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Finance Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.54pm

Present:

Cllr Chalmers (Chair)
Cllr Anderton
Cllr Curley
Cllr Davidson
Cllr Heap

Also in attendance:

Cllr Connell
Cllr Kemp
Cllr Hilsden
Cllr Railton
Cllr Turnbull
Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant

F1/10/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pape and Cllr Potts.

F2/10/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

F3/10/25 Actions from the Previous Minutes

- **Closure of Barclays Accounts**

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts at Barclays have been closed.

F4/10/25 Chair's Report

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

F5/10/25 Management Accounts

The Chair presented the Management Accounts for September 2025.

The Management Accounts for September 2025 were accepted and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council.

F6/10/25 Half Year Budget Projection

The Chair presented the Half Year Budget projections, which has been profiled to give a more accurate prediction. The income is so far on budget, and there is an underspend in expenditure, as significant savings have been made on some budget lines, i.e. a better gas contract was negotiated, no works are required at Dowpitts Wood as the arborist has confirmed that the ash trees have not deteriorated significantly enough to require any work this year.

F7/10/25 Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2024-25

The external auditor report and certificate have been received. They reported that apart from a couple of small administrative errors that were corrected on request, no other matters give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Clerk reported that the auditor had charged an additional £1,250 on top of the set audit fee of £850. An elector sent a complaint to the external auditor regarding the Council's renting of Fair Hill

and the running of Appleby Horse Fair and time spent on looking into and answering these queries are chargeable to the Council.

Action: It was agreed that a breakdown will be requested and potentially a statement will be released outlining the additional costs incurred by the Council because of this.

F8/10/25 Internal Auditor's Half Year Report

The Internal Auditor's half year report was received. The Chair thanked the Clerk and Clerk's Assistant for the hard work done to maintain the accounts. Cllr Heap was also thanked for the monthly checks she conducts.

F9/10/25 Charity Accounts

The Sands Methodist Church have submitted a grant application to help fund some internal refurbishments. It was agreed that a grant should be awarded to them, which will be agreed by the trustees of the Hannah Kennington Charity.

F10/10/25 Proposal from Appleby Community Enterprises

Appleby Community Enterprises are looking to wind down their organisation, but have some funds left, which are earmarked for business improvement. They have approached the Council to ask whether we would take on these funds and ringfence it for a business improvement project(s).

It was agreed to accept the money in principle, but further discussions would need to take place to make recommendations as to how this fund would work. It was also agreed to invite Alan McViety to be involved in the decision-making process.

F11/10/25 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no items for future agendas.

F12/10/25 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on **Monday 10th November 2025** 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 8.04pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 22nd October 2025**, the Chair of this meeting was authorised by the Committee to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

Cllr Paula Heap