are desperate for more volunteers as they don't have enough resources. Cllr Anderton advised that all the fundraising that is done throughout the year is spent on the lights, trees and Sparkle Day. The Clerk advised that the agreement for the Council to take over the Christmas Lights has not yet been signed, so the ACAT volunteers are currently working with no insurance cover.

Cllr Chalmers suggested holding a meeting with the Council, ACAT and the Rotary to have a discussion about what could be done to help resolve this situation and how more volunteers and young people could be encouraged to help.

Action: The Clerk will arrange a meeting in the new year.

- **Cumbria in Bloom**

A working group will be set up to start planning for the 2026 Cumbria in Bloom community award Cllr Railton was keen the town enter. Cllr Railton advised that the award is not purely about flowers, but about the town's environment and what has been done to improve the town.

Action: The Clerk will arrange a meeting in the new year.

- **DYLs on Garths Head Road and Colby Road junction**

When installing the double yellow lines on Garths Head Road, the area at the top of Lady Garths path wasn't included. Highways will organise for the contractors to revisit and correct this.

Following complaints received from several residents about poor visibility at Colby Road end, Highways have installed DYLs at this junction. It was noted that this had made a big difference.

P4/12/25 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

P5/12/25 Planning Decisions

Under Westmorland and Furness Council's consultation process, to note the following Planning Decisions:

2025/1801/HOU Approved with Conditions **14 Garbridge Court, CA16 6JE** Extension and alterations to provide additional living accommodation incorporating former detached garage. *Applicant: Mr John Coward*	2025/2088/TCA Tree CA No Objection **Apartment 4, 19 Boroughgate, CA16 6XF** S211 Notification, works to trees in conservation area. *Applicant: Mr Mark Gilby*

P6/12/25 Update on Enforcement Notices

ENF/2025/0288 – Removal of a boundary wall on land off Doomgate

A large section of the boundary wall on Doomgate has been removed from this property. Planning have confirmed this was agreed as part of the planning application and must be reinstated once the work is done. The applicant has confirmed the stone is being stored safely on site and will be re-instated.

ENF/2025/0253 – Erection of high fence on Sycamore Cottage, Bongate

A very large fence has been installed at Sycamore Cottage on Bongate, which is not in keeping. Planning have been in touch with the householder, who reported back that they installed the fence in an attempt to improve the view from the street. Planning are in discussions with the householder to remedy matters.

P7/12/25 Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report. It was agreed to remove this item from the committee agendas and give the Chair priority in Councillor's reports.

P8/12/25 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- National Highways have agreed to carry out a review of plans to close Junction 38 during the M6 bridge work starting in 2027. The Clerk will be attending a Stakeholder meeting in January.
- To facilitate the installation of the new Clifton railway bridge, the M6 will be closed between junctions 39 and 40 on the first two weekends of January. To stop drivers using unofficial diversions, Appleby will be a permit only area, so residents will be given 4 permits per household to be displayed in their vehicles. This will be monitored by cameras and police and anyone attempting unofficial diversions will be fined. Leaflets and permits will be going out to all households in Appleby next week. The TIC also have some leaflets and spare permits. Trains on the West Coast mainline will also be affected by this work for two weeks, from 31st December to 15th January. Some services will be diverted along the Settle to Carlisle line, and others will use replacement buses.
- The Flood Risk Management Scheme at Doomgate is running slightly behind and Broad Close car park won't be open until early summer, meaning it will be closed over Horse Fair. This is due to some unexpected underground issues in the car park, and heavy rain. The temporary car park on the Edenside site will remain open until Broad Close reopens.
- Cllr Chalmers commented that AERG and the Town Clerk are due to meet with the Environment Agency to discuss their river level predictions, as they have not been very accurate over the past few flood alerts. This was due to take place this week but has been rescheduled due to Storm Bram.

P9/12/25 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Planning and General Purposes Committee will be on **Monday 12th January 2026** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.19pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 17th December 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