

APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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APPLEBY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.00pm at the Moot Hall

Present:

Deputy Mayor:	Cllr Stephenson	
Councillors:	Cllr Anderton	Cllr Pape
	Cllr Connell	Cllr F Potts
	Cllr Davidson	Cllr Rooke
	Cllr Heap	

Also in attendance: Town Clerk, Clerk's Assistant, David Johnson (Mace Bearer), Andrew Keogh (Herald), and 5 members of the public.

PART ONE

C1/02/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Curley and Cllr Kemp.

Cllr Stephenson announced the sad news that Gareth Hayes has resigned from his position as both Mayor and Councillor. He no longer has the energy to pursue the Council's agenda after his two and a half years serving as Mayor. This year some contentious matters have arisen which he feels have impacted on his health and for this reason, he has decided to stand down.

Cllr Stephenson announced Jim Chalmers has also sadly resigned. After 10 years serving as a town councillor, including terms as Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Finance Committee, he feels the pressure relating to various groups and issues in the town is something he no longer wants to engage himself in.

The Council agreed both Gareth and Jim have made tremendous contributions to the Council and the skills they brought to the Council and their hard work will be very difficult to replace.

C2/02/23 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Connell declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda that relate to Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council and the new Westmorland & Furness Council.

Cllr Anderton declared a personal interest in any items relating to Fair Hill as a neighbouring property.

Cllr Stephenson declared a personal interest in item 5, due to a family member working for the Environment Agency.

C3/02/23 Minutes

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 January 2023** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any resolutions. Recommendations and resolutions approved unanimously.

Committees:

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Finance Committee** held on **Monday 13th February 2023** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any recommendations.

- Recommendation to accept the Management Accounts for January 2023 was approved.
- Recommendation to keep the banking arrangements and signatories the same was approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Planning & General Purpose Committee** held on **Monday 13th February 2023** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any recommendations.

- Recommendation to accept and sign the following policies: Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Data Protection, Freedom of Information, Media, Complaints Procedure, Model Publication Scheme and the new Volunteering Policy.

ACTION

Cllr
Stephenson

Cllr
Davidson

Cllr
Stephenson

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Property Committee** held on **Monday 13th February 2023** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any recommendations.

**Cllr
Anderton**

C4/02/23 Public Participation

a) There were no representations made by attending members of the public.

b) County and District Councillors Reports

County Council Report:

The County Council Report from Cllr Connell was received and noted.

- It was noted that no event was held in Appleby as part of the recent A66 drop-in sessions, as none of changes made since the previous plans had been presented affected Appleby.
- The County Council's Communities Officer and TIC Manager recently carried out a review of the signage around town, with a view to updating and de-cluttering. There are also plans to update some of the visitor information boards and fingerposts in town.
- Regarding parliamentary constituencies, it is expected the boundary commission will not change its most recent proposals, placing Appleby in the Westmorland and Lonsdale seat, with Penrith and Solway placed further north. These proposals are separate from the Local Government Reorganisation.

District Council Report:

The District Council Report from Cllr Greenwood was received and noted. Cllr Connell outlined the main points from the report.

- There will be changes to the day the bins are collected for some residents in Appleby from Monday 6th March. Homes that are affected will be informed by letter. These changes have been implemented to rationalise the routes from 4 to 2 days, to save fuel and time.
- Cumbria Residents week is running from 20th Feb to 26th Feb, to help encourage residents to support local businesses, assisting them to recover from the ongoing impact of Covid-19.
- EDC and Rheged have partnered to deliver a free business event for front of house, TIC and reception staff. This is taking place at the Rheged Centre on Tuesday 7th March.
- The Appleby TIC Manager, Nicola Elliott, has received an Inspiring Eden award for her contributions to the town. Cllr Stephenson thanked Nicola and the TIC staff for providing such an excellent service. It is not only a busy visitor centre, but also a well-used community centre for residents. All her achievements for receiving the award were outlined in a recent Herald article.

C5/02/23 Environment Agency – Doomgate Culvert FR

Cllr Stephenson reported on the meeting held with the Environment Agency on Thursday 16th February. The EA had reported that the project is being engineered to minimise the disruption caused and that the work needs to go ahead in order to protect approximately 70 properties in the Holme Street/Doomgate area that will benefit from the work.

At the meeting, the EA were asked to provide a display of information outlining the project scheme, the schedule of work and traffic management plans. The Council have offered the EA use of the exhibition room in the TIC from 1st-31st March to host this display. They were also asked to hold a public drop-in session, to give residents and businesses the opportunity to raise their concerns and ask questions. The Council are waiting for the EA to get back with dates and have asked that both of these be organised as soon as possible. The Clerk informed the Council that a Q&A document is being compiled to collate all the questions that have sent to the Council. The EA also reported at the meeting that they hoped to have an online Appleby Flood Hub and dedicated email address setup in the very near future, which would enable concerns and questions to be posted directly to the EA.

The meeting was interrupted by an attending member of the public, stating that his formal letter of complaint had not been acknowledged. The Clerk advised that as the letter was only dated the previous day, on the 21st February, it had not been read by some Councillors and was not on the agenda for discussion and that the letter didn't contain any questions that could be answered at this meeting. The member of the public said the letter was part of a formal complaint to the Council and outlined a 5-point plan, demanding the planning application go back to the planning phase for consultation, otherwise the Council and individual Councillors could be held accountable. Cllr Stephenson pointed out the matter was not for debate during this meeting, and did not like the accusing tone, advising that the letter would be considered in due course. The member of the public then said both Mr Hayes and Mr Chalmers had resigned because of pressures concerning the Doomgate Culvert project. Cllr Stephenson then asked the member of the public to leave, and he refused.

Another member of the public arrived at 7.25pm.

C6/02/23 Police Report

The Police Report was received and noted.

Cllr Anderton said Appleby is fortunate to have good police, and that a drop-in session is held in the TIC once a month, for residents to speak to the PCSO directly. Cllr Stephenson highlighted speeding is an ongoing concern, however it is good to see action has been taken.

C7/02/23 Chair/Mayor's Report

The Mayor's Report was received and noted.

Cllr Stephenson commended Gareth's sterling job especially during Covid and Cllr Potts thanked Gareth for his visibility both in town and on the media, helping to put Appleby on the map. Cllr Connell said Gareth had brought a certain style to being Mayor and wished him well.

Cllr Stephenson also thanked Cllr Chalmers for the term he had served as Deputy Mayor, and for all the work he had done over the years as Chair of the Finance Committee.

He highlighted to Councillors that the Council is now rather depleted in numbers, asking Councillors to attend every meeting where possible. Also, that residents need to be encouraged to stand for the Council at the coming elections.

C8/02/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was received and noted.

- The Clerk's office has had a busy month with finance issues as yearend is approaching, setting of budgets for the next financial year and reconciling budgets and expenditure for the major building repair projects that had taken place over this financial year.
- It was noted that all three repair contracts have a 2.5% retention, which makes the provision for the contractors to sort any snagging issues within 12 months of completion of the contract. The damp issues on the south elevation of the Moot Hall being one of the main snagging items, which will be looked at over the coming months.
- The Council has been very fortunate to receive a considerable amount of grant funding towards the repair costs of all three projects. The next 'project' the Council will be looking at is the Public Hall. Prior to his resignation Cllr Chalmers had carried out a property maintenance audit of the Public Hall and he has agreed to write up his notes and forward these to the Clerk.
- Cllr Stephenson thanked the Clerk and Assistant for their hard work resolving ongoing issues.

One member of the public left at 7.35pm.

C9/02/23 Outside Body Reports

- Cllr Anderton reported that ACAT have removed the Christmas Lights and the Council thanked both ACAT and Appleby Rotary for their work.

C10/02/23 Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of January, totalling **£27,393.11**. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

Cllr
Stephenson

C11/02/23 Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas

- A meeting has been arranged with Barratt Homes regarding the Station Road development on Wednesday 1st March at 10am. This will be done over Teams, with councillors welcome to use the Moot Hall meeting room to attend.

All

C12/02/23 Dates of the Next Meeting and important additional dates

Councillors noted that the next Ordinary **Meeting of the Council** will be held at the **Moot Hall** on **Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 7pm.**

Full Council

There being no further business, Part 1 of the meeting closed at 7.37pm.

David Johnson (Mace Bearer), Andrew Keough (Herald), and 5 members of the public left the meeting at 7.38pm.

AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON: **WEDNESDAY 22nd March 2023**

THE MAYOR WAS AUTHORISED BY THE COUNCIL TO SIGN THESE MINUTES TO CONFIRM THEIR BEING AN ACCURATE RECORD:

Cllr M Stephenson