



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 17.30 pm in the Law Library at the Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-Furness

Cllr S Herbert - Chair	Apology	Cllr B Morgan	Present
Cllr F Chatfield	Present	Cllr C Altree	Apology
Cllr A Coles	Present	Cllr N Phillips	Present
Cllr C Thompson	Present	Cllr B Elliot -Vice Chair	Present
Cllr. K Hyland	Present	Cllr M Leach	-

In attendance: Cllr. P Griffiths; D Miller; D Charles ; Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk)

F/225/2025 Apologies

Received and accepted from Cllr S Herbert and Cllr C Altree.

F/226/2025 'Happy Healthy Together' Grant Application

Mr D Miller was in attendance to outline the proposed project and provide such evidence as may be required. The following was noted:

1. The project will cover the South Lakes and Furness Area.
2. The aim is to reduce the negative impact on children and families from their use of smart phones which have been linked to mental health issues.
3. Phones are used by 20% of very young children and 25% of children aged between 5-7 years.
4. The highest percentage of users belong to single parent families and those socially deprived. The aim of the project is to create a 'Phone Free Family'.
5. The activities will be available to persons of differing means of income and backgrounds and through collaboration with other local communities it is anticipated there will be a high volume of attendees.
6. Various sources of funding received for different projects being run by the Organisation were noted, but none of which related to 'Happy Healthy Together'.

Cllr Phillips noted the work currently being undertaken in the Barrow Priority Wards and recommended the project to aim at smaller workshops within schools with more defined requirements of the participants.

The Committee thanked Mr. Miller for his attendance. He retired from the meeting at 17.50pm.

F/227/2025 'Upbeat Productions' Grant Application

Mr D Charles was in attendance to outline the proposed project and provide such evidence as may be required. The following was noted:

1. This is a cinematic documentary based on the history and cultural significance to the Town of 'Marsh's Sass, a once beloved local drink.
2. To celebrate the heritage of Barrow by uncovering the Marsh family business, the drink's impact on the community, its lasting memory and so preserve its unique history whilst highlighting the community spirit and fostering pride in the Town.
3. The shared memories of local people through their participation in the project will foster community spirit.
4. The completed documentary will be screened in schools and community centres and submitted to film festivals.
5. A film by Barrow, for the people of Barrow, which celebrates the past entrepreneurship of the Town which can be appreciated by future generations.

The Committee thanked Mr. Charles for his attendance. He retired from the meeting 18.00pm.

F/228/2025 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. Morgan, Cllr Phillips and Cllr Coles in respect of their membership on Westmorland and Furness Council. From Cllr Phillips in respect of the Grant Applications for Barrow Armed Forces Breakfast Club and South Walney Junior School.

F/229/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/230/2025 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 15th January 2025

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 15th January 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Hyland. All agreed.

F/231/2025 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 confirm the actions outstanding:

- The possibility of assisted funding by BAE for Civic Events.
- Roose Farm Allotment Mast – Funding contribution sought from Holker Estates and EE Ltd.
- To date there has been no acknowledgement from Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of funding the repairs to the patio at the Cenotaph.
- A response to the request to Westmorland and Furness Council for the inclusion of Barrow Town Council in the Community Infrastructure Levy has been received, the response noted below.

"The preparation of a new single Westmorland & Furness Local Plan presents the opportunity to prepare a single replacement CIL charging schedule for the new plan area should that be the chosen approach based on the updated evidence we compile.

The Government requires councils to prepare and publish an 'Infrastructure Funding Statement' each year. The Westmorland and Furness Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2023-24 is available to view here [IFS 2023-24 accessible version](#) and here [Infrastructure planning policy documents | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) this sets out all the monies that have been secured across the district from both CIL and S106s.

The process to align development contributions will be through the production of the new Local Plan, unfortunately this is not a quick process and so it will be some time before a single approach to developer contributions applies across the whole of Westmorland and Furness whether that happens through a new CIL or another mechanism. The Town Council as a statutory consultee on the Local Plan will be kept informed of progress on the production of the new Local Plan and associated Viability assessment and will be invited to comment at the appropriate stages.

- The Clerk to write to Barrow AFC who received a Grant for a Christmas Market in 2024 which due to adverse weather conditions was cancelled. The Grant is to be refunded as per the terms of the application.

F/232/2025 Finance Report

The following reports, distributed prior to the meeting, were submitted for approval: -

1. General Fund Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April to 31st January 2025
2. Allotments Fund Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April to 31st January 2025
3. Schedule of payments for January 2025

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr. Hyland and seconded by Cllr Chatfield that the above Accounts here presented be approved. All agreed.

Bank Reconciliation as at 31st January 2025

Balance brought forward	£303,066.15
January Income	£609.40
January Expenditure	£67,182.27
Balance of Funds	£236,493.28
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4. Festive Lighting

This request from BID is for the installation of an additional 28 column supplies to support new festive lighting for Christmas 2025 for which BID is purchasing additional lighting at a cost of £25,000. The installation cost is from Optech Fibres.

The new columns are for the areas of: -

- Abbey Road (Ramsden Square to Tesco Roundabout)
- Dalkeith Street
- Cavendish Street (Old Labour Club)
- McDonald's Car Park
- Holland & Barrett Car Park

The original cost for the new column supplies of £15,764 has been negotiated down to £15,000 dependent upon this being paid within this current financial year. Cllr Griffiths noted the two distinct separate costs in the Budget for the infrastructure and the erecting and de-rigging of the lights and confirmed he has informed Barrow BID this additional work is a one-off cost for the foreseeable future. BID may not agree additional works with Optech Fibres on behalf of the Town Council without the prior approval of the Members.

In 2024-25 the expenditure for the erection and de-rigging totalled £16,710. The Budget for 2025-26 is £17,000. However, this cost has now risen to £18,000.

The members debated this issue at length, the following comments noted: -

- The Town Council need to demonstrate 'Value for Money', and an increase in the budget allocation for Christmas Lighting will increase the precept percentage to an unacceptable level.

- The Town Council are unaware that this request for additional lighting is a direct response to requests from the public.
- If this request is from the BID Levy Payers, then the Council firmly believes the expenditure is the responsibility of BID.

Resolved:

A vote having been taken - 1 For 5 Against 1 Abstention the request for the additional funding was denied. In accordance with the Financial Regulations expenditure of this value is required to be agreed at Full Council, therefore this matter will be forwarded to the meeting on 18th March 2025 duly noting it has not been recommended by the Finance Committee. The additional Funding of £1,000 for the erecting and de-rigging also to be confirmed at Full Council.

F/233/2025 Financial Accountancy System

The Clerk noted her agreement to defer this purchase pending the appointment of a Deputy Clerk. This matter will require further investigation.

F/234/Event Support Grants

The following Grants were approved:

- The Sistahood Barrow CIC. £2,415. Proposed by Cllr Coles. Seconded by Cllr Morgan. All agreed.
- Women's Community Matters. £2,500. Proposed by Cllr Coles. Seconded by Cllr Morgan. All agreed.

F/235/2025 Community Projects Funding

The following Grants were approved:

- Sacred Heart Primary School. £4,996.96. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield. Seconded by Cllr Phillips. All agreed.
- Upbeat Production. £4,500. Proposed by Cllr Hyland. Seconded by Cllr Phillips. All agreed.
- Barrow Armed Forces Breakfast Club. £750. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield. Seconded by Cllr Thompson. All agreed.

The following Grant was deferred:

- The Warrior Down LERO CIC. The Clerk to seek additional information: -
 1. Copy of Public Liability Insurance; Safeguarding Policy; Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy or Statement.
 2. Evidence their application for funding to Westmorland and Furness Council has been approved.

The following Grant was declined:

- Happy Healthy Together. The premix was sound, but the Committee believe the application did not fully understand the needs of the community.

F/236/2025 Get Barrow Moving

The following Grant was approved:

- Walney CC & Youth Ability Services. £2,500. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield, Seconded by Cllr Coles. All agreed.

F/237 Brighten Our Corner

The following Grant was approved:

- Abbotsvale Community Centre. £1,000. Proposed by Cllr Morgan. Seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.

The following Grant was deferred:

- South Walney Junior School. Further information requested.

No further Grant Funding is to be considered in this current financial year.

F/238/2025 Any Other Business

1. Finance Committee Vice Chair

Cllr B Elliot with regret resigned from his position as Vice Chair due to continuing health issues.

The Clerk thanked him for his work over the past Financial Year.

F/239/2025 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 17.30pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 18.51 pm

Lesley Smyth

Town Clerk