

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh 6.15pm on Monday 10 August 2026

Present: Cllrs Arnold (Chair), Capstick, Brooks, Lancaster and the Clerk

1. Apologies

All Members were present at the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

Item 4 ii) Cllr Lancaster declared a non-pecuniary interest. There were no other declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 6 July 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 July 2026 were agreed by those present and were signed, as a true record, by the Chairman Cllr Arnold.

4. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation 2026 – 2027

A Financial Summary for July 2026 had been circulated, together with the bank reconciliation for each account, bank statements and Bankline information.

- i) **Requests for payments August 2026** the requests for payments (attached) were authorised. These included the topographical survey for the playing field, a 50% advance payment for planned automatic doors (Main Street toilets), the External Audit fee, blank pay and display tickets for car parks and annual website/email hosting. The Quarter 1 VAT direct debit, previously referenced at the July meeting and due to be collected in August, was also noted.
- ii) **Playground progression - planning and topography.** Members confirmed that the Clerk has been in contact with the architect, and the topo has now been completed. The Council was awaiting invoice for payment, as noted and agreed above. The architect hopes to progress the planning application ahead of the September meeting.

Members also discussed the outstanding removal of the condemned play equipment at the playing field. Cllr Arnold advised he had spoken to a contractor over the past few weeks, but a quotation remained outstanding. Members resolved that the Clerk now seek a response ahead of Full Council, in order to avoid further delay. It was also noted that another contractor had informally approached the Council offering to remove the equipment. However, no contact would be made with this contractor until a formal update has been received from the original contractor.

5. Receipts and Payments Summary against Budget 2026 – 2027

The Receipts and Payments summary, against budget, was agreed in full. Cllrs Capstick and Brooks signed all papers available at the meeting. Finally, the Clerk confirmed receipt of £8,000 from Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of the Public Convenience Improvement Grant for the automatic doors and minor improvements to accessible toilet.

6. Grant Applications

- i) **Sheepfest 2027 - £1350.00.** Members considered the application again, following its deferral from the July meeting. Members noted that the request had subsequently been reduced to £900, excluding the costs associated with a potential road closure, which could potentially be dealt with separately through Sedbergh CIC and their Artisan Markets. Following receipt of additional information, Members again recognised how well received Sheepfest was in 2025 and thanked the Committee and volunteers for their work. However, Members expressed disappointment that the Committee was not looking at opportunities to generate its own income from the festival and become less reliant on grant funding. An example discussed was the possibility of seeking donations for free parking Lupton field. Members resolved, therefore to recommend a grant of £750.00, noting their previous comments in 2025 when a grant of £1,000 was awarded. Finally, Members noted that there had been strong mixed opinion within the community regarding the full closure of Main Street.

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- ii) **Gala Committee 2027** – Members noted an informal request for consideration of the free use of Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car parks during the returning Gala scheduled June 2027. Members agreed in principle but suggested that a formal grant application should be submitted for consideration. It was also noted that, if permission were formally agreed in due course, this would not oblige the Council to agree to similar arrangements in perpetuity.
- iii) **Sedbergh Bowling Club** – request for financial support. Members discussed a recent request for funding from the Bowling Club reserve (sinking fund). Two different figures had been requested in relation to the accessible toilets recently constructed. The Clerk confirmed that the purpose of the sinking fund, which had been established earlier this year, had previously been outlined to the Bowling Club. Also advising that the sinking fund was created to cover unforeseen works for which the Parish Council might be directly liable and not just to support their current project to improve facilities. In view of the nature of this retrospective request and the differing amounts suggested, Members agreed to await the attendance of a representative from the Bowling Club at Full Council, so that their current situation be outlined in full.

7. Members to review and consider current savings account(s).

Members discussed the funds currently held across the Council's accounts, totally approximately £400,000. Following discussion, Members resolved to recommend that a further £50,000 be transferred to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. Members also agreed that, when time allowed, consideration should be given to transferring the funds currently held in the NatWest instant access savings account to a 35-day notice savings account. This account was currently offering an additional 1.25% interest.

8. Date of next meeting – the next meeting will be held on Monday 7 September 2026 at 6.15pm. Members resolved that the meeting would be held in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.