



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 6th September, 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	Apology	Cllr N Phillips	Apology
Cllr S Herbert	Apology	Cllr J Tyson	Apology

In attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk)

F/19/2023 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs A Coles, M Younger, D Palmer, J Tyson, B. Elliot and S. Herbert

F/20/2023 Declarations of Interest

None received.

F/21/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/22/2023 Minutes of the previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 5th July, 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

F/23/2023 Report on the Finance Action Sheet

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.

- **Website 365 Licences:** Actioned as per Action Sheet
- **Website 2FA:** Actioned as per Action Sheet
- **HSBC:** The transfer of the Town Council Precept from the HSBC to the Town Council's Unity Trust Account has to date not been actioned. There have been continuous requests since the inception of

the Town Council for Westmorland and Furness Council to expedite this matter. The Clerk had this week contacted the Director of Finance at Westmorland and Furness Council requesting their assistance.

Resolved: If no response is received by Friday 8th September, the Clerk to notify the Chair who will personally contact Westmorland and Furness Council.

- **Vehicle Electric Charging Points:** No update from Westmorland and Furness Council.

F24/2023 Defibrillator Purchase for Piel Island:

The Committee considered the Report previously distributed.

Funding to date from external sources is £130 from the Ship Inn Hotel on Piel Island, and a contribution of £300 from Westmorland and Furness Council.

Resolved:

Piel Island is owned by Westmorland and Furness Council therefore this matter to be deferred to the Westmorland and Furness Councillors of Roosecote Ward, requesting confirmation that their Council desire a Defibrillator be installed on Peil Island, and if so then the Town Council to request a larger contribution that £300.

The Town Council are willing to give a small donation but once installed the machine will not become an asset of the Town Council and therefore continuous maintenance will not be their responsibility. This action proposed by Cllr. C Altree and seconded by Cllr. F Chatfield. All agreed.

F25/2023 Lifebuoy Purchase of Piel Island and Roa Island

The Committee considered the Report previously distributed.

Resolved:

Budget approved for the purchase two 24" Lifebuoy Rings SOLAS Compliant with mounting hook and throw line at a cost of £64.50 ea plus Vat. The Clerk confirmed the Town Council are eligible to recover Vat under 'VAT 126' which permits the recovery of Vat by organisations not registered for Vat. Once purchased and installed the Lifebuoys will not become an asset of the Town Council and therefore continuous maintenance will not be their responsibility.

Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Altree.

F26/2023 Appointment of Permanent Town Clerk

The Staffing Committee met on 4th September, 2023. A Member of CALC attended via a Teams Link, to provide advice and guidance on the statutory recruitment process. The Salary is that approved at the last meeting. The Interim Clerk appointment terminates on 31st October, 2023.

F27/2023 Appointment of Allotments Officer

To consider the Report previously distributed.

Resolved:

Budget approved for the appointment of an Allotments Officer - 37 hours/week, SC5 (£24,496 – £26,845). Proposed by Cllr. Elliot and seconded by Cllr. Jackson.

F/28/2023 Budget for 2023-2024 The Committee considered the revised Budget previously distributed.

Resolved: The Budgeted Income from the Allotments be temporarily removed pending the report from the Allotments Committee Confirming the devolvement of the Allotments to the Town Council. Proposed by Cllr. Altree and seconded by Cllr. Elliot.

F/29/2023 Public Events Funding

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

Resolved:

1. Barrow Music Weekend (The Forum, Westmorland and Furness Council)
The Committee determined this application did not meet the 'Eligibility' and 'Criteria' of the Town Council's 'Events Funding Grant'.
2. Fudstock 2023 – Purchase of tents/shelters to provide cover at the Music Festival.
Funding approved of £2,000.
3. Professional Engineers of South Cumbria – Series of Guest Lectures
Funding approved for four Lectures @ £400 ea. £1,600
4. Santa Express – Free family activity at Christmas.
Funding approved of £2,500.
5. Tall Ships – 5th – 6th August, 2023
Approval given during Council recess as per Minute 39/23/24 (3). £2,238.

The Town Council to be acknowledged as a Sponsor on all advertising/literature. Letters of confirmation to include a caveat that payment may be delayed due to the ongoing issues with Westmorland and Furness Council as noted at Minute F/23 pt 3 above.

F/30/23 Any Other Business

1. Town Councillor Parking Permits
Cllr. Chatfield queried why permits had been refused to Town Councillors and noted the inconvenience to Councillors attending meetings during the day. Most other Parish and Town Councils within the Westmorland and Furness area meet in locations where parking is free, therefore the Barrow Town Council are at a disadvantage. It was unanimously agreed Cllr. Chatfield contact the Westmorland and Furness Parking Officer to discuss.
2. Office of the Town Clerk
In accordance with Staff Welfare Legislation approval was given for a small refrigerator to be purchased. Estimated cost £99.
3. Councillor Personal Phones
The Clerk to take a report to the next Finance Committee showing the cost for the purchase of eighteen basic phones (calls and texts only) for the Town Councillors. The Westmorland and Furness Town Council Members have their own personal Council phones.

F/31/23 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 11th October, 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