



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Barrow Town Council held on 20th January 2026 at 18.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 LD

F Chatfield	Present	D Morrison	Present
K Hyland	Present	J Murphy	-
C Altree	-	D Petrova	Present
A Coles	Present	N Phillips	Present
B Elliot	Present	C Thomson	Apology
P Griffiths	Present	J Tyson	Apology
S Hall	Present	J McEwan	Apology
G Beddoes	Present	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)
Cumbria Police Mr D Faye (Active Cumbria)

The Chair welcomed the attending members of the public noting -

"Any member of the public who wished to ask a question, make representations or present a deputation or petition at this meeting should have applied to do so three days before the commencement of the meeting. Photography, filming or making an audio recording of this meeting is permitted, provided this does not disrupt the meeting or distract Councillors in the course of their business. Avoid filming, photographing or recording members of the public who are sitting in the public gallery, which is not part of the meeting."

294/25/26 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllr J McEwan, Cllr C Thompson and Cllr J Tyson.

295/25/26 Declarations of Interest

Received and accepted from Cllr W McEwan, Cllr A Coles, Cllr N Phillips and Cllr R Worthington in respect of their membership on the Westmorland and Furness Council. From Cllr D Petrova in respect of Agenda item No.10(3) – Furness General Hospital.

296/25/26 Exclusion of Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items were considered for exclusion

297/25/26 Presentation from Active Cumbria – Tidy Town Fest

The level of litter in the Town is a major concern, and it is the intention of Active Cumbria to hold a litter pick festival running from 23rd to 29th March 2026, which will run alongside the annual ‘British Spring Clean’. The full schedule of times and locations will be made available on the ‘Travel Actively’ website from 16th February 2026.

It is intended the festival will be launched by the Mayor at the Town Hall and will be a collaboration between the community and the Town Council that will receive both national recognition and deliver a long-term environmental impact.

The level of engagement to date for the festival has been outstanding, with firm commitments from Barrow BID, Barrow Rising, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Barrow PCSOs working with young people (Mini Police), St Mark’s Church, Abbotsvale Community Centre, Ormsgill Stronger Together, Walney Community Trust, The Beautiful Barrow Litter Pickers, The Litter Hitters, Junior Park Run, and the Westmorland and Furness Community Development Team.

The Town Councillors were asked if they would be able to host events within their wards, with acknowledgement given to Cllr Coles, Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Beddoes who already organise regular litter picks, and incorporating some of these into the festival week would be a fantastic way to bring key people together. Councillors were asked to inform them of ‘hot spots’ within their wards.

The Marketing and Communications Manager at Active Cumbria is currently working to align plans with the Heart of Barrow initiatives, Further updates on this collaboration will follow.

The organisation is seeking funding to purchase litter pickers for individual community champions, as well as equipment bundles for groups wishing to continue their efforts beyond the festival.

Cllr Griffiths thanked the organisation for an excellent presentation, expressing his pleasure that the event will include the involvement of school children, noting his successful litter picking events with schools within his Ward and the children’s willing acceptance of this important environmental issue.

Further expressions of gratitude for the work of the organisation were extended from Cllr Chatfield, Cllr Coles and Cllr Phillips. Cllr W McEwan applauded the work of Active Cumbria, noting the work under statutory legislation should be undertaken by Westmorland and Furness Council.

In conclusion the Council recommended the Organisation seek financial assistance from the Council through the Community Grants Scheme, detailed on the Town Council website.

The Chair once again thanked Mr Faye for his attendance, who then retired from the meeting at 18.20pm.

298/25/26 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November 2025

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

Resolved

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record.

299/25/26 Mayors Communications & Announcements

Cllr F Chatfield reported on his Mayoral engagements since the last meeting.

19 th November 2025	Walney School Awards Evening
20 th November 2025	Furness Multi-Cultural AGM
21 st November 2025	Presentation by the Kings Trust
21 st November 2025	Furness Rotary Club Charter
25 th November 2025	Women's Community Matters 'Day of Action'
25 th November 2025	Barrow Police Cadets
26 th November 2025	St Mary's Hospice Charity Meeting
28 th November 2025	St George's School – Build Our Barrow
29 th November 2025	Bishop of Carlisle Enthronement
03 rd December 2025	Sacred Heart School – Development Presentation
04 th December 2025	Grief Fest 2025
06 th December 2025	Santa Express
07 th December 2025	A Stitch Different
10 th December 2025	Rotary Club of Furness
11 th December 2025	Opening Ceremony at Drop Zone
13 th December 2025	Christmas Carols at the Coronation Hall
18 th December 2025	Barrow 6 th Form Awards Evening
19 th December 2025	Veterans Christmas Gathering
19 th December 2025	Christmas Pantomime
21 st December 2025	Emmanuel Church Carol Service
23 rd December 2025	Freedom of the Town – Georgia Stanway
14 th January 2026	Harts Wedding Car Launch

300/25/26 Minutes of Committees

The Chair welcomed any questions in respect of the Committee Minutes previously distributed.

Finance Committee

No matters arising.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee of 9th December 2025. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Elliot. All agreed.

Planning Committee

No matters arising.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee of 4th December 2025. Proposed by Cllr Morrison and seconded by Cllr Holmes. All agreed.

The Draft Minutes submitted of 8th January 2025 were for information only and will go to the next parent committee for approval before returning to Council in March 2026 for ratification.

Allotments Committee

No matters arising.

Resolved

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Allotments Committee of 26th November 2025. Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Coles. All agreed.

The Draft Minutes submitted of 17th December 2025 were for information only and will go to the next parent committee for approval before returning to Council in March 2026 for ratification.

301/25/26 Finance Report

The following documents had been distributed prior to the meeting:

1. Income & Expenditure Account for the period 1st April to 19th December 2025. No issues raised.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Phillips and second by Cllr Coles that the report here presented be approved. All agreed.

2. Allotments Income & Expenditure Account for the period 1st April to 19th December 2025. No issues raised.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr W McEwan and seconded by Cllr Coles that the report here presented be approved. All agreed.

3. Determination of Precept 2026-2027.

The Clerk referred to her report, requesting the Council consider all matters prior to approving the Finance Committee recommendation of a 4.99% increase in Precept: -

- The increase in staffing from 1 to 3 since 2023, and a desired proposed increase to 4 members of staff in 2026 (allotment assistant).
- The original precept did not consider the unknown extensive expenditure attributable to the allotment sites.
- Comparative precepts of other Parish and Town Councils in Cumbria with lower populations.

Cllr Elliot proposed an increase in the Precept to accommodate this extra member of staff. This proposal was not seconded.

Cllr Phillips recorded his disapproval of any increase in the Precept, noting the Town Council are required to show residents clear evidence of 'Value for Money'.

Cllr Coles noted that a 4.99% precept increase of £14k that will afford an improved budgeted Grants expenditure of £25k to be satisfactory, and therefore he would not support a further additional percentage increase.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Beddoes that the Finance Committee recommendation of a 4.99% increase in the precept be submitted to Westmorland and Furness Council. A vote having been taken – 13 for. 2 against. The Proposal was carried.

302/25/26 Draft Motions

Three Draft Motions were submitted.

Motion 1: Failures in domestic waste and recycling collections in Barrow.

Motion 2: Reduction in bin collections over the festive period.

Motion 3: Furness General Hospital bed reduction.

Motion No.1. Cllr Phillips outlined his proposed draft Motion.

Title - Failures in domestic waste and recycling collections in Barrow.

Proposed by: Cllr N Phillips

Seconded by: Cllr R Worthington

This Council notes:

- The ongoing and persistent failures in domestic waste and recycling collections across Barrow.
- The increasing number of missed collections, inconsistent schedules, and lack of timely communication to residents.
- The unacceptable impact this is having on residents, including the build-up of refuse, hygiene concerns, pest issues, and reduced confidence in local public services.
- The limited access to household waste recycling centres (“the tip”), including reduced opening hours, booking systems, and insufficient local capacity, which restrict residents’ ability to responsibly dispose of excess waste.
- That these constraints have compounded the effects of missed collections, leaving residents with few practical alternatives.

This Council believes:

A reliable waste collection and disposal service is a basic and essential public service that residents are entitled to expect.

- Limited access and inadequate capacity at waste recycling centres places additional pressure on households already affected by poor kerbside collections.
- Continued service failure undermines public trust and places an unfair burden on residents who pay council tax in good faith.
- No resident should be left uncertain as to whether or when their household waste will be collected or where it can be safely disposed of.

This Council resolves to:

1. Formally condemn the current standard of bin collection services in Barrow as unacceptable.
2. Call upon Westmorland and Furness Council, as the waste collection authority, to take immediate and decisive action to restore a reliable and consistent service.
3. Request a clear recovery plan, including improved staffing resilience, vehicle availability, contingency arrangements, and transparent communication with residents.
4. Ask that missed collections are rectified promptly and that repeat failures in the same areas are prioritised.
5. Call for a review of access, capacity, and operating arrangements at local household waste recycling centres serving Barrow, to ensure they meet current demand.
6. Write to the Leader of Westmorland and Furness Council and the relevant Portfolio Holder to demand urgent improvement and regular performance updates and that they facilitate a discussion between the Cabinet Member, Barrow Town Council and the appropriate directorate

This Council further requests:

- That residents are kept fully informed of changes, disruptions, and corrective actions through clear and accessible communication channels.
- That Barrow residents are not expected to compensate for service failures through restricted or inadequate disposal facilities.

1st AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION

Cllr A Coles had distributed prior to the meeting Motion No 2 which duplicated several issues noted in Motion 1. He therefore sought an amendment to Motion No.1 which if approved would negate Motion No.2.

To include **“Westmorland and Furness council review their proposal to move to fortnightly domestic waste collections from April 2026”**.

2nd AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION

Cllr Phillips requested the first amendment be revised to:

“Barrow Town Council oppose the move from weekly to fortnightly collections from April 2026”.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Griffiths that Motion No.1 and the second amendment to the Motion be approved. All agreed. Motion No.1 was carried. Motion No.2 was removed from the agenda.

Motion No.3. Cllr Coles outlined his proposed draft Motion.

Title - Furness General Hospital bed reduction.

Proposed by: Cllr A Coles

Seconded by: Cllr D Petrova.

This council opposes the proposed reduction of 22 beds at Furness General Hospital by the NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay (UHMBT).

We believe patient care and safety, plus waiting list reductions, should be the priorities for any NHS trust and not chasing short term deficit reductions.

The proposals announced on 29th December 2025: -

1. Reducing 18 beds across three large wards:
 - Ward 6 will reduce from 35 beds to 29 beds
 - Ward 7 will reduce from 36 beds to 27 beds
 - Ward 9 will reduce from 33 beds to 30 beds
2. Closing 4 beds overnight on Ward 1 (they remain open during the day)
3. Sensitive Gynaecology patients requiring overnight admission will be cared for in ringfenced side rooms with en-suite facilities on Ward 5
4. Savings: £325,000 in 2025/26

We urge NHS England to urgently address the withholding of deficit reduction funding to assist our residents.

We believe UHMBT also needs to think carefully about the long-term implications of decisions it makes. They should not be doing anything that will put long-term improvements, and the stability of services at risk.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 3

Proposed by Cllr Elliot

Seconded by Cllr Coles

“We also note that Barrow-in-Furness is an industrial town with a shipyard that is also a Nuclear Site and has a Gas terminal.

We ask the Town Clerk to contact UHMBT and NHS England to ask precisely what the effect of the proposed downgrade of the ICU and the reduction of the number of beds will have on UHMBT's ability to handle a major incident in the Town.

In particular we want to know how UHMBT would handle multiple casualties and the likely impact on the survival of these casualties if they must be transported to Kendal or Lancaster".

Cllr Hyland, a retired health professional, referred to the increasing aging population and the associated complex medical issues which requires an increase in medical provision, not a decrease. She urged the Council to object strongly to the proposed closure of beds at FGH.

Cllr Phillips recommended the Council also write to the Secretary of State, the Lancashire and Cumbria ICB and the Barrow MP noting the reduced/lack of funding in recent years for infrastructure which has resulted in capitalised items being funded from Revenue, thus negating available funding for recruitment and the increased provision of beds.

The Town Clerk noted letters have previously been forwarded to the UHMBT, the Secretary of State and the Barrow MP who all acknowledged receipt. Further correspondence was forwarded to the Managing Director of BAE but no reply has been received.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Elliot and seconded by Cllr Phillips that the amendment to Motion 3 be approved. All agreed. Motion No.3 was carried.

303/25/26 Mayor's Citizenship Award

Cllr Hyland presented her report:

A Good Citizenship Award recognizes individuals for outstanding positive contributions to their community, such as selfless service, leadership and acts of bravery, honouring those who improve quality of life and embody civic responsibility.

These awards will –

- Highlight local heroes and promote community pride, acknowledging efforts beyond typical recognition, from tireless charity work to environmental improvements.
- This award will be all about celebrating civic pride and encouraging our citizens to recognise and celebrate altruistic acts within our community.
- Examples of the activities to be considered for the award are many and varied and not exhaustive. Examples could be service to education, the environment, health and sport.
- The individual must reside within the post codes of Barrow or Walney and carry out their activities within that area.
- The activity must be purely voluntary – an individual must not receive payment for their work.
- Residents of the Town will be invited to nominate an individual who they believe to be deserving of such an award.
- Local media and radio will receive details of the awards given.
- The Mayor and Councillors will determine those people(s) they believe most deserving of this award. Presentations shall be made throughout the year at meetings of the Full Council.
- The intention is not to create a pecuniary award but to present a certificate and/or gift and to offer publicity.

Cllr Coles and Cllr Chatfield noted requests they have received requesting the Council to acknowledge such selfless action by persons within the community.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Worthington that the Council approve the creation of a 'Mayor's Citizenship Award', and that a nomination form be placed on the Barrow Town Council website. All agreed.

304/25/26 Any Other Business

None.

305/25/26 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 18.00pm in the Council Chamber, Barrow Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness. LA14 2LD.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.00 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