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Appleby Town Council Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:		Also in attendance:
Cllr Davidson (Chair)	Cllr Hayes	Clerk's Assistant
Cllr Anderton	Cllr Heap	David Johnson, Mace Bearer
Cllr Connell	Cllr Potts	Rev Andrew Burrell, Mayor's Chaplain
Cllr Curley	Cllr Railton	1 Member of the Public
Cllr Gates	Cllr Rooke	

Rev Andrew Burrell opened the meeting in prayer, and left.

C1/07/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chalmers and Cllr Hilsden.

C2/07/26 Declarations of Interest

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

C3/07/26 Public Participation

Philip Little attended the meeting to raise two concerns with the Council.

- **The closure of the right-of-way over Holme Farm Bridge**

Mr Little feels the closure of Holme Farm bridge to walkers is too over-cautious, as it is an important right of way in Appleby. He understands that valid structural concerns mean no motor traffic can use it, but the long term closure to walkers is unnecessary.

Cllr Davidson agreed that the closure of the bridge is causing frustration, but the structural engineers report was reviewed by Westmorland and Furness Council's structures team, and that is what led to the closure of the right of way. The bridge owners, the Trustees of St Anne's, need to decide whether the bridge will remain before any further discussion can take place.

Cllr Curley sympathised with Mr Little's concerns and suggested the Clerk's Office could ask W&F to revisit their decision regarding the pedestrian access over the bridge and ask again to be kept in the loop with any updates about the bridge.

- **The politicised entrance to the town**

Mr Little raised concerns about the number of flags displayed in the field opposite Salt Tip Corner.

Cllr Davidson explained that the field in question is not in Appleby Parish, and therefore Mr Little should take his concerns to either Westmorland and Furness or Long Marton Parish. Cllr Curley commented there was nothing stopping Appleby Town Council making representation on his behalf, but it is a sensitive topic and would need further discussion.

Mr Little left the meeting at 7.07pm.

C4/07/26 Introduction of New Councillors

Cllr Donna Gates introduced herself to the Council after being co-opted to Bongate Ward at June's Full Council meeting. She wanted to become a Councillor as she is passionate about the town and is a member of several local organisations, including being the Chair of Appleby Carnival Committee. She feels working with the community is important and the best way to do that is by being a Councillor.

Cllr Gareth Hayes also introduced himself to the Council after being co-opted to Bongate Ward at June's Full Council meeting. He is glad to be back on the Council and wants to be able to represent Appleby and its residents.

C5/07/26 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 24th June 2026** 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 13th July 2026** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any recommendations. All recommendations were approved unanimously:

- To agree and sign the lease for the installation of the British War Memorial silhouettes at Appleby Leisure Centre.

- **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 13th July 2026** as a true and accurate record. All recommendations were approved unanimously:

- The Management Accounts for June 2026.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 13th July 2026** as a true and accurate record.

C6/07/26 Unitary Authority Reports

Cllr Connell's report was received and noted.

The highly successful revival of Appleby Carnival last weekend was a credit both to the organising team who worked hard to ensure its smooth running and to the people of Appleby who attended in great numbers. Westmorland & Furness Council was happy to give financial support to the occasion with funds from the Place Action Group and the individual Councillor Community allowance.

The Garden Waste subscription exceeded expectations. There are plans to harmonise the household waste collection services, but there will be no changes in Eden until at least Spring 2027.

C7/07/26 Police Newsletter

The Police Newsletter was noted.

C8/07/26 Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked Appleby Carnival for putting on such a tremendous occasion for Appleby. Cllr Gates thanked the Council and Clerk's Office for all the help they provided.

The Mayor also reported that the Chamber has its first wedding booked for April 2027.

C9/07/26 Clerk's Report

- **Road Closure and Flood Risk Management**

United Utilities have conducted a letter drop outlining works to a chamber at the junction of Holme St and Chapel Street. The work is expected to start at the beginning of September and take 8 weeks – this will mean no vehicle access through to Holme Street or the section of Chapel Street from Holme St junction to Broad Close car park. There will be 2 way lights on Low Wiend and Holme Street.

They are holding an information event on Wednesday 5th August at Appleby Hub from 3.30pm.

- **FRMS**

VolkerStevin are planning to have the compound by the Leisure Centre gone by September and will have one welfare cabin in the car park until they're finished work.

- **Crosby Granger Civic Trust Awards**

We have received a request from Crosby Granger Architects, who completed the work on the Moot Hall, and they want to enter it into the AABC Civic Trust Awards, which recognises 'excellence in the conservation, repair and sensitive adaptation of historic buildings.' Due to the restoration projects completion date, this would be the last opportunity to enter it into this award. They need approval from the Town Council in order to submit the application.

It was agreed to email Crosby Granger declining approval by the Council.

- **Town of Culture Application**

Unfortunately, our application to the Town of Culture 2028 has not been shortlisted. They received 398 applications and the panel were only able to select 15. They thanked us for entering the competition and appreciated the commitment and care taken in the application.

Cllr Davidson thanked the Clerk's Assistant for the extra work taken on in the Clerk's absence.

C10/07/26 Outside Body Reports

Cllr Anderton confirmed ACAT will be holding Sparkle Day on Saturday 12th December 2026.

Cllr Hayes will act as representative for Appleby British Legion, as he is President of the Branch.

C11/07/26 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – June 2026

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **June 2026**, totalling £31,256.83. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

C12/07/26 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Hayes raised concerns that the issues with Holme Farm bridge had raised a question over what Westmorland and Furness' risk mitigation is should St Lawrence's Bridge be closed.
- Cllr Potts requested a discussion about the Christmas Lights and plans for 2026.
- Cllr Potts also commented that the sewerage spillage into the River Eden had gained almost 5 million views online and he feels the Environment Agency should take more accountability. The Clerk's Office will request a report from them about what happened.

C13/07/26 Next Meeting

To note that the Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 23rd September 2026** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 23rd September 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 Rooke