



BARROW TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

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

In attendance: Lesley Smyth (Town Clerk) Claire Nolan (Deputy Clerk)
P Hodgson (BID) J Phizacklea (BID)

F/317/2025 Apologies

Received and accepted from Cllr Phillips.

F/318/2025 Declarations of Interest

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

F/319/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) No issues were considered for exclusion.

F/320/2025 BID Presentation – Festive Lighting 2026

P Hodgson noted the existing BID operating agreement with the Town Council, the Town Council's responsibilities, and the associated costs for:

- Install/Derigging
- Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal.
- Upcoming/Planned Renewal Proposal:

To reinstate the annual maintenance budget of £15,000 pa, and to agree the maintenance budget at the start of each financial year to facilitate the purchase of lighting as may be required. The Clerk confirmed the installation and derigged cost for 2025 has been agreed with Optech Fibres at £17,500.

BID was thanked for their presentation and retired from the meeting at 17.50 pm.

The Members then debated the issue.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Elliot that the maintenance costs of £15,000 for 2026 be recommended for approval to Full Council in November. All agreed.

F/321/2025 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 9th September 2025

Resolved: To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 9th September 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Chatfield and seconded by Cllr. Hyland. All agreed.

F/322/2025 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:**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Further to Min. 299 of 8th July 2025. A Grant of £1,500 to Roose FC from Westmorland and Furness Councillors for the Risedale and Roosecote Ward funds has been paid.
4. The role specification for an Allotment Assistant is deferred.
5. Further to Min. 294 of 8th July 2025. Permission to attend a meeting of the Furness Locality Board on 30th September was declined. This matter was raised at the last Allotments Committee and Cllr W McEwan and Cllr Coles recommended the most appropriate meeting would be the forthcoming meeting on 8th October. Permission to attend that meeting was refused. It was agreed therefore that the Clerk seek a meeting with the Deputy Finance Director S Roberts for herself and Cllr Chatfield and to inform Cllr Jonathan Brooke of all matters

F/323/2025 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 September 2025

Resolved:

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

2. Allotments Receipts and Payments for the period 1st April - 30 September 2025.

For information only. To be debated at the forthcoming Allotments Committee on 22nd October 2025.

3. Schedule of payments September 2025

For information only. No issues raised.

4. Bank Reconciliation as of 30th September 2025

Balance brought forward 31.8.25: -	£436,803.09
September income	£ 1,236.00
September Expenditure	£ 35,222.20
Balance of Funds	£402,816.89

Current Account	£ 255,238.06
Reserve Account	£ 85,229.68
Relief Fund	£ 2,010.70
Events Fund	£ 60,338.45
Total Funds as of 30 th September 2025	£ 402,816.89

F/324/2025 Draft Budget 2026-2027

The document had been distributed prior to the meeting. The following matters are recorded:

- Cllr Atree noted the Town Council element within the Council Tax Levy is currently negative due to no increases in the precept since 2023. Therefore, any increase in the precept for 2026-27 will be small. The Clerk to determine the exact percentage increase for the next meeting.
- The draft budgeted expenditure on allotments reflects the Council's statutory duties under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 2008 for the estimated maintenance works determined by the Allotments Officer.
- The Councillor training budget reflects the three newly appointed members.
- Cllr Chatfield requested the cost for Civic Sunday be attributed to his Mayoral Allowance. It was agreed future Civic Sunday costs be attributed to the Mayoral allowance, but this may be reviewed in future years.
- The reduction from £17,500 to £15,000 for the Election Allowance was approved.
- Pending approval by Full Council, £15,000 for Christmas Lighting Maintenance be added.

The revised budget and requested Precept for 2026-2027 are to be considered at the next meeting in November and then submitted to Full Council for approval pending submission to Westmorland and Furness Council.

F/325/2025 Event Support Grants The following Grants were approved:

A Stitch Different £2,500. Proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Chatfield pending a satisfactory response regarding the purchase of additional Gazebos as queried by Cllr Atree. All agreed.

Diwali 2025 £2,500. Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. All agreed.

Roosecote Community Hub £795. Proposed by Cllr Leach and seconded by Cllr Chatfield. The Clerk to request the organisation seek to ensure the provision of a more inclusive event if they apply for funding in future years.

F/326/2025 Community Support Grants

Blue Birds Trust £4,950. Proposed by Cllr Leach and seconded by Cllr Coles. All agreed. Under the terms of the application the Grant will be recovered if the Lottery Funding is not secured. Creative Communities. This application was declined due to the high ratio of salaries versus activities. Proposed by Cllr Hyland and seconded by Cllr Thomson. 5 members agreed. 1 abstention.

F/327/2025 Get Barrow Moving

Greengate Junior School £2,304. Proposed by Cllr Chatfield and seconded by Cllr Thomson. All agreed.

F/328/2025 Brighten Our Corner

Barrow Island Primary School £1,011.85. Proposed by Cllr Altree and seconded by Cllr Churcher. All agreed.

F/329/2025 Any Other Business None.

F/330/2025 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 17.30pm in the Law Library, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.00 pm

Lesley J Smyth

Town Clerk