



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 13th December, 2023 at 18.00pm in the Law Library at the Town Hall, Duke street, Barrow-Furness

Cllr P Jackson	Present	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/58/2023 Apologies

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

F/59/2023 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. Phillips in respect of Westmorland and Furness Council, and Cllr. Herbert in respect of Agenda Item 12 – 'Brighten Our Corner'.

F/60/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/61/2023 Minutes of the previous Meeting

Resolved:

To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 15th November, 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Jackson. All agreed.

F/62/2023 Report on the Finance Action Sheet

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

Resolved:

It was agreed a 'Coat of Arms' brooch would be the most desirable retiring Mayoral gift. The Clerk to bring details to the next meeting.

F/63/2023 Budget for 2023-2024

To consider the revised Budget previously distributed.

Resolved:

1. A budget of £3,000 pa was agreed for the charging of the Allotment Officer's vehicle.
2. £2,000 was approved as a Town Council contribution to the Veterans D Day Celebration on 9th June, 2024. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Elliot. All agreed.
3. The Clerk reported on the estimated expenditure for Christmas Lighting received from Westmorland and Furness:-

Optech Fibres - £15,090

- Testing of all lighting prior to installation
- Installation of string lights throughout Dalton Road, Cavendish Street & Scott Street.
- Installation of column lighting on Duke Street.
- Installation of lighting in Town Square.
- Planting and dressing of Christmas Tree in Town Square.
- Christmas Switch-on.
- Removal of all Christmas Lighting.
- Removal, cutting and disposal of Christmas Tree.

T. Gill Christmas Trees - £1,625

- Purchase of Christmas Tree
- Transportation

Total Cost: £16,715. Approved.

Acceptance of the Budget was proposed by Cllr. Aintree and seconded by Cllr. Phillips. All Agreed.

F/64/2023 Public Events Funding

No applications had been received.

Resolved:

The Town Council 'Events Funding' is to be re-advertised in the local press in January, 2024.

F/65/23 Defibrillator Issue

The Committee considered the report submitted from Cllr. Griffiths.

Resolved:

To gift the defibrillator to the Barrow Celtic Football Club. Proposed by Cllr. Phillips and seconded by Cllr. Chatfield. Cllr. Herbert to inform the Club of this decision. The installation costs will be met by the Football Club.

F/66/2023 Health & Safety Risk Assessments

The Clerk noted she has distributed an 'Allotments Risk Assessment' for consultation and approval.

F/67/2023 Christmas Lights Expenditure

The Committee considered the Report submitted by Cllr. Chatfield in respect of the '2024 Christmas Lights Switch-On Event', and the extension of the festive lighting infrastructure onto Abbey Road to be undertaken by Barrow BID.

Resolved:

1. To seek applications from interested parties and to issue an invitation for them to attend the next Finance Meeting in January, 2024. Proposed by Cllr. Jackson and seconded by Cllr. Phillips. Four votes approved and two abstentions.

2. To approve the £14,000 one-off estimated costings from BID for the infrastructure work on Abbey Road. Proposed by Cllr. Herbert and Cllr. Altree. All agreed.
Barrow BID manager has confirmed that if BID cease to exist then Barrow Town Council will own all the Christmas Lighting.

F/68/2023 Any Other Business

1. Brighten Our Corner

- The Committee considered an application presented by Cllr. Chatfield from 'Greengate Junior School' to enhance their outdoor play area to support the learning and mental health of their children. Located in the Central Ward of the Town, which is one of the most deprived areas in Cumbria, 53% of pupils are on the pupil premium register with 40% SEND children. The nurture and behavioural provision provided by the school allows children to remain in mainstream education. They wish to purchase outdoor furniture and play equipment to improve their outdoor learning facilities, and any funding received from the Town Council will finance a mural for the playground wall.

Resolved:

To award funding of £500. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Altree. All agreed.

- The Committee considered an application presented by Cllr. Chatfield from St. George's School, for a whole school and community project, to make their school and surrounding area bright and colourful to make people smile. A few suggestions are painting rainbows on street lighting which would shine in the dark; planting flowers around seating areas; bird boxes and feeders; graffiti artwork though the back streets; painted floor games i.e. snakes & ladders and hopscotch.

Resolved:

To award funding of £500. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Altree. Cllr. Chatfield to inform both schools of the decision and request they submit banking details to the Clerk.

2. Town Planters

The Clerk has requested costings from Barrow BID for the funding of Planters in Portland Walk and the Town Centre. The Committee discussed the anti-social behaviour in existence and how best to protect the plants. This to be discussed further at the next meeting when costs are available.

3. Allotment Officer Laptop

The Clerk sought approval to purchase a laptop for the new Allotment Officer. A quotation from KTD, the company who supplied and installed the existing office equipment, was submitted for approval.

Resolved:

The Committee approved the expenditure of £1,511.73. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Herbert. All agreed.

F/69//23 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th January, 2024 at 18.00pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.30pm.

Lesley Smyth

Town Clerk