



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Barrow Town Council held on 18th March 2025 at 18.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 LD

C Atree	Present	D Morrison	Present
G Beddoes	Present	J Murphy	Present
F Chatfield	Present	D Petrova	Present
A Coles	Present	N Phillips	Present
B Elliot	Present	C Thomson	Apology
P Griffiths	Present	J Tyson	Present
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; S Blezzard (Every Life Matters); Westmorland and Furness Councillor T Assoud.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. F Chatfield presiding, who welcomed the members of the public in attendance.

201/24/25 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllr. J McEwan and Cllr. C Thomson.

202/24/25 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.

203/24/25 Exclusion of Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Agenda Item No.10 referred to **Part Two** at Minute no.215 below.

204/24/25 Presentation by 'Every Life Matters'

S Blezzard informed the Members of the statistics surrounding suicide:-

1. There are 318 Council Districts in England, and Westmorland and Furness have the 10th highest death rate from suicide. It is twice the national average.
2. One suicide occurs every 5 days.
3. 75% of deaths are male.
4. Those most at risk are between the ages of 55-65.
5. There is an increase among young persons.
6. There is an increase in the LGBTQ communities and in ethnic groups.
7. The problem is 'across the board', with no correlation to wealth or area.

'Every Life Matters' exists to aid suicide prevention, provide a bereavement service, with their overall objective being to lower the suicide rate in Barrow. This is a community problem which the community need to address.

The Council were requested to consider assisting in the provision of half-day suicide prevention training (named Orange Button) through the provision of training premises, e.g., Community /Church/Sports Halls. The three one-hour sessions would be run by S Blezzard and provide the attendees with the following faculties: -

- Confidence when talking to people and de-stigmatising the word 'Suicide'.
- Enabling peer to peer compassionate interaction, showing kindness and a caring attitude to the individual.

Cllr. W McEwan and Cllr B Morgan spoke of their own experience, and Cllr Morgan noted she has completed the 'Orange Button' training and explained the beneficial knowledge it has provided.

S Blezzard was thanked for his in-depth presentation.

205/24/25 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January 2025

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

Resolved:

To receive the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st January 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

206/24/25 Council Action Sheet

Previously distributed. No questions were raised.

The Clerk noted the outstanding issues:

1. Barrow Plan – Minute of November 2023
2. Official Photographer – Minute of November 2024
3. Westmorland and Furness Council Highways Department invitation to attend tonight's meeting – no response received.
4. Barrow Rising – Request to Westmorland and Furness Council that the Town Council become a partner – no response received.

207/24/25 Mayor's Communications and Announcements

Report previously distributed.

27th January 2025	Holocaust remembrance
29th January 2025	Bridge opening for BAE
30th January 2025	Presentation night for RAF cadets
7th February 2025	Sea Cadets' inspection

12th February 2025	Furness Building Society opening
13th February 2025	Full day of school Town Hall visits from Brisbane school
21st February 2025	Presentation night for Ormsgill Together volunteers
27th February 2025	Presentation in the Mayor's parlour for Joan Brookes for 30 years voluntary service in the Ormsgill community. Presented with flowers and Barrow Town Council Certificate.
27th February 2025	Deluge Art Exhibition in Nan Tait Centre
28th February 2025	Celebration for Barrow Library
8th March 2025	International Women's Day march and celebrations in Nan Tait centre
13th March 2025	Meeting with Art for All
14th March 2025	'Fabulous Furness for You' celebration in Town Hall.
14th March 2025	Kendal Mayor's charity dinner
17th March 2025	Full day for school visits to the Town Hall.

The tremendous amount of work undertaken by the Mayor during her year in office was again recognised and applauded.

208/24/25 Reports and Minutes from the Committees of the Council

Planning Committee

Cllr. Chatfield reported on the recent work of the Committee noting no recent material issues.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Minutes of 9th January and 6th February 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr W McEwan. All agreed.

Finance Committee.

Cllr. Herbert reported on the recent work of the Committee. He extended thanks to Cllr B Elliott for his work as Vice-Chair.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committees held on 12th February 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Petrova. 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 18th December 2024 and 29th January and 26th February 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Worthington and seconded by Cllr Herbert. All agreed.

Staffing Committee

Cllr Atree reported on the recent work of the Staffing Committee. In respect of the position of Deputy Town Clerk, seven job applications had been received from which five persons had been invited to interview. Unfortunately, two of the applicants have secured alternative employment therefore three applicants are to be interviewed on Friday 21st March 2025.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Minutes of 17th January and 7th March 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Morrison. All agreed.

209/24/25 Finance Report

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

1. Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2024 to 28th February 2025
2. Allotments Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2024 to 28th February 2025.

3. Schedule of payments for January and February 2025.

Resolved:

To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Accounts and the Schedule of Payments here presented.

Proposed by Cllr. Hyland and seconded by Cllr. W McEwan. All agreed.

210/24/25

Barrow Events Working Group

Chair of the Group, Cllr W McEwan, reported on the recent work of the Group and encouraged other members to join the Group in organising Events for the Town.

211/24/25 Brilliant Barrow Report

Cllr F Chatfield reported on the continuing work of the Board and their strategic objectives of:-

1. Improving the prosperity of the Town
2. Creating a healthier population
3. Providing affordable housing
4. Attracting investors into the Town
5. Improving the Town's transportation and infrastructure
6. The continuing development of the Town Centre
7. High quality education through the opening of the new University

Given the Working Group is due to cease in 2026 the board are investigating any potential risks to the existing projects. It is anticipated the existing members will be retained as an advisory board.

212/24/25 Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge Panel

The appointment of Cllr Beddoes and the Town Clerk to this Panel was ratified.

213/24/25 Sexual Harassment Policy

The revised Policy recommended by NALC was approved on the proposal of Cllr W McEwan and seconded by Cllr Tyson. All agreed.

214/24/25 Any Other Business

The appointment of Cllr Altree as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the remainder of the fiscal year was ratified.

The two attending members of the public retired from the meeting at 18.35pm.

216/24/25 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 18.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.00 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 Aintree	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