



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 17.30 pm in the Law Library at the Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-Furness

Cllr S Herbert – Chair	Present	Cllr B Morgan	Present
Cllr F Chatfield	Present	Cllr C Altree - Deputy	Present
Cllr A Coles	Present	Cllr N Phillips	Present
Cllr C Thompson	Present	Cllr B Elliot	Present
Cllr. K Hyland	Present	Cllr M Leach	Present

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

F/265/2025 Apologies

All members present.

F/266/2025 Declarations of Interest

Received from Cllr. N Phillips, Cllr. A Coles and Cllr. B Morgan in respect of their membership on Westmorland and Furness Council.

F/267/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/268/2025 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 29th April 2025

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29th April 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Altree and seconded by Cllr. Chatfield. All agreed.

F/269/2025 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 funding the repairs to the patio at the War Memorial.
- A response to the request to Westmorland and Furness Council for the inclusion of Barrow Town Council in the Community Infrastructure Levy was reported under Min F/231 of 12th February 2025. No further update.
- The opening of a separate Bank Account for the Events Committee and the transfer of the £70,000 Events Budget.

- Contract for the infrastructure of the Christmas Tree.

F/270/2025 Finance Report

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

1. Income & Expenditure Account for the period 1st April to 30th April 2025-26
2. Allotments Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April to 30th April 2025-26
3. Schedule of payments for April 2025 (Appendix 1)

The Allotment Receipts and Payments Account to show the expenditure against the planned budget for the year.

Further to min. F/256 (3) of 29th April 2025. There has been no response from Cllr Jarvis in respect of a request for him to attend the next Allotments Committee. Cllr Morgan recommended the Clerk speak with Alison Meadows to ascertain who has the residual responsibility.

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

Bank Reconciliation as at 30th April 2025

Balance brought forward 1.4.25: -	£226,573.12
April 2025 Income	£316,360.83
April 2025 Expenditure	£ -59,077.02
Balance of Funds	£483,856.93
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Unity Trust Bank	£410,909.52
Cumberland Building Society	£ 67,729.68
Relief Charity Account	£ 5,217.73
Total Funds as of 30 th April 2025	£483,856.93
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F/271/2025 Event Support Grants

Pelican of London Limited – Veterans Voyage from Oban to Barrow ('The Tall Ships Festival'.)
£7,500 requested.

Resolved: Recommendation to Full Council that the funding be approved – 50% from the Events Budget and 50% from the Armed Forces Budget. This is the second year of funding for this Event. The Clerk to notify the Association that matched funding will need to be evidenced for future funding applications.

F/272/2025 Community Support Grants

No applications received.

F/273/2025 Get Barrow Moving

No applications received.

F/274/2025 Any Other Business

1. Christmas Lights and Infrastructure for Christmas Tree 2025

Correspondence received from Barrow BID had been distributed to the members prior to the meeting. The Chair distributed for approval his letter of response to the matters raised.

The letter was approved, pending the inclusion of an explanation as to the roles and responsibilities of Town Councillors, i.e. an individual may speak to a Councillor, but no individual Councillor has the authority to agree to any action without the approval of Full Council.

The members debated the creation of a Christmas SLA for 2026 under the remit of the Events Working Group.

2. Cemetery Gate House

Further to min. F/249 of 12th March 2025.

Cllr Coles reported on a recent visit to the site, by himself, Cllr Morgan and Westmorland and Furness officers. He outlined the very poor condition of the existing accommodation. Westmorland and Furness Council are to submit a Lottery Bid for the external renovation of the building and are seeking approval from the Town Council to support the Bid.

Previous minutes referred to the future possibility of the Town Council operating a florist shop and café in one section of the premise. It is noted that Westmorland and Furness Council are seeking a partnership with the Town Council, not a community asset transfer.

Resolved:

A recommendation to Full Council to support the Westmorland and Furness Council Lottery Funding Bid.

3. UK Shared Prosperity Funding

Westmorland and Furness Council have two major grant funds available under this scheme, applications for which are required to be submitted by 2nd June 2025.

- Thrive with Arts, Culture and Heritage - £175,276 available
- Festival and events fund- £85,000 available.

Cllr Morgan recommended an application be submitted for the 'Arts, Culture and Heritage' fund and volunteered to assist in completing the form. Funding is available of between £1,000 to £10,000. The members approved an application for £10,000.

Resolved:

The members approved an application for £10,000. The Clerk to send the relevant forms to Cllr Morgan for her inspection and action. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Morgan for her offer of assistance.

4. Financial Accounting System

Further to min F/233 of 12th February 2025.

The Clerk sought approval to progress the purchase of a Financial Accounting System. In accordance with the Financial Regulations a minimum of three quotes are to be obtained and presented to the next Finance Committee for approval

5. Retiring Committee Members

Cllr. Altree, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Cllr Herbert for his chairmanship over the last financial year, and Cllr Morgan for her valuable contribution to the Committee.

F/275/2025 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 17.30pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 18.24 pm

Lesley J Smyth

Town Clerk