

# APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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## Appleby Town Council Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.45pm

### Councillors Present:

Cllr Davidson (Chair)  
Cllr Anderton  
Cllr Chalmers  
Cllr Connell  
Cllr Heap  
Cllr Pape  
Cllr Railton  
Cllr Rooke  
Cllr Turnbull

### Also in attendance:

David Johnson – Mace Bearer  
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

### C1/03/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Curley, Cllr Kemp and Cllr Potts.

### C2/03/24 Declarations of Interest

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

### C3/03/24 Public Participation

The Clerk read out an email received from the residents of 1 Doomgate, who were unable to attend the meeting in person. They expressed concerns about the disruption caused by the recent road works at the junction of Doomgate/Holme Street and the disregard for coning off almost all the nearby parking for themselves and their neighbours. Additionally, drilling had started that morning at 7.30am. These were the third set of works carried out in this vicinity, in a matter of months and they feel that works need to be carried out with more consideration to businesses and residents. They also expressed concerns about parking when the main flood defence works start and wanted reassurance that parking will be available at Edenside. The Clerk informed the residents that free resident parking would be available at Edenside before any of the main works start.

When the email was received, the Clerk contacted the Works Manager from Northern Gas to pass on their comments. He explained that they are starting early in the morning so they can get the work done as quickly as possible, but if it was too disruptive for residents, then they would delay their start time. He promised that he would go and speak to them personally to discuss their concerns.

The Clerk reported that the work was finished earlier in the day and the roadworks and traffic management have now gone. The Clerk advised the residents to get in touch if there were any future issues.

Cllr Railton asked about the closure of Doomgate and the failed communications from the EA, first raised by Ian Mycock, regarding the closure of Doomgate for these works. The Clerk advised that a notice for closure was usually submitted as a worst case scenario and was often not needed. The Clerk agreed that although communications from the EA are not always good, they were not aware that the road would be closed and sometimes it is out of their control, and the utility companies do not always inform them of any changes.

## **C4/03/24 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024** 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024** 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024** as a true and accurate record. All recommendations were approved unanimously:

- To accept the Management Accounts for February 2024.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024** as a true and accurate record.

## **C5/03/24 Unitary Authority Reports**

The Westmorland & Furness Council report from Cllr Connell was received and accepted.

Cllr Connell reported that the Council's current financial position is stable, and the 2024-25 budget was passed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Although final details have yet to be confirmed, it seems likely that a local business will be relocating to the Heritage Centre in the near future, and it is hoped other businesses may follow.

Highways are proposing to extend the 30mph speed restriction a further 100 metres up Parkin Hill and beyond Castle Bank Farm. Currently the 30mph zone only begins before the right-angled bend into Scattergate, which is not visible to traffic heading down the hill, so the extension is sensible.

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, the revised 563 bus timetable will come into operation, with connections to Kirkby Stephen, Sedbergh, Kendal and Penrith. Scattergate and Cross Croft will no longer be served, but there will be additional stops on Bongate, in addition to the current stop at the Sands, with the exception of the 11.27 service to Penrith, which will have an additional stop at the Moot Hall.

Cllr Heap commented that she had recently received an update from Westmorland & Furness Council announcing that they had received funding of £1.7 million to improve bus services in the area and are asking for community input into how this money should be spent.

**Action:** The Clerk had also received information on this today and will ensure it was circulated appropriate.

## **C6/03/24 Police Report**

There was no police report in respect of this meeting. The Clerk informed the Council that it was unlikely there would be future reports, as our PCSO who produced the monthly reports is no longer covering Appleby. It was agreed that the online bi-monthly Eden Neighbourhood Police newsletter would be circulated to Councillors.

There is currently no PCSO for Appleby due to recruiting issues. Cllr Chalmers asked whether this could be taken to the Police & Crime Commissioner as an area of concern. The Clerk and Chair have a meeting with the Eden Neighbourhood Police Team Inspector on Friday, so will raise it initially with them.

### **C7/03/24 Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported she had attended the Westmorland Youth Orchestra event in the Public Hall recently and was very impressed with the quality of both the music and the venue, and also that five young people from Appleby were members of the orchestra.

She had also attended a Cumbria Tourism meeting, where the Managing Director of Cumbria Tourism had praised Appleby as a good example of a town promoting tourism, which she would like to pass on to the TIC Manager and team.

### **C8/03/24 Clerk's Report**

**Platinum Playground:** the first batch of playground equipment was delivered on Monday, and the work is due to be completed by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. All work is currently within budget.

**Doomgate FMRS:** The planning permission (subject to discharge of conditions) for the temporary car park at Edenside has been approved. It is still hoped that work to build the temporary car park will commence in May, but this is dependent upon the discharge of planning conditions and formalising a legal agreement with the Oaklea Trust for temporary use of the land. Work to setup the compound by the Leisure Centre/Cricket Club will coincide with the works to the temporary car park.

The work by United Utilities and Northern Gas that was due to start at Chapel Street on Monday has been pushed back, to avoid closures being in place over Easter week and the works are now due to commence from the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Black and White Bollards:** 3 quotes have been received for the supply of wooden bollards to replace the ones that need full replacement (approx. 150). To be able to assess the full cost of the work involved in replacing the bollards with new ones, the plan is to source a small number of bollards and see how much work and time is involved in removing the broken ones and installing new ones, including painting and fitting the bracket, and then installing them using postcrite to secure them. The option of concrete bollards is also being investigated, to be made as replicas of the wooden ones.

An application for funding of £7,250 from W&F Strong & Connected Community Grant has been approved in principle.

**Place Standards Survey:** The survey has now closed, with over 90 responses received. There is a lot of interesting feedback from residents, both on what residents thought was good about Appleby and what could be done to make it better. The results and comments will be collated, and a report will be produced in due course.

**applebytown.gov.uk:** All Councils are being encouraged to have a gov.uk domain name. We have received approval to register the new domain and will be implementing this over the next few weeks.

**Radio 4 'Any Questions':** We've received a request to host Radio 4 Any Questions in the Public Hall. It has been provisionally agreed with a date in May. There was a unanimous vote to facilitate this request.

The Clerk reported that Eden's Neighbourhood Police Team Inspector and Sergeant are coming to meet with her and the Mayor on Friday. The Clerk and the TIC Manager will also be meeting with Sam Plum, the W&F Chief Executive on Friday.

### **C9/03/24 Nominations for Mayor**

Cllr Anderton nominated Cllr Davidson to serve for another term as Mayor for the next Civic Year commencing May 2024. This was seconded by Cllr Chalmers. No other nominations were received. Cllr Davidson was re-elected unanimously.

Cllr Davidson thanked the Councillors and said she would be delighted to serve another term in her role as Mayor.

### **C10/03/24 Annual Parish Meeting**

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, in Appleby Public Hall supper room. So far, representatives from 14 organisations/groups have confirmed they will attend the meeting to give a verbal update on their activities over the past year. Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided from 6.30pm, with the main meeting starting at 7pm. Appleby-in-Westmorland Society have also offered to bring a slideshow before the meeting begins.

### **C11/03/24 Outside Body Reports**

**Appleby Grammar School:** Cllr Anderton reported that a new Head Teacher has been appointed at the Grammar School, Philip Nicholson, who is an experienced leader and will be relocating from Whitby.

### **C12/03/24 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – February 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **February 2024**, totalling £22,367.75. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

### **C13/03/24 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

- Cllr Pape apologised that he had not been able to spend any time thinking about the renaming of the Public Hall. It was confirmed the agenda item has been deferred to the next Property Committee meeting.

### **C14/03/24 Next Meeting**

To note that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.33pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 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*

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