



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 17th January, 2024 at 18.00pm in the Law Library at the Town Hall, Duke street, Barrow-Furness

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

In attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk)

F/70/2024 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. A Coles and Cllr. J Tyson. Councillor J Tyson has given notice of withdrawing from this Committee with immediate effect.

F/71/2024 Presentation by 'Barrow Full'

Further to Min.53 of 15th November, 2023 an invitation had been extended for the Organisation to attend and present their long term strategic plans for consideration by the Committee, in the hope that the Town Council may be able to work in partnership with them to achieve the best results for the Town.

The Organisation thanked the Town Council for the funding they have received in 2023 and noted the success of the Events supported.

They outlined their creative events in Barrow over the past three years noting their current working partnerships and their willingness and work in partnership with the Town Council going forwards. They have four large events planned for 2024 at an estimated cost of £10,000. As they are responsible to the Arts Council for Matched Funding the viability of their working in Partnership with the Council must be determined by the end of May, 2024 therefore the Committee requested they provide a schedule of their planned events, costs and number of estimated attendees in order that this matter may be discussed fully at the next finance meeting in February.

They were thanked for their attendance and excellent presentation and retired from the meeting at 18:40pm.

F/72/2024 'Christmas Lights Switch-On Event Organisation'

Further to Min.67 of 13th December, 2023 a Press Release had been posted in early January requesting interested parties to attend this meeting and make representation. Two interested parties were in attendance.

A. Mr & Mrs Horan.

They were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair who outlined the situation in respect of the 'Switch-On Event' now under the control of the new Barrow Town Council.

Mr & Mrs Horan have organised this event (voluntarily) for the past eight years following the retirement of the Barrow Borough Council Town Manager in 2016 and the subsequent risk of the event being cancelled without their last minute rescue intervention.

They outlined in detail the format of the event noting the inclusion of local artists and suppliers, the funding received from local businesses, and the collection for local charities throughout the event.

Their Event Plan for 2024 has been finalised and contracts for the supply of goods and services are already in place, and funding has been secured, for the 23rd December, 2024.

In conclusion they appreciate that the Council wish to provide the best possible event for the Town and to facilitate that they noted their willingness to work alongside other interested parties.

They were thanked for their attendance and excellent presentation and retired from the meeting at 19.00pm.

B. Barrow BID

They were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair who outlined the situation in respect of the 'Switch-On Event' now under the control of the new Barrow Town Council.

The Manager Paul described 'Who are Barrow Bid' and their involvement in 'Barrow's Festive Lighting' :-

- Barrow BID own & maintain all the festive lights within the Town
- Additional lighting has been purchased for 2024.
- Each year they continuously invest in the renewal of existing infrastructure.
- During 2023 they have invested over £25,000 in the above.
- For 2024 they have been granted funding by the Town Council to invest in new lighting for Abbey Road.
- They are also going to replace the Christmas Tree lights and renew the 'Merry Christmas Barrow' motifs which will be an additional £20,000 investment.

Copies of their 'Event Proposal' were distributed which Paul outlined in detail.

In conclusion they said the Event presents a unique and valuable opportunity for partnership working to accomplish shared objectives, further enhancing community spirit and benefits to the local economy.

They were thanked for their attendance and excellent presentation and retired from the meeting at 19.30pm.

F/73/2024 Town Centre Planters

Barrow BID made representation to the Committee for funding in respect of Planters for the top of Dalton Road adjacent to the proposed new Market. The approximate cost per Planter is £20,000 excluding the plants. The proposal process was outlined, i.e. deep cleaning of the proposed site, engaging with the public for the commissioning of the art-work, and installation of L-Shaped Planters constructed of more resilient material than the existing Town Planters. The inclusion of the Town Crest was requested.

With regard to their match funding obligations Barrow BID noted the project is required to be completed by March, 2025. Therefore given the timescale this matter is to be discussed in greater detail at the next Finance meeting in February.

They were thanked for their attendance and excellent presentation and retired from the meeting at 19:50 pm.

The Committee agreed that further discussion with both of the above parties in respect of the 'Christmas Lighting Event' is urgently required. The Clerk to write and invite both parties to a joint meeting at a venue, date and time to be determined by the Committee.

F/73/2024 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. Phillips in respect of Westmorland and Furness Council, and Cllr. Herbert in respect of Agenda Item 11 – 'Public Events Funding'.

F/74/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/75/2024 Minutes of the previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 13th December, 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Phillips. All agreed.

F/76/2024 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:

To replace the 'Central Barrow Initiative Funding Application' with the revised document.

F/77/2024 Budget for 2023-2024

To consider the revised Budget previously distributed.

Resolved:

Acceptance of the revised budget was proposed by Cllr.Chatfield and seconded by Cllr.Elliot. All agreed.

F/78/2024 Precept Budget 2024-2025

The Committee gave due consideration to the recommended Precept. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr. Altree and seconded by Cllr. Jackson. All agreed. The Precept is required to be ratified at Full Council on 23rd January, 2024 prior to submission to Westmorland and Furness Council.

Cllr.Altree requested figures be provided at the next meeting of the Council Tax payable per Band as a result of the actions of the Town Council.

F/79/2023 Public Events Funding

1. Event Support Grant – Barrow Schools Collaboration – Barrow Usunthu 2024.
The Committee approved funding of £5,000.
2. Get Barrow Moving: Sports & Leisure Fund – Barrow Cricket Club.
The Committee approved funding of £2,000.
3. Brighten Our Corner – George Hastwell School
The Committee approved funding of £1,000.

F/80/2023 Any Other Business

1. Office Filing Cabinet

The Clerk sought permission to purchase a filing cabinet for the office at a cost of £120.
Spending approved.

2. 'Call for Projects'

Cllr. Herbert requested a Press Release and possible correspondence to local organisations advertising the Grant Funding available.

F/81//23 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th February, 2024 at 18.00pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.30pm.

Lesley Smyth
Town Clerk