



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 17.30 pm in the Law Library at the Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-Furness.

Cllr M Leach – Chair	Present	Cllr C Altree	Apology
Cllr J McEwan – Vice Chair	Apology	Cllr N Phillips	Present
Cllr A Coles	Present	Cllr B Elliot	Present
Cllr C Thompson	Apology	Cllr F Chatfield	Present
Cllr. K Hyland	Present	Cllr. S Churcher	Present

In attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk) Claire Nolan (Deputy Town Clerk)
Cllr C Rudd

F/372/2026 Apologies

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

F/373/2026 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. Coles in respect of his membership on Westmorland and Furness Council and in respect of his allotment tenancy. Received from Cllr Phillips in respect of his membership on Westmorland and Furness Council and for agenda item no. 10 – Armed Forces Event Grant Application and agenda item no. 11 – Level-Up Gaming Events CIC Community Support Grant Application.

F/374/2026 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/375/2026 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 13th January 2026

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 13th January 2026 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Coles. All agreed.

F/376/2026 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:

To date there has been no acknowledgement from Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of the following issues:

1. Repairs to the patio at the War Memorial.
 2. Request to meet with the Westmorland and Furness Director and Assistant Director of Finance in respect of the omission of due diligence on the defrayment of the allotments to the Town Council resulting in unforeseen excessive grounds maintenance expenditure.
- The Allotment Land Valuation is noted as £121,240. The Clerk has requested sight of the valuation documents.
 - The application for a 4.99% increase in Precept for 2026-2027 has been submitted to S Roberts, Deputy Finance Director at Westmorland and Furness Council.
 - A response is awaited from Westmorland and Furness Council to a question raised at their Full Council by Cllr N Phillips in respect of the on-going telephone communication issues.
 - The Deputy Clerk has uploaded to the Town Council website a "Council Services Graphic" clearly depicting the different services provided by the Town Council and Westmorland and Furness Council and the respective contact details for both Councils. It is an excellent document for which the Deputy Clerk was thanked. The Town Clerk has submitted the document to Cllr Callister enquiring if the graphic can be uploaded on the W&F website as part of a joint Council attempt to inform all residents of the correct points of contact. The Committee recommended the Clerk forward the graphic to CALC to determine if it may be of great assistance to other Parish and Town Councils in Cumbria.

F/377/2026 Finance Report

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

1. Income & Expenditure Account for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st January 2026.
2. Allotments Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st January 2026.

Resolved:

Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Leach that the accounts here presented be approved. All agreed

3. Schedule of payments January 2026.

For information only. No issues raised.

4. Seasonal Allotment Maintenance Officer

The Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 2nd February, together with the draft Job description was submitted for approval. Following a lengthy discussion, it was

Resolved

Proposed by Cllr Leach and seconded by Cllr Elliot that the position be approved in principle and the advertisement be placed at the earliest opportunity to secure assistance for the allotment officer as soon as practicable.

The decision to take to Full Council for approval is dependent upon ascertaining the full costs following the interview process. All agreed.

5. Bank Reconciliation as of 31st January 2026.

Balance brought forward 1.1.26: -	£ 299,334.42
January income	£ 7,947.38
January Expenditure	£ -26,712.47
Balance of Funds	£ 280,569.33

Unity Trust Bank – General	£152,570.37
General Reserve – CBS	£ 85,229.68
Events Fund	£ 38,969.45
Charity Relief Fund	£ 3,799.83
Total Funds as of 31 st January 2026	£280,569.33
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F/378/2026 Event Support Grants

The following Grants Applications were presented for approval:

- Dragon Boat Race. The Clerk to request the organisers submit an Event Application Form if seeking funding and to enquire if a Barrow Town Council Team would be eligible to enter.
- Barrow Armed Forces Breakfast Club
Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Chatfield that the Clerk request a breakdown of expenditure and enquire as to the selection process for attendees given that the Town has 780 veterans. Bank details in the name of the Organization are also to be requested. All agreed.

F/379/2025 Community Support Grants

The following Grant Applications were presented for approval:

- Level Up Gaming Events CIC - £5,000. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed upon condition the event occurs. Non-occurrence will necessitate the funding being returned to the council.
- Active Cumbria
Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Churcher that as funding cannot be given by the Town Council to an organisation funded by Unitary Authorities, they be recommended to ask their partner organisations to submit Grant Applications in own name. A vote having been taken, 6 for and 1 against. The proposal was carried.

F/380/2025 Get Barrow Moving

The following Grant Applications were presented for approval:

- Barrow Celtic Football Club (Under 8's) - £1,900. Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.
- Barrow & District Rugby League Referee Society - £1,900. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Elliot. All agreed.

F/381/2025 Brighten Our Corner

The following Grant Application was presented for approval:

- Roosecote - £575. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Hyland. All agreed.

F/382/2025 Any Other Business

None.

F/383/2025 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 17.30pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 18.10 pm

Lesley J Smyth

Town Clerk