



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Barrow Town Council held on 21st January 2025 at 18.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 LD

C Aلتree	Present	D Morrison	Apology
G Beddoes	Present	J Murphy	Apology
F Chatfield	Present	D Petrova	Apology
A Coles	Present	N Phillips	Present
B Elliot	Present	C Thomson	Present
P Griffiths	Present	J Tyson	Apology
S Hall	-	P Jackson	Present
S Herbert	Present	J McEwan	Apology
K Hyland	Present	R Worthington	Present
B Morgan	Present	W McEwan	Present
M Leach	Present		

In Attendance: Town Clerk; Inspector D Mottram and SGT.P Holmes from Cumbria Police.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. F Chatfield presiding.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Officers from Cumbria Police.

181/24/25 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllr. J McEwan, Cllr. D Morrison, Cllr. J Tyson, Cllr. J Murphy and Cllr. D Petrova

182/24/25 Cumbria Police - Update (Inspector D Mottram & SGT.P Holmes)

The report gave an extensive update on current issues: -

1. Anti-Social Behaviour

Additional Government funding has been received for 'Operation Enhance', launched on 1st July 2024, which has enabled the Police to appoint dedicated staff, identify areas of concern and provide on-foot patrols in those designated areas.

The four main areas of concern are: -

- Town Centre
- Barrow Island
- Hindpool
- Salthouse

To date there has been a significant reduction (59%) in anti-social behaviour throughout the Town, compared to the same period in 2023, most significantly in the above four named areas due to the constant visibility of a police presence, and there has been positive feedback from the public.

Examples of actions are notably –

- Improved street lighting in the Hindpool area.
 - McDonalds Restaurant in Dalton Road – the presence of plain clothed officers enforcing public behaviour.
2. Off-Road Bikes
This is a nation-wide problem. ‘Operation Leopard’ has been actioned enabling the Police to commission ‘drone pilots’ who can successfully locate the address of the culprits.
 3. Walney Island – Vickerstown Park
Asset management issues have arisen since the transference of the park from Barrow Borough Council to Westmorland and Furness Council. The matter is progressing.
 4. Hollywood Retail Park
Offenders have been taken to juvenile court following the compilation of a 700-word document outlining the offences.

Council Members raised several questions: -

- Cllr. C Atree in respect of the proposed Casino in Dalton Road. The Police noted they had refused a 24/7 license. The hours of opening were duly amended and the application approved by Westmorland and Furness Council, a decision outside of the Police remit. The installation of CCTV cameras has been approved.
- Cllr A Coles noted public scepticism and requested that the actions of the Police force noted above will be presented to the Town Council Public Assembly in April. The presence of the Police at the Assembly was confirmed.
- Cllr. P Jackson in respect of vandalism. There has been a significant reduction throughout the Town but there cannot be a guarantee of no further incidents. There is currently no CCTV in the Town Centre at street level. The Police rely on the private cameras of the business owners. The ongoing regeneration of the Town Centre should help to alleviate the problem given the correlation between vacant premises and vandalism.
- Cllr W McEwan noted the ‘Neighbourhood Policing’ leaflet distributed to all Westmorland and Furness Councillors and request copies also be made available to the Town Councillors. SGT. Holmes to send a copy to the Clerk for distribution.
- Cllr. B Morgan in respect of the numbers of PCSO officers. Furness has the highest vacancy rate with a notable lack of applicants. Police HQ have recognised this issue and agreed special attention will be given to Barrow at the next recruitment drive.

The Police were thanked for their attendance and comprehensive update and retired from the meeting at 18.26pm

183/24/25 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr W McEwan, Cllr N Phillips, Cllr. R Worthington, Cllr A Coles and Cllr B Morgan in respect of their Membership on the Westmorland and Furness Council, and Cllr. W McEwan in respect of his membership on the Westmorland and Furness Planning Committee.

184/24/25 Exclusion of Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items.

185/24/25 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th November 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr W McEwan and, a vote having been taken,

Resolved:

To receive the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th November 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

186/24/25 Council Action Sheet

Previously distributed. No questions were raised.

187/24/25 Mayor's Communications and Announcements

Report previously distributed.

21 st November	Multicultural Annual General Meeting
23 rd November	Opening Dreams Bed Store
23 rd November	Christmas Lights switch on
23 rd November	Diwali Celebration
25 th November	Town Hall Tours am and pm
29 th November	World Aids Day with Deputy Mayor
5 th December	Santa Express Panto
8 th December	Santa Express Train
9 th December	Veteran's Day in Town Hall
10 th December	A Stitch Different Certificates Awards
14 th December	Carol service Ulverston
14 th December	RAF Christmas Evening.

188/24/25 Reports and Minutes from the Committees of the Council

Planning Committee

Cllr. Chatfield reported on the recent work of the Committee. Cllr Coles and Cllr W McEwan wished to record their support to the Police and the Town Council in respect of a refusal for 24/7 opening hours for the proposed Casino in Dalton Road. Not all the concerns raised by Westmorland and Furness Council have been addressed. The Chair thanked Cllr Coles and Cllr W McEwan for supporting the Town Council on this matter.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 7th November 2024 and 5th December 2024. Proposed by Cllr Worthington and seconded by Cllr Herbert. All agreed.

Finance Committee.

Cllr. Herbert reported on the recent work of the Committee.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committees held on 13th November 2024, 11th December 2024 and 8th January 2025. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Elliot. All agreed.

Allotment Committee

Cllr Chatfield reported on the recent work of the Allotments Committee.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Allotments Committees held on 25th September 2024 and 27th November 2024. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr W McEwan. All agreed.

Staffing Committee

Cllr Altree reported on the recent meeting of this Committee regarding the appointment of a Deputy Clerk. It was agreed the start date to be agreed following the interview selection process.

189/24/25 Finance Report

The Members considered the documents distributed prior to the meeting: -

1. Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024.
2. Schedule of payments for November and December 2024. **(attached Appendix 1)**

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Account and the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024. Proposed by Cllr. Elliot and seconded by Cllr. Beddoes. All agreed.

190/24/25 Precept 2025-2026

The Councillors considered the precept recommended by the Finance Committee on 8th January 2025.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr W McEwan and seconded by Cllr. B Morgan that the Precept for the financial year 2025-2026 be approved at £291,789. All agreed. The Town Clerk to confirm agreement to Westmorland and Furness Council.

191/24/25 Financial Reserves Policy

The Policy having been distributed for consideration prior to the meeting.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Leach that the Policy be approved. All agreed.

192/24/25 Financial Risk Assessment & Management Policy

The Policy having been distributed for consideration prior to the meeting.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr W McEwan and seconded by Cllr Herbert that the Policy be approved. All agreed.

193/24/25 Barrow Events Working Group

Cllr Altree outlined the remit of this proposed Working Group, as detailed under Minute F/211 of the Finance Committee 8th January 2025.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr W McEwan and seconded by Cllr Coles that the proposal be approved. All agreed.

The membership of the Working Group was approved as follows:-

Cllr Altree; Cllr. W McEwan; Cllr. Phillips and Cllr Petrova.

Cllr Morgan noted this was a great initiative and Cllr McEwan, as the Armed Forces Champion, noted the opportunity for collaboration in respect of the 'VE' and 'VJ' celebrations in 2025.

Should another Councillor wish to become a member of this group please contact Cllr Altree direct.

194/24/25 Brilliant Barrow Report

Cllr F Chatfield reported on his recent actions:

- A presentation and a site visit regarding the proposed development plans at Earnsie Bay. This to be followed by a workshop in the spring.
- A presentation on Barrow Rising regarding the £20m distribution of funds, and the possible re-allocating of finance to the Barrow Island Ward.
- The 2nd phase of remediation for the Marina Development.

Westmorland and Furness have been requested to make a presentation to the Town Council on 'Barrow Rising', and Cllr Chatfield has enquired if the Town Council could become a partner in this initiative. Helen Houston from Westmorland and Furness Council to discuss with the Town Clerk.

Cllr B Morgan noted 'Brilliant Barrow' will continue as an advisory board to the 'Team Barrow Delivery Board' and confirmed the Town Council will have a seat at the table. This can only be seen as a good step forward for the Town Council.

195/24/25 Event Support Grants

The following Grant was approved during the period November to December 2024:

- Drop Zone - £2,500. Furness Pride 2025.

196/24/25 Barrow Community Support Grants

The following Grants were approved during the period November to December 2024:

- South Walney Junior School. £4,900. Hully Pod.
- Signal Films and Media. £4,975. Community Projects.
- North West Music Association. £2,000. Barrow Music week.

197/24/25 Brighten Our Corner Grants

The following Grants were approved during the period November to December 2024:

- Abbotsvale Community Centre. £500. New cooker.
- Furness Model Railway. £500. Santa rides in Barrow Park.

Cllr S Herbert noted the balance of funds available and requested those Councillors who have not to date applied to do so before the end of this financial year. He will re-send the link to the application and assist in completion if so desired.

198/24/25 Get Barrow Moving Grants

No applications.

199/24/25 Any Other Business

None.

200/24/25 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 18.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18.55 pm.

Lesley Smyth

Town Clerk

Cllr Chatfield	Barrow Central Ward
Cllr D Petrova	Barrow Central Ward
Cllr Phillips	Barrow Hawcoat Ward
Cllr Worthington	Barrow Hawcoat Ward
Cllr Morrison	Barrow Hindpool Ward
Cllr Tyson	Barrow Hindpool Ward
Cllr Jackson	Barrow Island Ward
Cllr W McEwan	Barrow Newbarns Ward
Cllr M Leach	Barrow Newbarns Ward
Cllr Altree	Barrow Ormsgill Ward
Cllr J McEwan	Barrow Ormsgill Ward
Cllr Coles	Barrow Parkside Ward
Cllr Hall	Barrow Parkside Ward
Cllr Herbert	Barrow Risedale Ward
Cllr Morgan	Barrow Risedale Ward
Cllr Beddoes	Barrow Roosecote Ward
Cllr Griffiths	Barrow Roosecote Ward
Cllr Elliot	Barrow Walney North Ward
Cllr Hyland	Barrow Walney North Ward
Cllr Murphy	Barrow Walney South Ward
Cllr Thomson	Barrow Walney South Ward