



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Barrow Town Council held on 15th July 2025 at 18.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 LD

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

In Attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk). Claire Nolan (Deputy Clerk)

255/25/26 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllr Altree; Cllr Morrison; Cllr Petrova and Cllr Worthington.

256/25/26 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr W McEwan and Cllr A Coles in respect of their membership on the Westmorland and Furness Council.

257/25/26 Exclusion of Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items were considered for exclusion.

258/25/26 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th May 2025

Proposed by Cllr W McEwan and seconded by Cllr Thomson, and a vote having been taken

Resolved

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th May 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

259/25/26 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 25th June 2025

Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr McEwan, and a vote having been taken

Resolved

To receive the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 25th June 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

260/25/26 Minutes of Committees

Finance Committee

Cllr Leach reported on the recent work of the Finance Committee of 10th June 2025.

Cllr W McEwan agreed to further the outstanding action, Min.F244 of 12th March 2025, a request to Westmorland and Furness Council for assisted funding to renovate the patio at the War Memorial. Barrow Town Council having paid for the cleaning of the Memorial, were then informed that Westmorland and Furness Council had agreed to clean all the War Memorials in Cumbria. The Town Council did not seek reimbursement for the cleaning costs.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee of 10th June 2025. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr McEwan. All agreed.

Planning Committee

Cllr J McEwan reported on the recent work of the Planning Committee of 5th June 2025.

The number of continuing applications for HMO's was discussed. Cllr Coles noted Westmorland and Furness Council are currently considering what actions can be taken based on concerns from the two Councils and members of the public.

Cllr W McEwan noted current postings on face book regarding homeowners being asked to move homes to permit conversions to HMO's. He confirmed Westmorland and Furness Council are not responsible. It is the action of the Home Office.

It was reported that at the last meeting held on 10th July 2025 an application for a proposed Solar Farm at Sowerby Woods - Ref: B03/2025/0242 has been submitted for approval. The Committee have requested further information from Westmorland and Furness Council regarding land ownership, access facilities and the actual overall size of the farm.

Askam Parish Council have been in contact and have raised concerns in respect of this application as a small proportion of the land concerned falls within their Parish boundary. They are meeting tonight to discuss and will forward their decision for distribution to the Planning Committee.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee of 5th June 2025. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Elliot. All agreed.

Allotments Committee

Cllr F Chatfield reported on the recent work of the Allotments Committee of 28th May and 18th June 2025. The following matters were noted:

1. An FOI request to Westmorland and Furness Council for allotment expenditure in the 5 years prior to defrayment to the Town Council has been received. Consequently, the Clerk and Chair will be seeking permission to present a report at a forthcoming Furness Locality Board.
2. The present financial situation was discussed and several possible options debated.
3. Recent maintenance works for water leaks and fencing, were noted.
4. Water plus have approved two refunds, the figures yet to be confirmed.

It was agreed to have a site visit on a date and time to be confirmed by the Clerk.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Allotments Committee of 28th May and 18th June 2025.

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

Events Working Group

Cllr W McEwan reported on the recent work of the Events Working Group meetings of 6th June and 4th July 2025, noting the dates and outlining the format for future events.

Resolved

Cllr Coles moved to accept the minutes. All agreed. Cllr Coles thanked all persons involved in the organisation of recent Events.

261/25/26 Finance Report

The following documents had been distributed prior to the meeting. No issues were raised.

- Income and Expenditure Account for the period 1st April to 30th June 2025.
- Allotments Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April to 30th June 2025.
- Report from the Internal Auditor for 2024-2025.

Resolved

To receive the Financial Reports here submitted, together with the Internal Audit Report.

Proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Leach. All agreed.

262/25/26 Bond of Friendship

The Chair reported on the evening event organised by the Royal Navy at the Dock Museum on 25th June 2025 and the signing of the 'Bond of Friendship' between the Town Council and the Royal Navy.

There will be an exchange of commemorative gifts in the mayor's parlour in the near future, and a reciprocal evening later in the year.

263/25/26 Furness General Hospital – Urgent Item

Cllr Coles reported the Lancashire and Cumbria Integrated Care Board are proposing to permanently decommission level 3 of Critical Care at FGH.

He read a draft letter addressed to the Chief Executive of NHS England rejecting this proposal, noting the pertinent issues of:

- Patient Safety
- The long-term sustainability of FGH
- The National Strategic importance of the 'Royal Port' of Barrow.

The members questioned whether the NHS Trust had explored every option available to them prior to making this decision. This fact is unknown as they have not been transparent in their actions. the following comments were made -

- Cllr W McEwan – the Town is undergoing a 10-year regeneration therefore an increase in public services is required. The NHS Trust appear to have ignored this fact and in fact appear to be working against it.
- Cllr J McEwan – noted her very strong thoughts on this matter and expressed her hope that the whole Town will unite in the rejection of this proposal. Once the specialism is lost it will not be easily replaced.
- Cllr K Hyland – There has been a shocking lack of consultation with no clear intention of action to remedy the recruitment issue.
- Cllr F Chatfield – there are millions on the waiting lists which the Trust do not appear to recognise. They should be talking to the Government to resolve issues.

Resolved

Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr W McEwan that the letter be forwarded to the Chief Executive of NHS England. All Councillors were in full agreement.

Further, the Clerk was requested to write also to:

- BAE Systems Managing Director
- The Royal Navy, with whom the Town Council have a Bond of Friendship.
- Wes Streeting – Secretary of State for Health & Social Care
- Michelle Scrogham MP for Barrow.
- Northwest Evening Mail.

264/25/26 Any Other Business

None to come before the Council currently.

265/24/25 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 18.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18.50 pm.

Lesley J Smyth

Town Clerk

For the attention: All Members of Barrow Town Council

Councillors

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 W McEwan	Barrow Newbarns Ward
Cllr M Leach	Barrow Newbarns Ward
Cllr Atree	Barrow Ormsgill Ward
Cllr J McEwan	Barrow Ormsgill Ward
Cllr Coles	Barrow Parkside Ward
Cllr Hall	Barrow Parkside 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