



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 14th April 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	Present
Cllr J McEwan	Apology	Cllr B Elliot	Present
Cllr A Coles	Present	Cllr F Chatfield	Present
Cllr C Thompson	Apology	Cllr S Churcher	Present
Cllr. K Hyland	Present		

In attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk)
P. Hodgson (Barrow BID)

Claire Nolan (Deputy Town Clerk)
Cllr C Rudd

F/396/2026 Apologies

Received and accepted from Cllr J McEwan, Cllr C Thompson and Barrow Full.

F/397/2026 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr Coles in respect of his membership on Westmorland and Furness Council.

F/398/2026 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/399/2026 SLA - Barrow BID Presentation (P Hodgson)

In accordance with the terms of the SLA Agreement, and to facilitate transparency, Barrow BID have provided all the requisite details regarding the utilisation of the 2025-2026 £15k funding. Their report, which included activity event reviews, social media statistics and attendance data, was submitted to the last Full Council in March 2026 where it was agreed they present their activity plan for 2026-2027 to the Finance Committee on 14th April 2026 prior to the allocation of funding. P Hodgson noted and outlined in detail the six events being undertaken by Barrow Bid in the coming year. The Committee approved the £15k funding allocation for 2026-2027. The Chair thanked Paul for his attendance, and he retired from the meeting at 17.43pm.

F/400/2026 SLA – Barrow Full Presentation

Unfortunately, no representative from Barrow Full was available to attend the meeting. The SLA Agreement is signed between two parties, Barrow Town Council and Barrow Full. Several concerns were again raised in respect of the 'Lead Organisation' (Barrow Full) not having its own

Bank Account. It was agreed the Clerk to seek legal guidance from NALC, and the funding allocation be deferred until such guidance has been received and duly actioned.

F/401/2026 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 10th March 2026

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10th March 2026 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Hyland. All agreed.

F/402/2026 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. A response is still awaited from Westmorland and Furness Council to a question raised at their last Full Council by Cllr N Phillips in respect of the on-going telephone communication issues.
3. All matters appertaining to the Allotments, i.e. due diligence, excessive maintenance costs and land valuations are currently being investigated by officers at Westmorland and Furness. A full report on the current situation will be presented to the next Allotment Committee on 22nd April 2026.

F/403/2026 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 March 2026.
The Clerk noted the figures presented do not include Debtor and Creditor Accruals, as yet unknown.
2. Allotments Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

Resolved:

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

3. Schedule of payments March 2026.
For information only. No issues raised.

Bank Reconciliation as of 31st March 2026.

Balance brought forward 28.2.26: -	£ 249,101.65
March income	£ 15,897.00
March Expenditure	£ - 43,776.80

Balance of Funds	£ 221,221.85
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Unity Trust Bank – General	£ 91,533.11
General Reserve – CBS	£ 87,617.87
Events Fund	£ 34,976.45
Charity Relief Fund	<u>£ 7,094.42</u>
Total Funds as of 31 st March 2026	£221,221.85

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F/404/2026 Event Support Grants

The following Grant Applications were presented for approval:

- Book Tastic - The cost for the books (£4,999) proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Churcher. All agreed. The Clerk to contact Westmorland and Furness in respect of the £2,895 room hire charge.
- Bay International Film Festival - £800. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Elliot. All agreed.
- Royal Port of Barrow Festival of the Sea - £4,800. Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Churcher. All agreed.
- Ulverston Town Band - £2,500. The Grant was approved on the basis that the activities incorporated local Barrow Bands. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Coles. All agreed.
- Drop Zone - £2,500. Proposed by Cllr Altree and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.
- Upbeat Productions – The Clerk to contact Westmorland and Furness in respect of the £1,870 room hire charge. £100 for advertisements was approved, subject to the event taking place. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Elliot. All agreed.

F/405/2026 Community Support Grants

The following Grant Applications were presented for approval:

- Barrow Submariners - £1,386. Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.
- Horizon Studios - £1,500. Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Altree. All agreed. The Organisation to be informed the Town Council do not fund salaries.

F/406/2026 Get Barrow Moving

The following Grant Applications were presented for approval:

- Community Sports Arenas CIC – £2,500. This application, deferred from the last meeting, was declined due to the extent of inclusion of the Barrow Community.
- Walney Community Centre & Youthability - £2,500. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Churcher. All agreed.
- Roose Conservative FC - £5,000. Proposed by Cllr Churcher and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.

F/407/2026 Brighten Our Corner

No applications received. The Clerk was requested to remind all Councillors of this available Ward funding.

F/408/2026 Any Other Business

Allotments

- Cllr Chatfield reported to the Committee on issues regarding ownership of the land, which have only this past week been brought to the attention of the Council. A full report will be presented to the Allotments Committee on 22nd April, 2026.
- The Deputy Clerk reported on the feedback from the recently held 'Tidy Town Fest', and the organisers' appreciation for the funding received from the Town Council.

F/409/2026 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 17.30pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 18.44 pm

Lesley J Smyth

Town Clerk