

APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Property Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 11th September 2023 at 6.56pm

Present:

Cllr Anderton (Chair) Cllr Kemp
Cllr Connell Cllr Davidson (Ex-officio)
Cllr Potts

Also in attendance:

Cllr Heap Cllr Railton
Cllr Mycock Cllr Swann
Cllr Pape Cllr Turnbull
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

PR1/09/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Curley and Cllr Rooke.

PR2/09/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

PR3/09/23 Actions from the Previous Minutes

• Dowpitts Wood Update

A number of trees in the woods are affected by Ash dieback, with 10 requiring urgent removal due to their location next to footpaths and pavements. The cost for their removal is £2,500, including submission of the planning application. A follow-up survey will be undertaken next year to re-assess the remaining trees. Cllr Potts asked whether any new trees will be planted to replace these trees and the Clerk confirmed that this would be discussed with the contractor.

- It was **recommended** to Full Council to approve the work needed in Dowpitts Woods for the removal of trees affected by Ash dieback amounting to £2,500.

Oaklea Trust have informed the Council that because of their current heavy workload with some major projects and the need to prioritise them, they are not going to be able to pursue the project they had hoped to lead on in Dowpitts, although they are still interested in working in partnership in the future. Cllr Anderton suggested speaking to the schools to see if they could use the woods for anything and Cllr Railton suggested NR Training in the Heritage Centre as a possibility, as he understood they were looking to deliver outdoor skills training.

Action: Clerk to contact schools and NR Training.

PR4/09/23 Chairman's Report

There is no Chair's report in respect of this meeting. Cllr Anderton thanked the committee and Cllr Rooke for managing the Property Committee in her absence.

PR5/09/23 Moot Hall Update

All the items on the snagging list have now been completed, although the internal south-west corner of the Council Chamber is still drying out. The building contractors have said they will be happy to return in six months to monitor the progress. Cllr Pape pointed out it could be a cold corner, and

moving the big black storage chest might allow for the warm air to circulate better and dry it out quicker.

PR6/09/23 Cloisters Update

The snagging for the West Cloisters is due to be assessed and awaiting a meeting date from the architect. No snagging issues have been identified.

Water has been collecting in the churchyard immediately adjacent to the back of the East Cloisters building. United Utilities have been out and tested the water, but as it is neither sewage nor tap water, they weren't able to help. It has been reported to the Church to see if there have been any historical issues of water collecting in this area.

When the contractors come for the snagging meeting, they will be assessing how best to replace the corner coping stones on the West Cloisters, which were knocked off. The Clerk has contacted Highways to see if a maximum vehicle width sign can be installed at the exit to Low Wiend to stop it happening again.

PR7/09/23 Public Hall Update

The open water tanks have been removed; however this has led to issues with the radiators in the Supper Room not heating up properly. The plumbing contractors and Nigel Altham have looked everywhere in the building for the tank that feeds the radiators, however they have been unable to trace the pipes and no one else, including the Caretaker who has worked at the Hall for 25 years, is aware of any other tank in the building. Cllr Potts will try to come out soon to have one final look.

Various minor refurbishment work has taken place over the past two months, including replacing the flooring in the caretaker's office and the rooms behind the stage, which had been down for 30+ years and in a state of disrepair. The storage cupboards in the caretaker's office have also been replaced as the original ones were not fit for purpose. The entrance foyer has been redecorated, new skirting boards fitted and tidied up to provide a better welcome for visitors to the hall. The next phase is to look at some of the other more major repairs needed, one being the installation of a disabled toilet. Concerns were raised about the layout of the toilet due to the ever-changing size of wheelchairs. Cllr Potts said W&F Building Control have strict guidelines on the size and layout of disabled toilets.

PR8/09/23 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Potts asked that a request be made to W&F to clear out the drains and gullies. After the heavy rain on Sunday, it is evident that the drains are blocked and need clearing.

PR9/09/23 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Property Committee will be on **Monday 16th October 2023** at **7.45pm**, or at the rising of the Finance Committee in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.23pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 20th September 2023**, the Chairman of this meeting was authorised by the Council to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

Cllr Anderton
