APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Finance Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.40pm

Present:		**Also in attendance:**	
Cllr Chalmers (Chair)	Cllr Davidson	Cllr Gates	Cllr Railton
Cllr Anderton	Cllr Heap	Cllr Hilsden	Cllr Turnbull
Cllr Connell		Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant	

F1/09/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Curley.

F2/09/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

F3/09/26 Management Accounts

The Chair presented the Management Accounts for July and August 2026.

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

F4/09/26 Year End Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The External Auditors review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025-26 reported that the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met, and stated that there are no matters that need drawing to the attention of the authority. Appleby Council were the only Council in Cumbria to use the new digital system for this year's return ahead of it going live for next year's return.

The Committee passed on their congratulations to the Clerk's Office for their hard work.

F5/09/26 Annual Salary Increases

National local government salary increases of 3.5% have been agreed and these have been implemented in the August payroll and backdated to 1 April. The annual cost for employee salaries for 2026-27 will be approx. £122,000 (budgeted £130,000).

F6/09/26 Shop Front Grant Scheme

The Shop Front Grant Scheme has been a huge success and made a big difference to the town centre, in particular a big improvement to properties on Bridge Street. There are five applications which have been reviewed and approved by the grant panel and a number of application forms have been given out pending their return. It wouldn't have been so successful if the shop owners hadn't been so willing to contribute to their improvements.

F7/09/26 Community Chest Grant Fund

The application process and guidelines have been finalised, and the grant scheme is now ready to be advertised.

F8/09/26 Charity Accounts

An application has been received from Appleby Edibles. Unfortunately, as they had received a grant from one of the Council's charity grant funds last summer for a similar project last year, they are ineligible to receive a repeat grant.

It was agreed to recommend the application be approved under the new Community Chest Fund.

F9/09/26 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no items for future agendas.

F10/09/26 Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on **Monday 12th October 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 7.56pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 23rd September 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 Chalmers

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