



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Barrow Town Council held on 16th September 2025 at 18.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 LD

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

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

266/25/26 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllr Hyland and Cllr Petrova.

267/25/26 Declarations of Interest

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

268/25/26 Exclusion of Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items were considered for exclusion.

269/25/26 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2025

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

Resolved

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

270/25/26 Mayors Communications & Announcements

Cllr F Chatfield reported on his Mayoral engagements since his appointment on 27th May 2025.

June 2025

- 3rd Mind in Furness Charity Draw
- 6th Litter Pick
- 6th D-Day Remembrance Service
- 9th MS Charity Bike Ride Cheque Presentation
- 11th Lt Commander Mark Rodger (Royal Navy)
- 15th Ulverston Civic Sunday
- 17th Channelside Afternoon Tea
- 17th Walk with Scouting Cubs.
- 18th Booktastic Reading Festival
- 20th Launch of 'Furness Sleep Helpline'
- 20th NW Music Academy
- 21st Armed Forces Day
- 21st Lili Myers & SI King
- 22nd Dave's Day
- 22nd Love Barrow Families in the Park
- 22nd Town Centre activities
- 25th Bond of Friendship with the Royal Navy
- 27th Long Service retirement presentation
- 28th Furness Prostate Support Group

July 2025

- 1st Visit to St. Mary's Hospice
- 4th University of Cumbria Campus
- 6th Barrow Civic Sunday
- 11th Love Barrow Families
- 12th Unity Festival
- 13th Kendal Civic Sunday
- 15th Mayoress visit to Barrow WI.
- 17th Bram Longstaffe Nursery
- 18th Roose School Leavers Prize Giving
- 19th Festival of Transport
- 20th North Scale Community Centre
- 21st Abbotsvale Community Centre
- 21st Presentation of Certificates to Sea Cadets
- 22nd Burnett Edgar Community Garden
- 31st Walk this way

August 2025

- 5th WI tour of Town Hall
- 8th Pelican Ship Reception & Presentation of Awards.
- 9th Festival of the Sea
- 12th MND Presentation
- 15th Opening of the new Yarlside Store Post Office.
- 15th VJ Day Service in St James' Church.

- 16th Soap Box Derby
- 16th Push the Boat Out
- 17th Dock Museum
- 19th Mind 'Be Well' Garden
- 30th Furness Abbey Medieval Fair

September 2025

- 2nd Bond of Friendship Exchange of Gifts
- 3rd Merchant Navy Day at Dock Museum
- 9th Chance to Dance
- 10th World Suicide Day
- 12th Barrow Festival of Heritage
- 13th Barrow Festival of Heritage
- 13th Love Barrow Families Autumn Celebration
- 14th AE1 & AE2 Remembrance Service

271/25/26 Minutes of Committees

Finance Committee

Cllr Leach reported on the actions of the Committee of 8th July 2025.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee of 8th July 2025. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr W McEwan. All agreed.

Planning Committee

Cllr J McEwan reported on the actions of the Committees of 10th July 2025 and 4th September 2025.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Planning Committees of 10th July and 4th September 2025. Proposed by Cllr Morrison and seconded by Cllr Beddoes. All agreed.

Allotments Committee

Cllr F Chatfield reported on the actions of the Allotments Committee of 23rd July 2025.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Allotments Committee of 23rd July 2025.

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

Cllr Worthington noted his thanks to Cllr Chatfield for his continuing steadfast determination to resolve all the many issues presented to the Town Council upon the defrayment of the Allotments from the former Barrow Borough and Westmorland and Furness Councils.

Events Working Group

Cllr W McEwan reported on the recent work of the Events Working Group meetings of 1st August and 29th August 2025, noting the dates of upcoming events, notably Trafalgar Day on 19th October and Remembrance Sunday on 9th November 2025.

Resolved

Cllr Leach moved to accept the minutes. All agreed.

Cllr Worthington offered his assistance to the Group in the organisation of the 'Mayors Picnic and Parade in the Park' to be held in 2026. The Clerk to invite Cllr Worthington and/or a member of Rotary to the next Group meeting on 10th October 2025.

272/25/26 Scheme of Delegation

Members agreed the following nominations to the Committees of the Council.

1. Appendix D – Finance Committee. Constitution 10. 1 vacancy - Cllr S Churcher.
2. Appendix F – Planning Committee. Constitution 10. 1 vacancy - Cllr. N Holmes.
3. Appendix I – Allotments Committee. Constitution 10. 1 vacancy - Cllr. C Rudd.

273/25/26 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 31st August 2025.
- Allotments Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April to 31st August 2025.

Resolved

To receive the Financial Reports here submitted. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr W McEwan. All agreed.

The Clerk noted Cllr Coles has been confirmed as a 'Bank Authorisation signatory'.

274/25/26 NJC Pay Award

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services have agreed the new rates payable applicable from 1st April 2025. Finance Committee of 9th September 2025 approved this payment. The Clerk sought approval from Full Council.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Morrison and seconded by Cllr Rudd that the NJC rates be accepted. All agreed.

275/25/26 Draft Motion

The following motion was moved by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Worthington.

This Council notes that:

Barrow-in-Furness is facing significant and ongoing change in housing and property development, with increasing pressure on the balance of available stock.

A growing number of properties are being converted into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), which may not always align with the wider needs and aspirations of the community.

There is an urgent need to bring long-term vacant and under-used housing stock back into beneficial use to meet local housing demand.

The development of the overarching Local Plan by the higher-tier local authority is expected to take several years to complete and will necessarily be a complex and lengthy process.

This Council believes that:

A Neighbourhood Plan, developed at Town Council level, would provide Barrow-in-Furness with a clear, community-led framework to shape development in the short- to medium-term.

Such a Plan would allow residents and stakeholders to have a direct say in the type, scale, and location of development within the town of Barrow in Furness and reflect the feel and angst among residents.

A Neighbourhood Plan would give statutory weight to local priorities, including the need to bring empty properties back into use and to place appropriate limits on the proliferation of HMOs. This is a document that should be considered alongside all Planning requests.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Initiate the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Barrow-in-Furness, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.
2. Establish a working group of councillors, residents, and stakeholders to oversee the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. Seek guidance and support from the Local Planning Authority, as well as grant funding and technical assistance available through Locality and other relevant bodies.
4. Ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the changing needs of the town and places the community at the centre of decisions on future development.
- 5 Undertakes to allocate the resources required to support the development of the neighbourhood plan, upon completion of the exploration phase by the working group.

Cllr Holmes raised an 'Amendment' to the Motion. However, it was determined by the Chair to represent a separate 'Motion' not an 'Amendment' and was therefore withdrawn.

The Motion presented was debated at length, the following comments noted:

- Cllr Coles queried the costs involved.
- Cllr Phillips confirmed if the costs exceed £5k it will need to come back to Council for a decision.
- Cllr Coles stated the resources required must be confirmed by November for inclusion in the Town Budget for 2026-2027.
- Cllr Atree noted his agreement to the 'Motion' and said Barrow voices must be heard when determining the future for the Town. Pressure needs to be enforced on the Government to build both social and affordable housing in the Town and to encourage BAE contract staff to remain in the Town during the working week.
- Cllr Holmes reported that in his Ward HMO's have been developed for which there is no demand.
- Cllr W McEwan noted the Barrow and Furness MP together with Westmorland and Furness Council are seeking to reduce the number of HMO's being developed in the Town.
- Cllr Phillips said BAE are not driving the demand for HMOs. Further, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan will be considered together to create a statutory document that carries weight, and that Barrow residents will vote on the Neighbourhood Plan to promote generational change.
- Cllr Elliot noted the Local Plan always precedes the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Chair reported his meetings with Brilliant Barrow and his repeated question as to why there are no representatives from the Town Council on the Committee.
- Cllr Rudd said there must be assurance from Barrow Rising that their funding is utilised wisely and queried if the receipt of monies has been secured. He also queried why there appears to be secrecy surrounding the funding.

- Cllr Coles noted in addition to the £200m funding to Team Barrow there is also £20m funding for parts of Hindpool and Central from the Government, Private Housing Initiatives and Leisure Services. The £200m was committed in October 2024 together with £20m for the Hindpool and Central Wards. Team Barrow are seeking funding from very large companies, however not all the Investment funding can be made public due to commercial sensitivity.
- Cllr Rudd compared the progress being made in Barrow to that of Bradford. The Chair concluded that Barrow is 'On the Up', but it will take time. It must be remembered that the Town Council only has the statutory duties of a Parish Council and therefore as Town Councillors we can advise and raise objections, but the final decision making is in the control of the Unitary Council

Resolved:

A vote having been taken, the Motion was passed.

276/25/26 Freedom of the Town

The following motion was moved by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Worthington.

This Council believes that Barrow Town Council should honour Georgia Stanway with Freedom of the Town:

Today, we honour one of Barrow's finest – Georgia Stanway – by awarding her the Freedom of the Town of Barrow-in-Furness.

Georgia's journey from the playing fields of Furness to the very pinnacle of European and world football is nothing short of remarkable. From her early years at Furness Rovers to signing for Manchester City as a teenager, she quickly made her mark as one of England's most gifted midfielders. She has won league titles, FA Cups, and been a constant presence wherever she plays.

Her international pedigree is equally outstanding. Georgia has played a central role in guiding the Lionesses to unprecedented success – reaching a World Cup final and winning not one, but two European Championships. Most recently, in 2025, she was part of the Lionesses' heroic defence of their UEFA Women's European Championship title. England retained their crown in Basel, defeating Spain on penalties – a tournament where Georgia and her teammates showed courage, resilience, and excellence under pressure. These achievements place her firmly among the most decorated and respected players in the modern game.

Today, she continues to shine at club and international level, always playing with unwavering determination and passion – the same spirit that defines our town. But beyond trophies and accolades, Georgia exemplifies the best of Barrow: hard work, humility, and inspiring young people to believe that greatness is possible, no matter where you come from.

The Freedom of the Town is our highest civic honour, and there can be no doubt Georgia Stanway has earned it. She has carried Barrow's name with pride on the world and European stage – and now Barrow honours her in return.

Cllr Griffiths proposed the decision be deferred pending the outcome of a meeting this coming Thursday which shall determine the most appropriate recognition for Georgia. Seconded by Cllr W McEwan.

Cllrs Altree and Coles recommended the decision not be deferred, and confirmed contact has been made with Georgia's family who have confirmed she would be delighted to accept the honour, and therefore the Town Council should agree to the motion.

Resolved:

A vote having been taken, 12 for, 4 against and 1 abstention. The motion was therefore passed.

277/25/26 Street Cleaning

A letter addressed to the Director of Thriving Places at Westmorland and Furness Council, submitted/proposed by Cllr K Hyland and seconded by Cllr Elliot had been distributed for information prior to the meeting. The Town Council demand to know why there appears to have been no weeding and street cleaning programmes in 2024 and 2025, and what action Westmorland and Furness council will take in 2026, as it is hoped this poor performance will not be repeated. The residents of Barrow deserve better. Cllr Elliot sought Council approval for the letter to be forwarded to the Director and to be made available to residents through social media.

Cllr Worthington said Westmorland and Furness Council have also been receiving complaints from the public and are highly embarrassed over this matter. Over many months they have been trialling a new weed killer which regrettably has proved totally ineffective.

Cllr W McEwan said weedkiller is not the answer. The weeds need to be physically removed by digging, and he shall pursue this matter with Westmorland and Furness Council.

Resolved:

A vote having been taken, the action was approved.

278/25/26 Any Other Business

1. Councillor attendance at meetings

The Clerk reaffirmed the standing order that apologies for meetings should come direct to her to facilitate the correct recording in the Minutes.

2. Committee Agenda and supporting documents.

The Clerk asked Members that upon receipt of agendas and supporting documents they, at their earliest convenience, please inform her of any required amendments.

3. Councillor e-mails.

Will Members please inform the Clerk direct if they are experiencing any e-mail issues. It is imperative that all Members are in receipt of all Council documents.

4. New Council Members

Cllr Worthington said he looked forward to working together with the three new Council Members for the benefit of the Town and hoped they had enjoyed their first Council meeting. Cllr Rudd thanked him for his kind words.

279/25/26 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 18.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.15 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 Holmes	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 Rudd	Barrow Risedale Ward
Cllr S Churcher	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