APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Finance Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.34pm

Present:

Cllr Heap (Chair)
Cllr Anderton
Cllr Davidson

Also in attendance:

Cllr Connell
Cllr Hilsden
Cllr Railton
Cllr Rooke
Cllr Smith
Cllr Turnbull
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

F1/11/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chalmers, Cllr Curley, Cllr Pape.

F2/11/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

F3/11/24 Actions from the Previous Minutes

Any actions from previous minutes are covered in the agenda items.

F4/11/24 Chairman's Report

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

F5/11/24 Management Accounts

The Chair presented the Management Accounts for October 2024, which were accepted and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council.

F6/11/24 Banking Arrangements

The Clerk informed the committee that she had been researching alternative banks, who have a better understanding of Councils, as our current bankers Barclays do not, and a lot of staff time is spent when changes to the accounts need to be made. More and more Councils are moving over to Unity Trust Bank, who have a dedicated Council Relationship Department and are being recommended by CALC (www.unity.co.uk/sectors/parish-councils/). The monthly fees would be very similar to what we are currently paying Barclays.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to change the Council's banking facilities from Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank.

F7/11/24 Supply of Utility Services

The Council's gas and electricity are currently supplied through a supplier contract with Westmorland & Furness Council. They have informed us that they will not be providing this service once the current contracts expire. Our gas contract runs out on 31st March 2025, which means we will have to find an alternative provider.

Utility Aid are a broker who specialise in working with the not-for-profit sector, including councils, to negotiate cheaper utility rates. They have provided a quote based on our previous usage, which estimates an increase of around £1,000 pa.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to accept the proposal from Utility Aid for the provision of gas services when the current contract with Corona through Westmorland & Furness is terminated on 31 March 2025.

F8/11/24 Salary Increases for 2024-25

The Local Government Services Pay Agreement has been agreed for 2024-25 and the Clerk confirmed that even with the proposed increases, the salaries will still come in under budget.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to accept and implement the salary increases for 2024-25, in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement, backdated to 1 April 2024.

F9/11/24 Charity Accounts

Charity Commission

The Charity Commission have confirmed that they do not have Constitutions for either charity, with the only governing documents held by them being the wills of the individuals. The Clerk suggested drawing up an informal agreement for each charity regarding holding an AGM and decision making on awarding of grants.

Grant Application – Appleby Crafty Ladies

The Clerk confirmed all trustees of the Ingram Dawson charity had reviewed the application received from Appleby Crafty Women's Group and would like to award a grant to them.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that trustees accept the grant application from Appleby Crafty Ladies Group (amount to be decided by the Trustees).

F10/11/24 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no items for future agendas.

F11/11/24 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on **Monday 9th December 2024** at **7.15pm**, or at the rising of the Planning and General Purposes Committee in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 20th November 2024**, the Chairman of this meeting was authorised by the Committee to sign these minutes, to confirm they're being a true and accurate record:

Cllr Heap

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