

FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

7th January 2026 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam.

Present: Cllrs Bach (Mayor), Edwards, Hames, Himan, Hodson (Chair), Leather and Tait.

In attendance: Guy Langton (Town Clerk & RFO).

2601/536 To receive and approve apologies for absence, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85(1)
Cllr Whittaker tendered her apologies, the reasons for which were approved by the committee.

2601/537 Chair's announcements
The Chair noted the Town Clerk's current family circumstances would mean he was to be away from the office more in the near future, caring for his parents.

2601/538 To receive any dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests
Members were reminded that all interests must be declared prior to the grant request being discussed.

2601/539 To agree the agenda as published.
It was **resolved** to proceed with the agenda as published.
Proposed Cllr Hodson, Seconded Cllr Bach (all in favour)

2601/540 To consider the minutes of the Finance meeting held on the 3rd December 2025 as a true and correct record
It was **resolved** to approve the minutes, with the following amendment: the addition of Cllr Bach to the list of those present.
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Bach (all in favour)

2601/541 To consider the minutes of the Finance meeting held on the 10th December 2025 as a true and correct record
It was **resolved** to approve the minutes, with the following amendment: the addition of Cllr Bach to the list of those present.
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Bach (majority in favour, 1 abstention (not present))

2601/542 Public Participation
There were no members of the public present.

2601/543 To receive an update on Action Points
The action points were noted as presented below.

Action		January 2026
1	Present IA report to Full Council in December 2025	To be included on the 17 th December agenda for Full Council. COMPLETE
2	Recommend Draft Investment Strategy to Full Council for adoption.	To be included on the 17 th December agenda for Full Council. COMPLETE
3	Open two further bank accounts at the Cooperative Bank, one for the May Fair and one for the Mayor's Charitable Fundraising.	No yet opened. ONGOING
4	Arrange digger training for one member of staff (at Burrough Farm)	Arrangements to be made. ONGOING

Chair's initials

2512/485

To consider the grant requests for awarding May 2026

The Council awarded grants as part of its General Power of Competence (as defined in the Localism Act 2011), described as the 'power of first resort'. As a parish council, Northam Town Council was also empowered to award grants under Section 137 of the Local Government act 1972. This is described as the 'power of last resort'.

The Council received 41 grant requests, the same number as in 2024.

The total requested was £26,671, in 2024 it was £26,492, a 0.7% increase.

In 2024/25, the committee awarded £20,607, 77.8% of the request (3.2% of the Council's precept).

The detail of the grants awarded is presented below. The total grant fund recommended for award was £23,553.40, 88.3% of the requested figure.

No	Applicant	Grant requested	Grant awarded	Difference	Brief description of purpose of grant	Interest declared	Proposed	Seconded	Grant proposal	Vote
1	Appledore Band	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Outdoor PA system	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Tait	£750.00	unanimous
2	Ilfracombe & District Community Transport Association	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	General running costs	-	Cllr Hames	Cllr Tait	£750.00	unanimous
3	Appledore Village Association - AVA	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Noticeboard	Cllr Tait	Cllr Leather Cllr Bach	Cllr Himan Cllr Edwards	£250.00 £750.00	majority against majority in favour
4	TTVS	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Memory Café running costs	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Himan	£750.00	unanimous
5	Northam Twinning Association	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -	Membership of regional body	Cllr Himan	Cllr Leather	Cllr Bach	£500.00	majority in favour
6	2nd Bideford Scout Group	£ 500.00	£ 300.00	-£ 200.00	Repairs to Hall ceiling	-	Cllr Leather Cllr Hodson	Cllr Tait Cllr Bach	£0.00 £300.00	majority against majority in favour
7	Appledore Music Festival	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	£ -	Cost of subsidising workshops	Cllr Hames	Cllr Tait	Cllr Bach	£250.00	majority in favour

Chair's initials



8	Steamship Freshspring Trust	£ 650.00	£ 250.00	-£ 400.00	Maintenance Materials	-	Cllr Himan Cllr Tait	no seconder Cllr Leather	£0.00 £250.00	- unanimous
9	Bideford Keyboard & Organ Club	£ 750.00	£ 250.00	-£ 500.00	Engagement of Artist(s)	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Edwards	£750.00	unanimous
Group to be asked to advertise more widely										
10	Bideford, Littleham & Westward Ho! Cricket Club	£ 882.00	£ 750.00	-£ 132.00	Subsidise winter coaching	-	Cllr Bach	Cllr Hodson	£750.00	unanimous
11	Bideford Town Band	£ 750.00	£ 400.00	-£ 350.00	Advertising banners and percussion instruments	-	Cllr Tait Cllr Hames	Cllr Leather Cllr Bach	£0.00 £400.00	majority against majority in favour
12	Appledore Hall Trust	£ 750.00	£ 628.40	-£ 121.60	Waterproofing membrane or 5-year electrical test	-	Cllr Hames Cllr Bach	no seconder Cllr Edwards	- £628.40	- unanimous
Proof of expenditure on waterproofing membrane to be requested										
13	Appledore Football Club	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	CCTV cameras and additional security	-	Cllr Tait	Cllr Bach	£750.00	majority in favour
14	Bideford Blues & Appledore JFC	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Youth team equipment	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Bach	£750.00	unanimous
15	Bideford & District Community Archive Council	£ 350.00	£ 350.00	£ -	Internet charges	Cllr Himan	Cllr Tait	Cllr Bach	£350.00	majority in favour

Chair's initials



16	Westward Ho! Pétanque Club	£ 750.00	£ 280.00	-£ 470.00	Playing equipment, disabled space markings, first aid equipment	-	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Hodson	£280.00	unanimous
For playing and first aid equipment. Proof to be requested										
17	1st Edgehill & Torridge Scout Group	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Subsidising activities	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Tait	£750.00	unanimous
18	Appledore Baptist Church	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Purchase of new equipment	-	Cllr Hames	Cllr Tait	£750.00	unanimous
19	Blue Lights Hall	£ 750.00	£ 840.00	£ 90.00	Repairs to building (interior and exterior)	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Tait	Cllr Himan	£840.00	majority in favour
20	North Devon Record Office	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -	Population proportionate contribution to running costs	-	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Leather	£1,000.00	majority in favour
Ask for a standard form to be completed in future										
21	Northam Men's Forum	£ 600.00	£ 600.00	£ -	Laptop and microphone	-	Cllr Tait	Cllr Leather	£600.00	unanimous
22	Poppins Parent & Toddler Group	£ 250.00	£ 500.00	£ 250.00	Refreshments for weekly meetings	-	Cllr Tait Cllr Himan	- Cllr Leather	£250.00 £500.00	- unanimous
23	Westward Ho! Men's Shed	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Purchase new beechwood workbench	-	Cllr Himan	Cllr Bach	£750.00	unanimous
24	Tarka Child Contact Centre	£ 400.00	£ 500.00	£ 100.00	Laptop purchase	-	Cllr Himan	Cllr Bach	£500.00	unanimous
25	North Devon Museum Trust	£ 600.00	£ 600.00	£ -	new AV equipment	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Tait	Cllr Bach	£600.00	majority in favour

Chair's initials



26	Appledore Pride 2026	£ 750.00	£ -	-£ 750.00	insurance for event and cost of acts/musicians	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Bach	£0.00	majority in favour
27	Exclamation Youth Theatre	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Safeguarding training, DBS certificates and licences, and production costs	-	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Leather	£750.00	unanimous
28	Up Close Theatre and Radio	£ 700.00	£ 500.00	-£ 200.00	Insurance and PPL/PRS licence	-	Cllr Bach Cllr Bach	Cllr Hames Cllr Hodson	£700.00 £500.00	majority against majority in favour
29	Bideford Music Club	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	£ -	Ticket cost subsidy for carers and students	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Hames	£300.00	unanimous
30	Bideford Rugby Club Junior Section	£ 200.00	£ 500.00	£ 300.00	Training equipment	-	Cllr Himan	Cllr Edwards	£500.00	unanimous
31	Friends of St Margarets School	£ 600.00	£ 400.00	-£ 200.00	Equipment for outdoor space	-	Cllr Hodson Cllr Bach	Cllr Bach Cllr Hames	£600.00 £400.00	majority against majority in favour
32	North Devon Surf Therapy	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Subsidised sessions for local children	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Bach	£750.00	unanimous
Ask if all Parish schools were offered the service										
33	St Mary's Church Appledore	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Upgrade of electrical consumer unit to meet standard	-	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Leather	£750.00	unanimous
34	St Mary's Church Hall	£ 683.70	£ 400.00	-£ 283.70	New Plastic Tables	-	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Leather	£400.00	unanimous
Advise the organisation that suitable alternative tables may be purchased more cheaply										

Chair's initials



35	The Appledore Books Festival's Schools Outreach Programme	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Schools Outreach programme	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Hames	£750.00	majority in favour
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Invite a representative of the organisation to present to the Grants Awards evening about the schools outreach programme

36	Torridge Elite Majorettes	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -	Commission original music	-	Cllr Himan	Cllr Tait	£500.00	unanimous
37	Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Volunteer Training Costs	-	Cllr Tait	Cllr Edwards	£750.00	unanimous
38	Appledore Primary School PTFA	£ 750.00	£ 750.00	£ -	Basketball Hoops, basketballs and bibs	-	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Hames	£750.00	unanimous
39	Bideford BMX Club	£ 750.00	£ -	-£ 750.00	Towards accessible toilet facilities	-	Cllr Bach Cllr Leather	no seconder Cllr Himan	£750.00 £0.00	- majority in favour
40	Westward Ho! Snooker Club	£ 705.00	£ 705.00	£ -	New flooring and table refurbishment	-	Cllr Bach	Cllr Hames	£705.00	unanimous
41	Northam Methodist Church	£ 500.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 500.00	Towards new carpet in the Hall	-	Cllr Leather	Cllr Bach	£1,000.00	unanimous
		£ 26,670.70	£ 23,553.40	88.3%						

Action point: Report the effect of the agreed grants on the Budget considerations at the Full Council meeting on the 8th January 2026.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:15pm

Signed..... Dated.....

Chair's initials

