APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Finance Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.54pm

Present:

Cllr Heap (Chair)
Cllr Anderton
Cllr Curley
Cllr Davidson

Also in attendance:

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

F1/04/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chalmers.

F2/04/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

F3/04/26 Actions from the Previous Minutes

- **Shop Front Grant Scheme**

A further three grants have been approved by the panel, meaning a total of seven grants have been awarded. The next application deadline is the beginning of May.

- **External Auditor Additional Fees**

The Clerk had received a more detailed breakdown from the external auditors as to what their time had been spent on relating to the issues raised by an elector regarding leasing of Fair Hill for the Horse Fair. As discussed previously, they have an obligation to investigate and respond to any issues raised by residents. However, if any other electors raise the same queries in the future, they will not look into this issue again. Following their investigation, the external auditors concluded that Appleby Town Council deal with the leasing of Fair Hill in a reasoned and reasonable way. The Clerk confirmed that the additional costs of £1,250 relating to this work has been paid.

- **Budget and Precept for 2026-27**

We have received no formal response from Westmorland and Furness Council regarding the precept request, however the Council Tax letters have been distributed to residents confirming the 0% increase.

F4/04/26 Management Accounts

The Chair presented the Management Accounts for March 2026.

The Management Accounts for March 2026 were accepted and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council.

F5/04/26 Year End Accounts

The Clerk confirmed that work has started on finalising the year end accounts. The Council has agreed to take part in user testing of a new digital AGAR submission system, which is being trialled by a number of Councils.

F6/04/26 Charity Accounts

The committee considered a grant application from Renew Wellbeing Eden, who provide a warm space with hot drinks and soup every Friday in the Public Hall. Although the Clerk has reduced the weekly hall rental cost, the group need some additional funding to keep them running for another year.

It was agreed to recommend to the Trustees of Hannah Kennington that an award is granted.

F7/04/26 Banking Arrangements and Signatories

The banking arrangements and signatories for 2026-27 were approved.

F8/04/26 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no items for future agendas.

F9/04/26 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on **Monday 11th May 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 7.27pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**, the Chair of this meeting was authorised by the Committee to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

Cllr Heap