



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 16th October 2024 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 Atree	Present
Cllr A Coles	Apology	Cllr N Phillips	Present
Cllr C Thomson	Present	Cllr B Elliot -Vice Chair	Present
Cllr. K Hyland	Present	Cllr M Leach	Present

In attendance: Councillor P Griffiths Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk)

F/169/2024 Apologies

Received and accepted from Councillor Herbert and Councillor Coles.

F/170/2024 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. Morgan and Cllr. Phillips in respect of their membership on Westmorland and Furness Council. Cllr. Thompson in respect of Agenda Item F/175(3)

F/171/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F172/2024 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 11th September 2024

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 11th September 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Leach and seconded by Cllr. Phillips. All agreed.

F/173/2024 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 confirm the actions outstanding:

- Westmorland and Furness Council update on 'Vehicle Charging Point' installations throughout the Town.

- Westmorland and Furness Council figure in respect of the proposed electricity recharge to the Town Council for the Christmas Lighting 2024.
- The possibility of assisted funding by BAE for Civic Events.
- Roose Farm Allotment Mast – Funding contribution sought from Holker Estates and EE Ltd.
- An application for a Credit Card for the Allotment Car charging has been actioned. Matter progressing.
- The Clerk noted following approval at Full Council on 17th September 2024 (Min.162) the estimated cost for the refurbishment of the Patio surrounding the Cenotaph had been submitted to Westmorland and Furness Council for their consideration in meeting the costs. To date there has been no acknowledgement of the letter.

F/174/2024 Finance Report

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

1. Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April to 30th September 2024.
2. Schedule of payments for September 2024.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Aitree that the Receipts and Payments Account and Schedule of Payments here presented be approved. All agreed.

3. Allotment Budget Review/Committee Report – (previously distributed). To consider the Budget and actual expenditure to date.

Cllr Chatfield, Chair of the Allotments Committee, noted the following: -

- The Allotments were devolved to the Town Council on 15th September 2023.
- The Original Budget, determined by Council at its inaugural meeting on 24th May, 2023, was based on the anticipated expenditure without the prior knowledge of the vast deterioration in the condition of the land.
- Therefore, further to bullet point 2 above, urgent and necessary work has had to be undertaken in respect of:-
 - A) Asbestos removal
 - B) Flooding
 - C) Tap repairs
 - D) Fly tipping
 - E) Pathway repairs
 - F) Fencing
 - G) Dangerous trees.
- The above list includes items of expenditure which have occurred in the first year and are not expected to be recurrent.
- A Contract exists between the tenants and the Town Council therefore, it is beholden on the Council to ensure the safety and welfare of the tenants.
- Currently there are unoccupied plots and therefore the full annual rental income is unknown. However, given the large waiting list and the work currently being undertaken to improve their condition, it is hoped once all plots are tenanted that the Allotment Budget will be selffinancing. But given the amount of work required to the land this will not be in the immediate future.
- An issue surrounding a large Invoice from the Water Company in respect of a leaking tap at one of the sites has been challenged by the Town Clerk. The invoice is based on estimated figures yet despite repeated requests for the actual meter readings to date they have not been provided. Further the Clerk has been unable to obtain sight of the invoices paid in 2023-2024 by Westmorland and Furness Council to verify responsibility for this charge.

Resolved:

- The current Receipts & Payments Account is showing a deficit of £30,000. A virement request of this amount to be submitted to the next Full Council in November.
- The hiring of skips to be placed under a moratorium until further notice.
- The current Financial Regulations of the Council state that expenditure exceeding £5,000 is required to be approved at Full Council. This to be revised to facilitate unexpected, and sometimes dangerous works, that require immediate action outside of the bi-monthly Full Council schedule. This to be considered at the next Finance Meeting.
- The Allotments to be classified as an 'Accountable Service' run by the Town Council within the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations, both of which to be reviewed to take the Service into account.

Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September 2024

Balance brought forward	£397,507.35
September Income	£18,547.25
September Expenditure	£24,620.83
Balance of Funds	£391,433.71
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4. CALC/NALC Annual Subscription

The Clerk noted for 2025-2026 CALC and NALC propose an increase of 3% and 5% respectively. The NALC inflationary rise is being challenged by CALC.

5. External Auditor Report

The Clerk noted the Report has been received and will be presented to the next Full Council.

F/175/2024 Community Projects Funding

The following Grants were approved:

- 1. Barrow Indian Community Diwali 2024 - £2,500** Proposed
Cllr. Chatfield Seconded Cllr. Leach. All Agreed.
- 2. Roosecote community Hub Children's Christmas Visit to the Cinema - £750**
Cllr. Griffiths was in attendance to answer questions raised on this application. If the event is successful, he has been requested to report back to the Committee for them to consider if a similar event could be provided for all schools throughout the Town.
Proposed Cllr. Atree Seconded Cllr. Morgan. All agreed.
- 3. North Scale Residents Association Defibrillator - £750**
Proposed Cllr. Atree Seconded Cllr. Chatfield. All Agreed.
- 4. Royal British Legion Defibrillator - £750**
Proposed Cllr. Chatfield Seconded Cllr. Atree. All Agreed.
- 5. Every Life Matters Exhibition at Cooke's Studio – 'Finding Hope' - £1,500** Proposed
Cllr. Chatfield Seconded Cllr. Phillips. All Agreed.

F/176/2024 Get Barrow Moving Funding

The following Grant was approved: -

- 1. Vickerstown Cricket & Tennis Club Purchase of Mower - £2,500**

Proposed Cllr. Aintree Seconded Cllr. Thomson. All Agreed

F/177/2024 Brighten Our Corner Funding

The following Grants were approved: -

1. **Roosecote Community Hub History Heritage Boards** - £2,000 Proposed Cllr. Aintree Seconded Cllr. Thompson. All Agreed.
2. **Bram Longstaffe Nursery & Community Hub local community activities** - £2,000 Proposed Cllr. Chatfield Seconded Cllr. Hyland. All Agreed.
3. **Abbotsvale Community Centre** – Deferred to the next meeting.

F/178/2024 Deputy/Assistant Clerk

The specification for the post to be revised and submitted to the next meeting. The Clerk to enquire if Westmorland and Furness Council have additional office space that the Town Council could utilise.

F/179/2024 Any Other Business

Cllr. Morgan reported on the 'Community Infrastructure Levy'. The Clerk to write to Westmorland and Furness Council requesting the Council be included in the 'Local Plan', which is currently out for consultation.

F/180/2024 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 17.30pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 18.58 pm

Lesley Smyth

Town Clerk