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Finance Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.20pm

Present:

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

Also in attendance:

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

F1/12/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pape.

F2/12/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

F3/12/25 Updates from the Previous Minutes

- **Town centre shop front grant scheme**

The grant scheme has been well received and around 10 properties have requested an application form. The deadline for the first round of applications is the beginning of January and will be assessed by Cllr Railton, the Town Clerk and Alan McViety, representing ACE. Westmorland & Furness Council were asked if they could contribute to the scheme, but they have replied to say they are unable to help. Cllr Connell agreed he would pursue this with them.

- **External auditor update**

There is no update and we are still awaiting a response / acknowledgement from the external auditors to the Council's letter of 22 October.

F4/12/25 Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report in respect of this meeting. It was agreed to remove this item from the committee agendas and give the Chair priority in Councillor's reports.

F5/12/25 Management Accounts

The Chair presented the Management Accounts for November 2025.

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

F6/12/25 Budget and Precept for 2026-27

The draft budget for 2026-27 was circulated prior to the meeting. A new budget provision of £5,000 has been added to continue the shop front grant scheme into 2026-27. It was agreed that the reserves are healthy and could be used towards buildings repairs, so as not to lose momentum on the proposed schedule of works.

It was agreed to accept the budget in principle, but as the precept request doesn't have to be submitted until the end of January, it was agreed to finalise the budget in January's Finance Committee meeting, by which time we will hopefully have received some of the outstanding quotes for building repairs.

F7/12/25 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no items for future agendas.

F/12/25 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on **Monday 12th January 2026** 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 7.51pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 17th December 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