

APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Appleby Town Council Minutes for the meeting held in the Moot Hall Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr Davidson (Chair)
Cllr Curley (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anderton
Cllr Connell
Cllr Heap

Cllr Kemp
Cllr Mycock
Cllr Pape
Cllr Potts

Also in attendance:

David Johnson, Mace Bearer
Mark Hilsden
1 Member of the Public
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

Roger Collinson opened the meeting with a prayer. As this was his last meeting as the Mayor's Chaplain, Cllrs Davidson and Curley thanked him for his 20 years of service and wise counsel over the years. Roger Collinson thanked the Council for his parting gift, and wished all councillors well.

Roger Collinson left the meeting.

C1/12/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chalmers, Cllr Railton, Cllr Rooke and Cllr Turnbull.

C2/12/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr Davidson informed the Council that Oliver Swann has resigned from his position as a Councillor.

C3/12/23 Public Participation

Ernie Brabbins, Chair of Appleby Cricket Club, approached the Council with concerns about the Flood Risk Management System and the lack of communication from the Environment Agency. As the plans have been ongoing now for some 14 months and everything had gone quiet of late, he had tried to contact both the EA and the contractors 5 weeks ago, without any success. He had also contacted Tim Farron in an attempt to get a response from the EA and the advice from them had been to look on the Appleby Flood Hub site for updates. Unfortunately, the information on this site has not been updated since August, and according to the timeline published, the project is already months behind schedule. One of the main issues for the Cricket Club is that they are reluctant to organise any cricket fixtures for next year until they know what the plans are and when work is scheduled.

Cllr Davidson reported that as of yesterday, planning has been approved for the demolition of the old Edenside building and the erection of 16 extra care apartments and that no progress could be made on establishing a temporary car park on this site for the duration of the FRMS work until such time as the planning application had been approved and hopefully this should start the ball rolling. The Clerk did point out that the planning application had been approved subject to conditions, so it would be dependent on these conditions being cleared. Cllr Curley advised that the EA had said that until the temporary car parking issue had been sorted, no work would start, which is likely why Ernie has not

received updates. The Clerk also added that small pockets of additional parking had been identified to make up the shortfall in capacity of Broad Close car park.

Ernie asked to be reinstated onto any email correspondence as he had been involved at the beginning, but has since been removed. Cllr Potts suggested that when the project is up and running, the EA are asked to attend council meetings regularly, giving residents an opportunity to ask questions and bring up any concerns directly with them.

ACTION: It was agreed the Clerk will approach the Environment Agency and request an updated scheme of works now the planning application has been approved, which will be disseminated appropriately.

C4/12/23 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 22nd November 2023** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any resolutions. Recommendations and resolutions approved unanimously.

- **Planning and General Purpose Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Planning & General Purpose** Committee held on **Monday 11th December 2023** 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 11th December 2023** as a true and accurate record. All recommendations were approved unanimously:

- To accept the Management Accounts for November 2023.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 11th December 2023** as a true and accurate record and the Council.

C5/12/23 Co-option to Appleby Ward

Mark Hilsden introduced himself to the Council and outlined why he felt he would be a good Councillor. Mark has lived in Appleby for 7 years and runs an art supply shop in High Wiend. He has good knowledge of tourism and feels he can help bring people into Appleby and help local business owners, as well as improving transport links. He hopes that as a Councillor he will be able to do so.

Cllr Mycock proposed the co-option of Mark Hilsden, and Cllr Pape seconded the co-option. Cllr Hilsden took a seat on the Appleby Ward of the Chamber.

C6/12/23 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Hilsden read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before Council members and signed it in the presence of the Town Clerk. Cllr Davidson welcomed Cllr Hilsden onto Appleby Town Council.

C7/12/23 Unitary Authority Reports

Cllr Connell advised there was no written report this month, but reported on the following items:

The industrial action between the Union and Urbaser staff has now been settled, so the waste removal schedule is now back to normal. Cllr Mycock passed on his thanks to the officers, as although there were initial hiccups at the beginning of the strike, the team had done their best and worked long hours to keep the town tidy.

Music services in schools have dwindled, so initiatives are in place for schools to co-ordinate their music education and bring it back into mainstream schools.

Cllr Connell is attending a snowfall briefing tomorrow to evaluate the Council's response to the heavy snowfall earlier this month. He thought responses were good and many areas were gritted before the snowfall had even begun.

The budget has not yet been set but it is anticipated that there will be an increase in Council Tax for the next financial year.

New legislation is to be enforced from the new year regarding XL-Bully dogs.

The 563 bus service will be operating a Saturday Service between Christmas and New Year (27th, 28th, 29th Dec and 2nd Jan). Usually this would mean reduced buses, however because of the Saturday Kirkby Stephen/Penrith service, it means there will be more bus services during this period. It should be noted that the Saturday bus service only operates from the Sands bus stop and not Scattergate or the Moot Hall.

C8/12/23 Police Report

The Police Report was received and noted.

C9/12/23 Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's report in respect of this meeting.

C10/12/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported a busy month working on the Budget for the next financial year, although this seems early, the precept request has to be submitted to Westmorland and Furness by 31 January.

The Platinum Playground committee has now received confirmation of all its grant funding and the committee had met to assess quotes and plans received from 7 suppliers. There had been some delays because of queries raised by Kendal based officers at W&F who hadn't been involved in the project initially, but this has now been resolved and a contractor has been appointed this week. It is hoped that the project will be completed in time for an Easter opening, but this is very optimistic. The group have raised more than their initial target of £90,000, which means that a zip-wire can be included in the plans, which is the item children had most wanted when asked.

Due to the weather conditions, Highways are behind on their schedule of work, including the line painting on Boroughgate. These will be actioned as soon as the weather has improved. Cllr Pape commented he had been delighted with the speed that the scaffolding on High Wiend had been taken down, and how clean the street had been left. It was also noted that the front of No 2 High Wiend has been improved and makes the street look a lot better.

C11/12/23 Outside Body Reports

Cllr Anderton reported that ACAT have straightened the Christmas Tree and are doing their best to solve issues as they come up, for example lights not coming on.

Cllr Anderton also reported that she had recently attended a Appleby Grammar School Governors' meeting at Appleby Grammar School, where it was confirmed that the school would be getting a new building.

C12/12/23 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – November 2023

It was RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of November, totalling £24,518.09. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases, and is inclusive of VAT.

C13/12/23 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Mycock reported that he had recently been contacted by Newton Rigg Training, in his capacity as a keyholder for the Heritage Centre, stating that they will be vacating the site from

the new year, meaning the whole site will then be vacant. Cllr Connell said he would speak to officers at Westmorland & Furness Council to get more information on the status of the site.

- Cllr Curley reported the wall at Shaw's Wiend has been down for some time. The Clerk advised that it is the landowner's responsibility, however, it has been reported to Highways as it is potential safety issue. Cllr Curley also mentioned an issue with railings near Castle Bank and it was agreed he would send location details to the Clerk's Office so it could be reported to Highways.
- The Clerk reported that a large Beech tree on Battlebarrow, just down from the Grammar School, was also causing concern as it was pushing out the wall onto the pavement. This has been reported to the landowner and Highways are now in touch with the Land Agent to resolve the problem. Cllr Anderton confirmed that she had informed the school that the problem is in hand, as many school children walk past the wall on their way to school.

C14/12/23 Meeting Dates for 2024

The Meeting Dates for 2024 were received and noted.

C15/12/23 Next Meeting

To note that the Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 24th January 2024** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.31pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 24th January 2024**, the Chairman of this meeting was authorised by the Council to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

Cllr Davidson
