



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY

18TH APRIL 2024

Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 18.00 pm in the Rydal Suite, Forum, Duke Street, Barrow -in-Furness. LA14 1HH

Present:

Barrow Town Councillors:

The Mayor Cllr. C Altree; Deputy Mayor Cllr. J McEwan; Cllr. P Jackson; Cllr. N Phillips; Cllr. F Chatfield; Cllr. A Coles; Cllr. C Thomson; Cllr. K Hyland; Cllr. S Hall; Cllr. R Worthington; Cllr. S Herbert; Cllr. B Elliot; Cllr. D Petrova.

Westmorland and Furness Councillors:

Cllr. T Callister; Cllr. B Morgan; Cllr D Brook; Cllr. W McEwan.

Cumbria Police:

Inspector D Mottram; Sergeant P Holmes.

12 members of the public.

In Attendance: L Smyth (Town Clerk); J Sanderson (Allotment officer).

Apologies:

Received and accepted from Cllr. P Griffiths; Cllr. J Tyson; Cllr. G Beddoes; Cllr. D Morrison.

Annual Report by the Chair – Cllr C Altree

Good evening and welcome to Barrow Town Council's (first ever) public meeting here at the Forum.

A Town Council's job is to concentrate on celebrating and giving focus to our town's character and local pride. Also to sort out, for you all, matters that work best at the most local of levels.

We thank the people of Barrow for their trust in us- it is a great honour to serve them. Firstly, for indicating they wanted a town council through consultation. Then for electing us through the ballot box. We have been working hard in their wards liaising with our Westmorland and Furness colleagues, to improve the lives of those who live there and try to signpost those in need to the right place, for the right help.

Many of us had never been councillors so it has been a fantastic learning curve. We exist to serve and part of the journey has been setting up and understanding, from you, the best ways to do that. We offer good value. In fact, we are free! But we are also free to serve you, to direct your vision for Barrow in a hundred small ways and make a big difference.

Lesley our Clerk will tell you more about how we have opportunities for individuals and groups throughout Barrow. But let me say this, we have assisted and helped many organisations and events. Barrow Town Council have helped fund many joint events with local partners, such as the Christmas lights and the Christmas train, also Furness Pride. We have supported sea cadets and our armed forces. We have brought international music and dance to over five hundred children in Central Barrow and equipment for Roa Island. We have simplified and organised our allotment system and appointed a full-time officer to give the best outcomes for users. Football, cricket and bowls have all benefited from small grants, as have multiple small local events.

As Mayor it has been the honour of a lifetime, to be able to share this year with so many wonderful people here in our community doing amazing things. I didn't realise it would mean three stints as Santa though- that was certainly some of the toughest questioning I faced!

As an ex-serviceman, the chance to honour our fallen at the Cenotaph, on your behalf, and to raise money for Furness Homeless by sleeping out were very close to my heart. To see our vibrant arts scene and the efforts made to make our town centre a hive of events shows what we have and what will come.

To be lucky enough to meet so many people- from all walks of life; working to fulfil the incredible potential our town has, in the bright future to come. This driven by our internationally recognised shipyard and other blue-chip companies but also local education and innovation. Also...crucially... making sure that no-one is left behind.

YOU- can help us grow as a council and as a town. All meetings are public- please look for details on our Website. As we go forward we want to continue to support the community and the organisations within helping make Barrow one of the best places to live and work. So please if you have an idea, however small, share it with us. If you have an issue, however worrying, let us help you.

Barrow is marvellous in so many ways, but the best of Barrow are the people who live here. Innovative, outward looking, warm and welcoming. That's our town- that's our Barrow- so let's keep banging the drum for it!

Annual Report by Cumbria Police: Inspector G Mottram & Sergeant P Holmes.

IncidentType	Incidents	Same period last year	Difference	% change	3 year average	3 year difference	% change 3 year average
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - ENVIRONMENTAL	58	51	7	13.7%	197	-139	-70.6%
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - NUISANCE	703	717	-14	-2.0%	1067	-364	-34.1%
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - PERSONAL	130	155	-25	-16.1%	195	-65	-33.3%
Total	891	923	-32	-3.5%	1459	-568	-38.9%

OffenceGroup	Crimes	Same period last year	Difference	% change	3 year average	3 year difference	% change 3 year average
Arson and Criminal Damage	696	818	-122	-14.9%	825	-129	-16%
Burglary	183	242	-59	-24.4%	232	-49	-21%
Drug offences	263	154	109	70.8%	177	86	49%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	151	121	30	24.8%	115	36	31%
Possession of weapons offences	97	88	9	10.2%	63	34	54%
Public order offences	582	823	-241	-29.3%	813	-231	-28%
Robbery	28	27	1	3.7%	25	3	11%
Sexual offences	264	258	6	2.3%	256	8	3%
Theft offences	718	738	-20	-2.7%	712	6	1%
Vehicle Offences	176	128	48	37.5%	102	74	73%
Violence against the person	2704	3132	-428	-13.7%	3109	-405	-13%
Total	5862	6529	-667	-10.2%	6430	-568	-9%

Stop & Search has increased in Barrow by 97%, which explains the substantial increase in drugs and weapons offences. The rise in vehicle offences is a concern, and contains a bit increase in "Vehicle Interference" offences, which can include things like people trying car door handles to see if they are locked with a view to stealing property.

Neighbourhood Policing Team:

Insp Damien Mottram

Sergeant John Dilks:

PC Chloe Dixon, PCSO Talitha Kirkham - Dalton & Askam

PC Hannah While, PCSO Michelle Jones - Ormsgill, Hawcoat & Parkside

PC Greg Rogerson, PCSO Jess Jones - Roose, Salthouse, Newbarns

Sergeant Paul Holmes:

PC Rheannon Hackett, Liam Oliver, Richie Sandham, PCSO Sam Thomas - Town Centre and Hindpool

PC Richard Herron, PCSO Tina Sykes - Walney and Barrow Island

Priorities:

Dirtbikes, Ormsgill & Salthouse, Youth ASB Town Centre, Youth ASB Ormsgill

PACT Survey results show each ward has highlighted Road Safety as their biggest concern, except in the Town Centre & Hindpool locality where they raised Anti-Social Behaviour.

Financial Report - L Smyth (Town Clerk)

Financial Summary 2023-2024

(May 2023 to March 2024)

The majority of the Town Council's funds come from a Precept which is added to the Council Tax set by Westmorland and Furness Council.

In 2023-24 the precept was £287,700. For 2024-2025 the Town Council have not raised the Precept figure.

Below is a summary of the Income and Expenditure for the 11 months ending 31st March, 2024. The funds have been spent providing services to the Community and representing the people of Barrow.

In broad terms the Town Council's expenditure was as follows:-

	£	£
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Administration:		
Salaries	15,853	
I.T. Hardware	5,677	
I.T. Software	3,044	
Office Equipment	3,581	
Insurance	1,516	
Subscriptions	55	
General Admin.	<u>1,442</u>	
Total		31,168
Members:		
Expenses	301	
Training	420	
Phones	<u>171</u>	892
Asset Management		
Allotments		5,279

Events & Mayoral

Civic 1,294

Community Grants

Event Support Grants	45,133	
Brighten our Corner	2,500	
Get Barrow Moving	12,019	
Ward Events	1,500	
Donations/Contributions	<u>23,500</u>	86,652
TOTAL		<u>125,285</u> =====

INCOME

Precept	287,700	
Allotment Rents	54,707	
External Contributions	1,500	
Mayor's Relief Fund	188	
TOTAL		<u>344,095</u> =====

The Town Council has supported local voluntary and community groups and events with £59,652 worth of Grants in 2023-2024.

Those assisted were:

NAME	PROJECT	£
Professional Engineers	Guest Lectures	1,600
Barrow BID	Santa Express	2,500
Fudstock CIC	Fudstock	2,000
Something Leisure Ltd	Tall Ships	2,283
Women's Community Matters	Theatre of Learning	1,750
Barrow Indian Community	Diwali Festival	1,500
Women's Community Matters	Christmas Carol	2,500
Furness Educational Trust	Guest Lectures	1,500
Barrow Full	Festival of Colours	2,500
Drop Zone Youth Projects	Furness Pride	2,500
Barrow Schools United	Barrow Ubuntu 2024	5,000
Barrow Full	Barrow Full – 5 Projects '24	12,500
Barrow BID	Dino Day	2,500

Barrow BID	Barrow Buzz	2,500
Greengate Junior School	Brighten Our Corner	500
George Hastwell School	Brighten Our Corner	1,000
St. George's School	Brighten Our Corner	500
St John's Church	Brighten Our Corner	500
Roosecote Hub	Brighten Our Corner	2,000
Furness Cricket Club	Get Barrow Moving	2,000
King Alfred Bowling Club	Get Barrow Moving	700
Barrow Sea Cadets	Get Barrow Moving	1,395
Salthouse Bowling Club	Get Barrow Moving	1,924
Walney Youthability	Get Barrow Moving	2,500
Sisterhood	Get Barrow Moving	1,000
Barrow Celtic Juniors FC	Get Barrow Moving	2,500

Further, the Council have contributed funding to the following:-

- New infrastructure of the Christmas Lighting in 2024
- D-Day Celebrations
- A defibrillator at Barrow Celtic FC & Piel Island
- Life Buoys at Piel Island and Roa Island
- Paying for the War Memorial at the Cenotaph to be cleaned in time for D-Day
- New Town Centre Planters
- Dave's Day Celebration

The full set of accounts and transparency documentation will, upon completion of the Audit, be available on the Town Council Website and by request to the Town Clerk at townclerk@barrowtowncouncil.gov.uk

In conclusion the Council are collectively proud of their achievements in their inaugural year of office. It has been a great team effort and it is good to see so many beneficiaries. For Grant Application Forms please contact: townclerk@barrowtowncouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01229 260002

Public Participation:

The issues noted below, to be actioned by the Town Clerk, were raised by members of the public.

1. A Link on the Town Council Website to the Police Website.
2. Lantern lighting on D-Day on 6th June, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7pm.

Lesley J Smyth

Town Clerk