



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 5th July, 2023 at 18.00pm in the Law Library at the Town Hall, Duke street, Barrow-Furness

Cllr P Jackson	Present - Chair	Cllr M Younger	Apology
Cllr F Chatfield	Present	Cllr D Palmer	Apology
Cllr A Coles	Apology	Cllr C Altree	Present
Cllr B Elliot	Present - Vice-Chair	Cllr N Phillips	Present
Cllr S Herbert	Present	Cllr J Tyson	Apology

In attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk)

F/12/2023 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs A Coles, M Younger D Palmer and J Tyson

F/13/2023 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr N Phillips in respect of his membership on the Westmorland and Furness Council.

F/14/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/15/2023 Minutes of the previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 6th June, 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

F/16/2023 Report on the Work Programme

The Town Clerk presented the current work programme to enable the Committee to consider progress made across the various actions in which the Committee was involved.

Council Website.

The Tender was awarded as determined at the last meeting. The work to date by the installation Company has been extremely proficient and most satisfactory, and completion is assured in accordance with the Contract. The Councillors raised issues regarding the 365 Microsoft Licences and the 2FA and their associated costs which have been included in the revised Budget.

Unity Trust Bank Account. This matter is progressing.

National Westminster Bank.

The Town Clerk noted that the 2023-24 Precept for the Town Council has now been deposited by Westmorland and Furness into the HSBC, therefore the opening of an account with the National Westminster is no longer required. A Mandate to update signatories for HSBC was presented to the Committee for their completion.

The Town Clerk also reported the former Barrow Borough Council held two additional accounts with the HSBC for the Mayoral Relief Fund. Both accounts will be transferred into the name of Barrow Town Council with the corresponding signatories noted above.

Mayoral Driver.

Resolved: The Mayor to continue using own vehicle and to hire a Taxi as and when deemed necessary.

Westmorland & Furness Devolved Powers to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk reported no further details have been received confirming the powers to be devolved from Westmorland and Furness Council to Barrow Town Council.

Appointment of a Deputy Town Clerk.

Resolved: This matter was deferred pending the permanent appointment of the Town Clerk, following the termination of the secondment period of the current Town Clerk. This matter to be referred to the Staffing Committee.

Grazing and Stables Land.

Resolved: To defer pending confirmation from the Westmorland and Furness Council that this service is to be devolved to the Town Council.

Allotments Committee Budget.

The Allotments Committee met on 27th June, 2023 and their initial draft balanced budget was presented to the Committee. The Allotments Committee recommend the appointment of an 'Allotment Maintenance Officer'. This was agreed by the Finance Committee and to be forwarded for approval to the Full Council. The Budget to be revised accordingly.

F/17/23 Budget for 2023-2024

To consider the revised budget attached at **Appendix 1**

Resolved:

- To approve the revised figures, pending the inclusion of the appointment of an allotments maintenance officer.
- To recommend the appointment of a lengthsman. Proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Elliot.
- To provide within the Budget an Election Provision of £17,500 pa. Proposed by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.

F/18/23 COUNCILLOR MATTER – Electric Charging Points

To consider the installation of additional charging points throughout the Town.

Resolved:

The response from Westmorland and Furness Unity Council is as follows:-

"The issue of on-street charging is one for the whole authority and is something we are currently looking at. It will require wholesale changes to electrical infrastructure and there are questions to be resolved around who installs the points, how they are financed, and how they are maintained."

As Policies around this infrastructure develop the Town Council will be kept informed.

F/19/2023 PUBLIC EVENTS FUND

To consider the creation of a 'Public Events Fund' of £50,000. Grants to be awarded for events including sporting activities, arts and community. This funding to be advertised on the Council website and face book, application forms to be available on the website, and if required applicants may contact their local councillor for guidance. Cllr N Phillips is to format the Council Policy and application form for approval at the next Finance Committee. It is proposed an 'Events Management Sub-Group' be formulated. This motion proposed by Cllr. Phillips and seconded by Cllr. Chatfield. Approval for Finance to be determined by Full Council. Budget to be updated accordingly.

F/20/2023 'BRIGHTEN OUR CORNER'

To consider the proposal by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. Detailed on page 4.

Resolved: To seek approval from Full Council at its meeting on 18th July, 2023.

F/19/2023 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk noted that for 2023 Westmorland and Furness Council have given notice it is their intention to provide the finance. For 2024 and subsequent years this cost will be the responsibility of the Town Council and will be included within the 2024-2025 Budget.

F/18/23 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 6th September, 2023 at 18.00pm in the Law Library, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 2LD

The meeting closed at 19.20pm.

Lesley Smyth

Town Clerk

'BRIGHTEN OUR CORNER'

The aim being to work WITH OUR TOWN, FOR OUR TOWN.

The Town Council to advocate the following points:

1. Reconnecting with local wards
2. Empowering the Communities
3. Opportunities to listen to our communities
4. Bringing power back to the people.

THIS TO BE ACHIEVED BY:

1. The Town Council to determine their priorities/projects/Plans of actions for their own Wards.
2. To hold Residents Meetings in each ward to offer choices to the constituents. Outline the Town Council priorities & Plans.
3. Canvass opinion from the members of the public at the meeting as to which action (s) would be most beneficial to their community.
4. Councillors to determine the costs of the chosen plans and determine which may be actioned in line with their allotted budget.
5. The projects within the Wards to be undertaken by the 'Collective Community', not single person(s).
6. Councillors to be seen to be actively supporting the projects.
7. To publish the results when the projects have been completed.

FINANCE:

The Full Council are requested to consider a recommendation by the Finance Committee that the sum of £23,000 be included in the 2023-2024 Budget for the above projects, with 10 wards each receiving £2,000 and Barrow Island Ward receiving £3,000.

