

APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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APPLEBY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD IN THE MOOT HALL ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10th 2007 at 7.00pm

Present : Mayor S Rooke
Deputy Mayor Mrs C Patterson
Councillors AK Morgan
[by length of service] Mrs E Langan
J Pape
F Harland
I Potts
R Maguire
A Connell
Mrs M Clowes
KJ Budding
CK Duncan
Apologies HR Potts
PR Elliott
EC Robertson
Mrs A Potts

In an effort to save space, we abbreviate Appleby Town Council as "ATC", Eden District Council as "EDC" and Cumbria County Council as "CCC". We also abbreviate the Finance & General Purpose Committee as "F&GP". All other organisations are shown in full when first mentioned and any further abbreviations shown in brackets. THIS PARTICULAR SET OF MINUTES IS UNUSUALLY LONG, SINCE UP TO THE END OF PAGE SIX WE WERE TRYING OUT A NEW (MORE DETAILED) STYLE, WHICH PROVED IMPRACTICAL DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS.

C11/01/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received by the Mayor.

An adjournment was called, to hear from the Police, County and District Councillors, plus any member of the public on his or her pre-notified questions.

Police :

Apologies had been received from Inspector Lee Skelton, who joined the Council meeting later, upon the conclusion of the quarterly Eden Police Community Liaison Committee meeting being held in the Public Hall that evening.

PC Dave Mattinson represented the Police at the Council meeting and Councillors discussed several issues with PC Mattinson, such as boy racers in the town, drug & alcohol use at Jubilee Bridge and parking on The Sands.

Cllr Maguire raised concerns about the problem of **boy racers in the town** and this was discussed at length. PC Mattinson asked that residents inform the Police of such incidents and endeavour to note down the car description, colour and registration, to enable the Police to follow up on any reports.

Cllr Mrs Clowes was concerned there were still **cars parked where children needed to cross The Sands** and PC Mattinson agreed to check on progress towards temporary bollards being utilised until the new crossing was installed. Cllr Rooke advised he had written to Eden Parking Services to ask for their help. Cllr Mrs Clowes explained that there was a problem about parking attendants being there at school crossing times as they had to come from Carlisle. Cllr Rooke said he had also written to the County Council about what type of crossing would be installed.

Cllr Duncan was concerned about **vandalism and now arson in the town** – and asked PC Mattinson when the last foot patrol each day took place. PC Mattinson explained that, due to the large areas to be covered, most of the time officers were in a vehicle. Cllr Duncan felt it would be better for officers to be seen on foot more often, as a deterrent. PC Mattinson explained that another Police Community Officer had been allocated to Appleby and would be here next month. He would be walking the streets.

Cllr Morgan expressed his gratitude that Inspector Skelton had added an extra voice on the **lack of street lighting in Boroughgate**. The Mayor was working very hard to resolve this problem, which had been ongoing since the town enhancements had been completed, apparently due to a dispute between the contractor and United Utilities.

Cllr Morgan explained that the Eden Area Police Community Liaison Committee met quarterly and every five or six meetings came to Appleby, always on the second Wednesday of a month. He asked PC Mattinson to remind the Committee that a number of Councillors would have liked to attend, but had to be at the Council meeting on that second Wednesday each month. PC Mattinson confirmed that this matter was in hand.

ACTION

ALL

DM

SR

DM

Cllr Maguire again raised the subject of **boy racers in the town** and this problem was further discussed, with PC Mattinson repeating his request that such instances be reported to the Police, with details of the offending vehicles, so that the appropriate action could be taken.

ALL

Cllr Maguire proposed a vote of no confidence in the Mayor, saying he was not taking the problem of boy racers seriously. Cllr Rooke explained he took this issue very seriously, particularly since he lived in the very centre of the town and saw it more than most. It created a real nuisance. As a retired policeman, he was sure that if everyone seeing such incidents made a note of the vehicle details and informed the Police then they would be able to tackle it.

ALL

Cllr Maguire again repeated comments made earlier in the meeting and the Mayor advised him that the meeting was currently adjourned and that the appropriate time to propose his vote of no confidence in the Mayor would be once the Mace was returned and the meeting resumed.

District Council :

District Cllr Morgan reported that ...

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 EDC had been recommended to replace their current dog warden service with an in-house (rather than contracted-out) **community warden service** (rather than just dog warden), in order to also concentrate on such things as littering and waste.

On July 1st the **smoke free legislation** comes into force and EDC will put on a series of **roadshows**, one of which will take place in Appleby, possibly on No-smoking Day, March 14.

On the centre table was crime data from the **Carlisle & Eden Crime Reduction Partnership** provided by Cllr Morgan for Members interest.

Questions were put to District Cllr Morgan ...

Cllr Mrs Clowes was frustrated by a lack of progress on **rural wheels**, as she had been told that EDC's community & economy budget for next year included a rural wheels element and been assured it would be happening very soon. She was not sure of the effect on Appleby but had spoken to someone called Cheryl who was doing rural wheels and been told they won't give free travel – it would be 30p a mile, with someone taking you to the bus stop or train and hopefully someone waiting for you when you come back. It doesn't give people the choice that concessionary travel gave.

Cllr Mrs Clowes queried Cllr Morgan's District report last month relating to the **temporary closure of the Shire Hall public toilets**. Cllr Morgan said that both he and Cllr Mrs Langan were continuously lobbying in EDC to try to ensure that the Shire Hall toilets were reopened as soon as possible, but that nothing was happening very quickly at the moment. He reported that the latest information he had, of less than a week old, was that EDC's agents and CCC's agents were still negotiating the lease and how long that would take was unknown.

Cllr Connell reported he had received a good response from residents to the proforma he put out before Christmas of a letter of objection to the closure of the Shire Hall public toilets. He reported that Brough's public toilets were open 24 hours a day. His concern was that because of the bad feeling being generated there could be a health hazard in the summer with people urinating outside the closed toilet block.

Cllr Morgan said that since the Shire Hall toilets were the only 24 hour ones in the town, if it was ATC's wish he was happy to see if he could get one of the other public toilets in the town to open 24 hours ?

Cllr Budding asked if Cllr Morgan or Mrs Langan could approach EDC to ask them to clear fly tipping from **Broad Close recycling centre**, since there were something like 50 Christmas trees plus overflowing bottle banks. Cllr Morgan explained that Christmas trees were a recycling issue, not a fly tipping issue and that TFE did take away refuse which was not recyclable. EDC's new community wardens would possibly address that. The Mayor offered to contact TFE to arrange for them to take away the Christmas trees and this was

SR

AGREED.

Cllr Mrs Clowes reported with concern that a resident had telephoned the recycling number to ask what to do with her recycling because the bins were overflowing and had been advised to fly tip.

Cllr Connell said a resident had been upset on the previous Saturday morning because two disabled parking spaces had the **fish man's vehicle** straddling them, until he had been asked to move. The Mayor said historically the fish man had parked there as part of the market for 25 years. Cllr Mrs Langan advised that permission had been granted by EDC's Town Centres Manager for the van to park there each Saturday for the market.

Members of the public :

No questions were asked.

The Mace was returned and the meeting resumed ...

C2/01/07 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 13 2006

Cllr Morgan asked that minute **C11/12/06** be amended to show that the TIC Working Party Chairman had been at the meeting but that since the WP meeting had been held earlier in the day of the Council meeting there had been no time to prepare a report.

Clerk

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on December 13th 2006 be signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record with this small amendment.

SR

The Mayor read out his draft letter to express ATC's concern to CCC about their possible change of policy on their **Meals on Wheels** service and it was **AGREED** that this letter should be sent.

SR

Cllr Mrs Clowes reported she had not understood Cllr Morgan's explanation in **C19/12/06** and Cllr Morgan offered to take Mrs Clowes through this after the meeting.

KM

Cllr Morgan said that in the past there had been an agenda item of "**Matters Arising**". He asked why this had been dropped.

The Clerk explained that this had been part of several agenda improvements made in 2006 in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, as a result of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk's CiLCA training. The trainer from CALC had advised that an agenda item of Matters Arising was considered to be 'not good practice', since any new items arising from the minutes should be put onto a future agenda, thus enabling subsequent decisions to be legal ones.

Cllr I Potts reiterated that his Chairman's training had taught him that once minutes were read and said to be accurate or non-accurate they were recorded as such and any new items must be added to an agenda for a future meeting.

Cllr Morgan suggested another way would be to bring up items in the form of a question to the Mayor.

C3/01/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Clowes declared an interest in agenda item 9, as a Councillor and as a member of the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society (AiWS). Cllr Mrs Clowes did not state whether this was a personal or prejudicial interest, or whether she intended to leave the room while the item was discussed, if the latter.

Cllr Morgan declared a *personal* interest in agenda item 6c, as a non-ATC member of the New Fair Joint Committee, and a *prejudicial* interest in agenda item 7, as a member of the Fair Hill Committee, stating he would leave the room for item 7.

C4/01/07 MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

This month's report was given to Council and noted, including ...

- a photo shoot with members of the Embroiderers Guild to record their presentation of an embroidered banner on the theme of the town flag. The photo had appeared in the Herald.
- verifying the mileage and officiating at the start of a charity road trek to Mali in an ice cream van by Appleby Rotary Club (see Herald report)
- planned attendance at the official launch of Sir Martin Holdgate's new book on Appleby
- a coffee morning planned for January 20 between 9.30 and 11.30am in the Supper Room

Cllr Mrs Langan asked a question on behalf of Cllr H Potts, who could not be at the meeting. Cllr Potts asked could ATC please write to the Environment Agency to ask what Appleby's share is of the 200 million pounds from the Government for flood alleviation work would be.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to write accordingly.

Clerk

Cllr Maguire again repeated comments made earlier in the meeting about boy racers in the town and again proposed a **vote of no confidence in the Mayor. There being no seconder, the motion was lost.**

C5/01/07 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 2nd 2007

The Planning Committee Chair, Cllr Mrs Patterson, presented the minutes of this meeting, copies of which had been previously sent to all Councillors.

RESOLVED that these minutes be adopted.

Please see attached for details of items discussed by the Planning Committee.

The Mayor invited Cllr Harland to report back on his valuable work on ATC's behalf with regard to EDC's consultation on their Core Strategy (see Planning Minutes of January 2nd 2007) in order that this submission could be approved. Councillors Harland, Morgan and Mrs Clowes had prepared submissions to go to EDC, copies of which were available for each Councillor on their desks that evening.

Cllr Connell queried one item regarding a proposal to reopen railway stations and suggested that Culgaith be dropped and that Ormside and Long Marton would have much more effect on Appleby. Cllr Harland explained Culgaith had only been used as an example.

RESOLVED that these submissions be sent off to EDC.

Clerk

The Mayor thanked Councillors Harland, Morgan and Mrs Clowes for all their work.

C6/01/07 MINUTES OF THE F&GP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 2nd 2007

The F&GP Committee Chair, Cllr I Potts presented the minutes of this meeting, copies of which had been previously sent to all Councillors.

Cllr Mrs Langan read out comments from Cllr H Potts, who could not be at the Council meeting. Cllr Potts said that at the F&GP meeting it had been resolved (although not all Members were in favour) to recommend spending up to **£2,500 to recarpet the TIC**. Cllr Potts had visited the TIC the next day and felt the carpet would last for some considerable time and that if this amount of capital was now available it would be better to use it to work on the pavement. He urged Members to bear in mind a recent large but necessary Precept raise before agreeing to this expense.

Cllr Maguire said the carpet was in a high traffic zone but only three or four years old. Cllr I Potts said the carpet was eleven years old. Cllr Budding said it was in fact twenty four years since the carpet had last been replaced. Cllr Maguire said the carpet was shabby but the £2,500 was public money and the carpet was no worse than any other public area in the whole of the town – it should be replaced by a ceramic surface – to spend this money under the current financial constraint was crazy. Cllr Connell said the minute stated that the RFO should have delegated authority to look at options.

The Mayor asked the RFO, Cllr Budding, to give a breakdown on his figure of £1,000 for his **photocopying costs**. Cllr Budding said he had been misunderstood in his comment – his overall costs for the year would be over £1,000 for his business, with four equal bills – and so he proposed to charge **£260.48** to ATC – he was not seeking to recoup the whole amount. The Mayor asked was it not possible to use one of ATC's three photocopiers, but Cllr Budding said no, not unless he worked in the Moot Hall, which would not be convenient.

Cllr Maguire proposed that there be **no recarpeting of the TIC**. ***There being no seconder, the motion was lost.***

Cllr Morgan felt the minute was vague under item **F7/1/07** and asked if it could be clarified, since he had declared an interest in that item and left the room during discussions. Cllr Budding explained the constraint was the maximum quotation of £2,500.

The F&GP Committee Chair, Cllr I Potts, proposed that the TIC carpet be added to the next F&GP agenda and that the RFO, Cllr Budding, be requested to bring all information to that meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Langan.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Maguire that the TIC carpet not be considered for twelve months. ***There being no seconder, the amendment was lost.*** A vote was held on Cllr I Potts original proposal that the TIC carpet be added to the next F&GP agenda and that the RFO bring all information. **This was carried.** Accordingly, the Clerk was instructed to add this item to the next F&GP agenda.

Clerk

RESOLVED that these minutes be adopted in all other aspects.

Please see attached for details of items discussed by the Finance & General Purpose Committee.

C7/01/07 CUMBRIA-IN-BLOOM JOINT WORKING PARTY REPORT

No report this month.

C8/01/07 PUBLIC HALL JOINT WORKING PARTY REPORT

No report this month.

C9/01/07 PUBLIC TOILETS JOINT WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Clowes reported that since the last Council meeting the working party had written to EDC again concerning the question of the lease, which was supposedly stopping reopening of the Shire Hall block. She stated that EDC did not start negotiations until October 12 and that CCC said they were happy to agree a lease but that nothing is proposed for the next three years, so the word "temporary" was not true.

Cllr Morgan proposed he ask EDC to open the Market Arcade public toilets 24 hours but Cllr Pape felt that might give EDC an excuse not to reopen the Shire Hall block.

Cllr Mrs Langan asked why when she was a member of the working party she was not invited to attend any meetings. She felt it should be borne in mind that she and Cllr Morgan had been instrumental in persuading EDC to keep the public toilets open rather than closing them. They were both working hard at EDC to try to reopen the Shire Hall block.

C10/01/07 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE JOINT WORKING PARTY REPORT

Cllr I Potts reported that **Catherine Webb and Jim Walker** of **Ullswater Steamers and Cumbria Tourist Board** would be coming to the next F&GP meeting with some advice, recommendations and points of interest on TIC's in the future. The Clerk was asked to add this to the agenda.

Clerk

C11/01/07 APPLEBY ALLIANCE

Cllr Budding reported that he had attended a meeting on December 14th, in place of Cllr I Potts, who was indisposed. The meeting had been arranged because of the departure of Mrs Sue Fell. A reassessment had been considered which had identified several factors, including a possible change and expanded role for the Alliance with an extended area of operation and additional partners. There were ongoing discussions about joint working with Kirkby Stephen Town Council and Cllr Budding stated he would like to include ATC in that. Appleby Heritage Centre might offer to host the Alliance as part of its operations. Discussions were ongoing but thoughts included developing local area committees for such areas as Appleby and Kirkby, chaired by a local volunteer or co-ordinator.

C12/01/07 APPLEBY HERITAGE CENTRE

Cllr Mrs Patterson had obtained a report that day from the Centre and updated Members on the large numbers of people undertaking training and their various courses. The Centre were expecting to take delivery of a second 100year old railway carriage to renovate. The building site work was nearly finished and once the nights became lighter an invitation would be extended for Councillors to have a look around. The plans for the new bus shelter would be available for discussion at the next Planning Committee and the Clerk was asked to include an agenda item for this.

Clerk

C13/01/07 APPLEBY NEW FAIR JOINT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Langan reported that the next meeting was due to be held on January 23rd, at which the new working groups would be reporting back on their progress.

C14/01/07 APPLEBY COMMUNITY SPORTS HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

No report this month.

C15/01/07 APPLEBY CEMETERY CHAPEL JOINT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Patterson reported that a meeting was planned for 7pm on Monday January 15.

Cllr Morgan had declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room while it was discussed.

C16/01/07 FAIR LEASE RENT REVIEW

Cllr Mrs Langan advised that the four ATC representatives on the Joint Fair Committee had met to discuss the Fair lease rent review : Cllrs Maguire, I Potts, Mrs Patterson and herself.

It was recommended to Council that Mrs Langan be given delegated authority to negotiate with the Gypsies an increase of at least £200 and inform them of a progressive increase over the next few years. It was intended that a week before the Fair Cllrs would walk around to inspect the field to see if it was in good order and then claim for any damage afterwards.

The RFO, Cllr Budding, asked if anyone knew how much the Gypsies charged for entrance to the Fair, since he wanted to check if the town were getting the best benefit by renting the field to the Gypsies and would like to know how much they were making on it and whether it was viable to increase the rent. Cllr Duncan had spoken to some owners of caravans last year who did not move onto the site to avoid paying the fee.

RESOLVED that Cllr Langan be given delegated authority to negotiate with the Gypsies an increase of at least £200.

C17/01/07 ROTA FOR CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS REVIEW BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mrs Clowes stated that ATC were bombarded with consultation documents from EDC & CCC and needed to respond to them, that the documents were not given out until the next Committee or Council meeting and instead they should be sent to the next person on an alphabetical list, who would then have time to summarise them and bring them to the next meeting – she suggested a rota for dealing with consultation documents.

Cllr Mrs Patterson said that some Members may not feel able to find time or feel qualified to read some items. She suggested the informality of the present system, where volunteers were requested, be continued, other than in the case of extremely urgent documents.

Cllr Harland felt the rota for yellow feedback forms worked, because they were easy to deal with. His underlying feeling was that all Councillors should be able to understand these consultation documents, perhaps reading with a friend or asking advice and that it could be a useful exercise to get to grips with larger problems and understand things.

Cllr I Potts felt if something arrived immediately after a meeting and would tend to wait until the next meeting ATC could adopt a system where a Councillor ensured something was dealt with, rather than dealt with it himself.

The Mayor thought a rota system was a good idea, but the rota could be improved if Councillors declared their areas of expertise and interest, saying for instance as a retired Policeman he would be a good choice for police matters, crime prevention, etc.

Cllr Pape suggested making up working parties or sub committees for various subjects, since it was better for two or three together to handle anything which one person might find difficult.

Cllr Morgan felt it was very important that when such documents arrived the Clerk not only knew who's turn it was but who was the likely person to know something about it, for instance he had areas of responsibility with CALC so would be a good choice to take on similar responsibilities for ATC. He felt it was important that if ATC were asked for a response they should respond, or they would cease to be consulted.

Cllr Harland suggested that when the Clerk received a consultation document she also send an email to ask Councillors who would like to take it and feel comfortable dealing with it.

RESOLVED that the Clerk (a) ask for information on their areas of expertise from all Members, (b) use this to compile a Consultation Documents Rota and (c) once a document has been allocated to a Councillor, he or she would decide (if necessary) who to ask for assistance and having gained that assistance would notify the Clerk of who was handling the consultation preparation on ATC's behalf. The Clerk would log that into the rota accordingly and also add an agenda item for the appropriate meeting, to enable Councillors to report back.

Clerk

C18/01/07 ADVICE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

Cllr Morgan had sought advice on behalf of ATC from the Monitoring Officer at EDC regarding discussion of a Press Statement issued by ATC on December 13 2006 after an attack on ATC appeared in the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society (AiWS) Newsletter. He reported that the Monitoring Officer saw no problem with ATC pursuing this as it thought best, although he did suggest that on the one hand quite drastic action might be appropriate, he felt on the other hand ignoring it all together might be more appropriate.

The Mayor advised that the Chairman of the AiWS had offered ATC a page in the next AiWS Newsletter to make any answer they wished to make and that the Mayor had asked Cllr Connell to draft a reply which would need to be approved by the next Council meeting should Members wish to accept the AiWS Chairman's offer.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Patterson, felt there would be no editorial guarantee and that ATC could be misquoted, as they were continuing to be unfairly criticised. She felt ATC did not need to utilise the AiWS Newsletter to uphold ATC's standards. Cllr Mrs Langan also took this view.

Cllr Morgan felt another option would be to simply give the AiWS a copy of ATC's press release. The Clerk reported that an AiWS committee member had already requested and been given a copy of the press release on the day following its publication.

Cllr Maguire complained that he had not seen the offending newsletter or the press release. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Patterson, explained to Cllr Maguire that as he had not attended a Council meeting since April 12 2006, nor a full Committee meeting since August 7 2006, it was highly likely that as a consequence he was not fully conversant with every detail of ongoing Council business.

Cllr I Potts updated Members on a meeting he had recently had with the AiWS Chairman to discuss what the two organisations could do together about heavy lorries coming through the town and also what could be done to help youth organisations in Appleby.

Cllr Mrs Clowes reminded Members that at her second Council meeting she had queried why ATC did not respond to the unfair criticisms published in the AiWS Newsletter, saying she was sorry ATC did not stand up for itself.

Cllr Harland stated that while the AiWS continued to print half-truths ATC could not have confidence that any material they might submit would be used in the proper way. As Parish Newsletter Editor he had been accused by the AiWS of failing to include articles which they had in fact submitted after print deadlines had expired.

Various options were discussed : (a) to accept the invitation of the AiWS Chairman to use their newsletter to reply (b) to do nothing or (c) to seek legal advice. Members were concerned about whether seeking legal advice would be a good use of public money, since their policy for many years had been to simply ignore the Society's ill-informed and unfair criticism. The Clerk suggested a fourth option might be to seek free legal advice from the District Council's own Solicitor.

Clerk

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to write on behalf of ATC to enquire of EDC's Solicitor what legal action could be taken.

C19/01/07 INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

The RFO, Cllr Budding, gave each Member written details of exactly what was covered by ATC's current insurance policy which was due for renewal on April 1st 2007 (see Jan 2nd F&GP minutes) and this was fully discussed.

RESOLVED that the RFO renew this policy and ensure that officials indemnity be included, or purchased as an additional policy from an alternative company if not available from ATC's existing insurer.

RFO

C20/01/07 COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Members discussed a proposal to move the surgeries from a Friday evening in the Exhibition Centre in the Moot Hall over to the entrance to the Supper Room in the Market Hall on a Saturday morning, in an attempt to attract a better attendance.

RESOLVED that this be done and that the Public Hall Manager be asked to contact any organisation booking the Supper Room for a Saturday morning when a surgery would be held, to obtain their agreement to the entrance being used for the surgery.

Clerk

C21/01/07 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the Mayor be authorised to sign the attached schedule for payment of monthly accounts (bills and salaries) for December totalling **£6,347.43**.

C22/01/07 CORRESPONDENCE

The Mayor had received an acknowledgement to his letter to the Chief Executive of CCC asking for details of the proposed new pedestrian crossing for The Sands.

All Members had been given a copy of a letter and agenda for the Cumbria Association of Local Council's (CALC) presentation of County Council and District Councils' Proposals about the Local Government White Paper being held at Newton Rigg on February 3rd. The Mayor explained that places needed to be booked and asked Members to notify the Clerk if they were able to attend. Councils were restricted to two places each. In addition, Cllr Morgan would already be attending in his CALC capacity if anyone wished to co-ordinate travel arrangements.

ALL

The Mayor had received a letter from the Chair of Governors at Appleby Grammar School confirming that Mr Terry Hobson will retire as Head Teacher at the end of the summer term this year. Mr Andrew Lund, currently Deputy Head at Salt Grammar School in Bradford, had been appointed as Mr Hobson's successor. The Mayor sent best wishes to Mr Hobson for his well-earned retirement.

C23/01/07 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

C24/01/07 NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Council would be held on **Wednesday February 14th 2007** at 7pm in the Moot Hall. The Mayor reminded Members that in the meantime an extraordinary meeting of the Council had been arranged for Friday January 12th 2007 at 7pm in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, **the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.**