



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 15th November, 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	Present	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/47/2023 Apologies

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

F/48/2023 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. Phillips and Cllr. Coles in respect of Westmorland and Furness Council, and Cllr. Herbert in respect of Agenda Item no.10.

F/49/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/50/2023 Minutes of the previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 11th October, 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Altree and seconded by Cllr. Herbert. All agreed.

F/51/2023 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.

- 1 The Clerk confirmed receipt of the Defibrillator Joint Funding, and that the machine has been delivered to her office.
- 2 It was reported that three Councillors have requested a Council Mobile Phone and one Councillor has requested a Sim. Although the original discounted terms offered by EE will be affected by this reduction in numbers the overall cost will remain considerably lower than the original budget

agreed. The Clerk was therefore given approval to proceed with the purchase. Monthly payments will be made by Direct Debit.

- 3 The Clerk reported on the meeting with the Clerks of Dalton, Askam and Lindal which occurred on 7th November, 2023 in respect of the Christmas Lighting for 2024. The meeting was also attended by Mr B Vickers of Westmorland and Furness Council who has administered the Christmas Lighting for Barrow Borough Council for many years, and who agreed to provide an individual breakdown of costs to each Council to facilitate inclusion within the 2024-2025 Precept Budget. The Clerk to contact Westmorland and Furness to ascertain any recharge cost to the Town Council for the use of electricity during the festive lighting period. A reply in writing is required.
- 4 Further to Minute F/44 of 11th October, 2023. Councillor Herbert agreed to provide the requisite Application Form for the 'Sports Funding Grant', which the Clerk will forward to all Councillors for information purposes only. The Form to be posted on the Council Web Site.
- 5 The Clerk confirmed the Order for the Allotment Officer Lease car has been submitted.
- 6 The Clerk confirmed the Payroll Contract with T.I. Accountancy Services of Barrow-in-Furness has been signed and registration with HMRC actioned.
- 7 Further to Minute F/46 of 11th October, 2023 the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have agreed to submit details of their requirements to the Clerk.

F/52/2023 Budget for 2023-2024

Resolved: To consider the revised Budget previously distributed.

- Allotment invoices have been posted and the Clerk was pleased to note receipt of rental monies. The Budget has therefore been updated to reflect the annual Allotment Income.
- The Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2023 has been reached. The Salary Budget will be updated to reflect the percentage increase.
- The Clerk to seek guidance from the Westmorland and Furness Section 151 Officer in respect of the CPI and RPI notification of inflationary increases pertinent for the 2024-2025 Precept Budget.

Acceptance of the Budget proposed by Cllr. Altree and seconded by Cllr. Jackson. All Agreed.

F/53/2023 Public Events Funding

The Committee examined all applications received to date, as previously distributed.

Resolved:

1. Barrow Full – Barrow's Christmas Carol.
Funding approved of £2,500. Proposed by Cllr. Altree and seconded by Cllr. Chatfield.
All agreed.
2. Drop Zone – Furness Pride
Funding approved of £2,500. Proposed by Cllr. Herbert and seconded by Cllr. Coles.
All Agreed.
3. Barrow Full – Festival of Colours
Funding approved of £2,500. Proposed by Cllr. Herbert and seconded by Cllr. Altree.
All Agreed.
4. Barrow Indian Community – Diwali Event
As the event was imminent funding had been approved prior to the meeting of £1,500 in accordance with Minute 39 Full Council 18th July, 2023.

Cllr. Phillips recommended the Grants be advertised to the wider community e.g. on the Westmorland and Furness website, and the Clerk was requested to investigate this possibility.

Cllr. Jackson recommended Barrow Full be asked if they would like to attend a future Finance Committee to discuss ways in which they and the Town Council may work together in respect of future funding. This invitation could also be extended to other Organisations. The next meeting in December will be to determine the 2024-2025 Precept.

The Town Council is to be acknowledged as a Sponsor on all advertising/literature

F/54/23 South Cumbria Music Festival – Barrow Town Council Bursary.

Resolved: Funding approval of £100 as requested – proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Herbert. All Agreed. The Organisers are to be informed the sponsorship is from the Barrow Town Council and is to be acknowledged in their event programme.

F/55/23 Any Other Business

1. The Clerk requested the Committee consider approval for the purchase of a Laptop for the incoming Allotments Officer. This was approved in principle and will be actioned when the officer is in post.
2. The Clerk requested funding approval for the purchase of 'Arnold Barker on Local Government' at a cost of £164.99. Approval proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Herbert. All Agreed.
3. The Clerk noted the lack of office accommodation for the Allotments Officer and sought approval to seek a 'Hot Desking' quote from Westmorland and Furness. Approved.
4. Cllr. Coles noted difficulties accessing his authorisation for approval of payments in Unity Trust. The Clerk to rectify.
5. The Committee require written confirmation from Holker Estates that they will not be submitting rental invoices to the Town Council for the Allotments owned by them.
6. Cllr. Phillips reported that BAE are keen to support Civic Events. To progress this matter he is arranging a meeting between BAE and the Westmorland and Furness Monitoring Officer, Linda Jones, to which the Chair of Finance will be invited. Cllr. Phillips to inform the Clerk of the finalised date.

F/56/23 'Brighten Our Corner' Grant'

The Committee considered an application from '**Barrow Celtic Juniors Football Club, Parents & supporters**'. Barrow Celtic Juniors are a legendary local club set up in 1934 for children and young people. As a junior football club they provide the opportunity for all to perform to the best of their ability, whilst having the larger role and responsibility of being a major Barrow social institution promoting mental and physical health, well being and inclusion for all children and families.

The Club would like to improve the look and identity of their changing rooms and to also honour their former Chairman, the legendary Dennis Boyd, who coached the children for over 50 years, by renaming the area '**Boyd Park**'.

Resolved: Funding approval of £820 proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Phillips. All Agreed.

F/57//23 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th December, 2023 at 18.00pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.20pm.

Lesley Smyth

Town Clerk