APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Property Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 12th October 2026 at 7.54pm

Present:

Cllr Anderton (Chair)
Cllr Curley
Cllr Davidson
Cllr Railton

Also in attendance:

Cllr Connell
Cllr Gates
Cllr Heap
Cllr Hilsden
Cllr Turnbull
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

PR1/10/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chalmers and Cllr Rooke.

PR2/10/26 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Anderton declared a personal interest in Fair Hill, as her property borders the land.

PR3/10/26 Moot Hall

The EICR has been completed, and a number of improvements are required, but nothing classified as dangerous was identified. The electrician will be providing a quote to rectify these issues.

The internal painting in the Moot Hall has been completed and has made a big difference. The TIC and exhibition room have had a refresh, and the Chamber has had a slight change of colour under the dado rail, which is a big improvement and the damp in the corner and entrance hall has been covered.

The loft area in the Moot Hall still requires clearing out and any help Councillors can provide would be appreciated. Cllr Connell suggested asking the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society to sort through what is of historical value.

PR4/10/26 Public Hall

The main hall needs painting but will require a scaffolding tower. An Invitation to Tender has been started and will be advertised, ready for work to start over the winter months.

PR5/10/26 Fair Hill

- **Installation of new kissing gate**

NW Altham has installed the new kissing gate at the bottom of Fair Hill, and we have had positive feedback.

- **Damaged fence in car park**

A car was driven into the internal fence on Fair Hill car park, damaging it. The tenant has agreed to repair the fence and any costs incurred will be reimbursed by the Council.

- **Proposal received for leasing Fair Hill**

To consider a proposal received by a group called the Gypsy Traveller League for the establishment and operation of a campsite for the 2027 Appleby Horse Fair.

It was noted that it did not state in the proposal that the campsite would just be for the duration of the 2027 Horse Fair. It was agreed the Clerk would write to them to clarify that the lease is only for 7 days and ask whether they would like to pursue their proposal further.

PR6/10/26 Dowpitts Wood

The tree surgeon has recommended applying for a grant from the Rural Payments Agency for a Forestry Commission approved woodland management plans. Cllr Curley suggested getting more details and finding out what obligations are required of the landowner under the management plan.

Cllr Railton commented that the woods would benefit from having the paths tidied up and made safer and more accessible for pedestrians. The Clerk reported that the local contractor who had provisionally been booked to carry out this work, had come back to say they were no longer able to do this work because of ill health, so another contractor will have to be found.

PR7/10/26 Market Arcade Public Toilets

Although consideration had been given as to whether the toilets could be made more accessible, the space didn't allow for this, without reducing the cubicles from two to one, which wasn't acceptable. Cllr Anderton asked if a proper fold down baby change unit could be installed in the ladies, which was possible.

PR8/10/26 Christmas Lights

The working group had a successful first meeting and it was agreed that lights would only be connected to power supplies that can be accessed 24/7, i.e. on Council owned buildings and external supplies. The main priorities for this year would be the town centre and the main Christmas tree at Low Cross.

Cllr Gates has been contacting local businesses to ask for donations, which has resulted in a number of donations already being received. Cllr Gates commented that a lot of residents have been asking how they can make donations, and it has been suggested that a crowdfunding page be set up. The Clerk has asked for clarification and advice on whether Councils can set up crowdfunding schemes and will report back.

PR9/10/26 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Heap commented that a couple of bollards around the Butts footpath have been damaged. The Clerk requested photos and locations were sent and they would be passed on to our contractor.

PR10/10/26 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Property Committee will be on **Monday 9th November 2026** at **7.45pm**, or at the rising of the Finance Committee in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 21st October 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 Anderton