

# APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD IN THE MOOT HALL MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 at 6.45pm

### Present:

Cllr Davidson (Chairman)  
Cllr Anderton  
Cllr Hayes  
Cllr Pape

### Also in attendance:

Cllr Heap  
Cllr Kemp  
Cllr Stephenson  
Cllr Connell (arrived at 7pm)  
Town Clerk  
Clerk's Assistant

### F1/01/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Chalmers, Cllr Curley and Cllr F Potts.

### F2/01/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to be made.

### F3/01/23 Actions from Previous Meeting

- Precept/Budget for 2023/24: raised in Agenda item 7

### F4/01/23 Chairman's Report

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

### F5/01/23 Management Accounts

The Chair presented the Management Accounts for **December 2022**. The Management Accounts for December 2022 were accepted and **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council.

Income: TIC Sales income has been good the last 3 months, but it should be noted that a large proportion of the sales are made up of sale or return goods (ie.Cards for Good Causes, exhibition stock) and as yet, invoices for these sales haven't been paid. The second Rural Payments amount has also been received. There was some unexpected income in the form of the rates refund for West Cloisters and a WaterPlus overcharge refund for the Public Hall.

Expenditure: As anticipated electric and gas invoices were high, however the Government Energy Rebate is proving to be helpful, but is due to end in March. Cleaning and refuse is higher due to the payment of two historical unpaid invoices for Market Arcade toilets.

### F6/01/23 Cloisters Building Repairs Project

The Cloisters Building Project work is now complete. The project came in around £4,000 under budget, and due to the Central Arcade area being deemed as public realm and not for business purposes, it is hoped that around £6,000 worth of VAT can be reclaimed. The final Eden District Council grant claim of around £48k has been submitted.

The contractors are revisiting site within the next two weeks to clean the Arcade with a doffing machine. One noted item for snagging is the main Church gates, which are already beginning to rust. DecUK are aware of this and have plans to get the issue sorted.

### F7/01/23 Budget & Precept for 2023-24

The Clerk reported that EDC have sent through the Council Tax Base and CTRS figures for the 2023-2024 Precept and circulated a Precept Report. The precept figure is based on the budget requirements to enable the Council to conduct its council business, operate its services and maintain Council owned property.

**ACTION**

**All**

The Precept figure has been based on the Budget presented to the Finance Committee at the December meeting, with a few minor adjustments. Dowpitts Wood maintenance now has a budget line of £1,500 to allow for urgent tree works, and the Property Repairs budget has been reduced by £2,000.

The Clerk also reported that no provision had been put in the budget for the Marriage/Civil Service License fee for the Council Chamber, which has been discussed. Cllr Stephenson noted that he understood that some changes might be in the pipeline, which would mean greater flexibility on where people could choose to get married, without the need for venues to have a Licence. It was agreed unanimously that the Council would like to go ahead with registering the Council Chamber as a licensed wedding venue if this was still needed, but the Clerk would do more research regarding any potential changes in licensing laws before registering as a venue with Cumbria County Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council that the precept amount for 2023-24 be set at £152,022.

Councillors agreed a public statement should be produced explaining and justifying this increase. The Clerk confirmed an A4 flyer will be produced and publicised.

#### **F8/01/23 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

There were no reports or items.

#### **F9/01/23 Date of the Next Meeting**

Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held in the Moot Hall on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6.45pm.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at **7.06pm.**

Clerk

Full  
Council

Clerk

All

AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON: **WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WAS AUTHORISED BY THE  
COMMITTEE TO SIGN THESE MINUTES TO CONFIRM THEIR  
BEING A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD:

*Cllr P Davidson*