APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Appleby Town Council Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:		**Also in attendance:**
Cllr Davidson (Chair)	Cllr Railton	Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant
Cllr Anderton	Cllr Rooke	
Cllr Heap	Cllr Smith	
Cllr Kemp	Cllr Turnbull	

C1/12/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chalmers, Cllr Connell, Cllr Curley and Cllr Pape.

C2/12/25 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Railton declared an interest in matters relating to Holme Farm Bridge as he is a Trustee of St Anne's.

C3/12/25 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C4/12/25 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 19th November 2025** as a true and accurate record.

- **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 8th December 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 8th December 2025** as a true and accurate record and to approve the following recommendations:

  - To accept the Management Accounts for November 2025.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 8th December 2025** as a true and accurate record.

C5/12/25 Unitary Authority Reports

Cllr Connell's report was received and noted. In his absence, the Clerk covered a few of the main points in his report.

Westmorland & Furness Council have committed in principle to restore the public right of way over the river at Holme Farm, but the Trustees of St Anne's will first have to decide whether to rebuild or demolish the bridge. The Environment Agency have said no work can be done before 16th June 2026 and must be completed by 30th September. Cllr Railton commented that the Trustees understand the importance of the bridge to the town.

Westmorland & Furness Council have unanimously passed Cllr Connell's motion calling on NHS England to re-open negotiations between North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and local GPs, with the aim of restoring blood tests and wound care to local medical practices, rather than patients having to travel to Penrith or Carlisle.

Westmorland & Furness Council's draft budget proposals for 2026-27 will be announced shortly and put out to public consultation. Early indications are that when the Government's Fair Funding Review is announced, the proposals for next year will disadvantage rural authorities with widely dispersed populations, which is likely to mean an increase to Council Tax to the maximum permitted amount of 4.99%

C6/12/25 Police Update

PCSO Aaron Baker will be conducting a drop-in at the Tourist Information Centre on Friday 19th December between 10am and 11.30am.

C7/12/25 Mayor's Report

The Mayor attended the Bishop's Enthronement on 29th November in Carlisle, representing Appleby.

The winners of the Christmas 2025 Best Decorated Shop were announced on Sparkle Day and Cllr Davidson presented certificates to the winners, Little Shops on the Bridge, and the two runners up Stephenson's and Morgan's Sweet Shop. This had been voted on by Appleby residents, and the Council congratulated all shops in town for their festive windows.

The Town Carol Service is taking place at the Sands Methodist Church on Sunday 21st December at 5pm, and she encouraged all to come along.

C8/12/25 Clerk's Report

Stevie, our new street cleaning officer is into his third week now and working really hard. Residents have been approaching him with suggestions, which we will try to accommodate.

The Voluntary Car Scheme continues to be very busy, with the main challenge being the short notice, which is usually because people often receive their appointments through a couple of days before. The hospital transport system is nearly non-existent, as the eligibility criteria is so strict. Two new drivers have been recruited recently, which has helped. We will reassess in the new year.

Lots of applications have been handed out for the Shop Front Grant Scheme and although none have been returned yet, the first deadline is the beginning of January. Any applications received will be assessed by the panel on 7th January.

The Pump Track working group met for the first time last week and everyone is very keen and positive. The Clerk has a meeting tomorrow with a specialist supplier who are in the area, so hopes to get some idea from them about indicative costs.

The leaflet that all residents are receiving in the post from National Highways about the closure of the M6 between 39 and 40 over the first two weekends of the new year to facilitate the Clifton Bridge replacement works contains 4 vehicle permits. Appleby will be a permit only area for through traffic, so residents will need to display a permit in their vehicles. This will be monitored by cameras and police and anyone attempting unofficial diversions will be fined. Additional permits are available from Appleby TIC with proof of address.

The Clerk's office and the TIC will be closing for staff annual leave on Tuesday, 22nd at 2pm. The TIC will be re-opening on Friday, 2nd January and Clerk's Office on Monday, 5th January 2026.

C9/12/25 Outside Body Reports

ACAT: Cllr Anderton reported Sparkle Day was a great success and well attended. The lights on the buildings and trees on the right hand side of Boroughgate have not been on due a fault at the British Legion, which now can't be fixed until January. The owners of the Kings Head have removed the fixings for the Christmas Lights which is why there is a strip missing on Bridge Street.

C10/12/25 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – November 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **November 2025**, totalling £21,493.91. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

C11/12/25 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Railton reported the Almshouses project is due to be finished in Spring 2026 and there will be a few properties available. If any eligible residents would like to apply, please contact the trustees.

C12/12/25 Next Meeting

To note that the Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 21st January 2026** at **7.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.11pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 21st January 2026**, 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