

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Chairman/Mayor:
Cllr. Roger Handley

Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor:
Cllr. Ann Walmsley

Town Clerk:
Mrs. C. Benbow



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Cumbria, LA11 6DP

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V.A.T. Reg.No: 164 8707 80

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Victoria Hall on Monday 10 March 2025 commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr. R. Handley – **Chair**

Cllr. A. Walmsley, Cllr. T. Thomas, Cllr. E. Walmsley, Cllr. J. Mason,
Cllr. W. Tych, Cllr. J. Walmsley

Mrs. C. Benbow – Town Clerk

In attendance: Westmorland and Furness Unitary Councillor A. Hull and three members of the public.

Minute Ref:		Agenda No:
C24/176	Apologies for Absence	1

There were no apologies received.

C24/177	Public Participation: Public Have Your Say	2
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- Resident 1** Made representation to members regarding:
- Victoria Hall Support Group** – thanking and congratulating the group for their impressive work in providing the excellent ‘*Cinema at the Vic*’ events.
 - Highways** – opining that responses seem to be improving but communications with residents are poor and road closure information is inadequate.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

C24/178 Reports 3

Westmorland and Furness (WAF) Council Report

Councillor Andy Hull reported:

1. **Windermere Road** – will be closed from 17 or 18 March for hopefully no longer than a week to allow for flood mitigation works.
2. **Olive Way** – work is in progress and WAF will be working with PEAT (Peninsula Environment Action Together) to redesign and replant the area.
3. **‘One Tree per Resident’ and ‘Planting for Pollinators’** – schemes are to promote biodiversity.
4. **Cart Lane Flooding** – WAF has a plan in place, created with the Environment Agency, Highways and Holker Estates.
5. **Winster Flood Works** – consultation is underway. Work due to start in September.
6. **Lido** – snagging on the refurbishment works is still underway.

Cllr. Hull left the meeting.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Cllr. Roger Handley reported there have been no civic engagements.

C24/179 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 February 2025 were accepted as a true record.

C24/180 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations 5

NOTED There were no requests received for dispensations or declarations of interest.

C24/181 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Item 6

RESOLVED That no items should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2.

1. Members considered the following full or outline planning permission/reserved matters/discharge of conditions/listed building/change of use/advertising consent or appeal:

a. 2025/0001/HOU

Householder

52 Priory Crescent GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7BL

Expansion & upgrade of existing balcony by addition of 4m x 3m steel & glass structure adjacent to bifold doors, linking to existing concrete platform

**RESOLVED
OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to the application on the following grounds:

The proposed development appears overbearing and unneighbourly.

The Town Council is concerned that, because of the significant difference in height between the houses, the development would cause overlooking and loss of privacy for the neighbours.

b. 2025/0213/FPA

Full Application

Sky Lark 11 Hazelwood Court Lindale Road Grange-over-sands LA11 6SP

Roof terrace extension to replace glazed enclosure.

**RESOLVED
OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to the application on the following grounds, supporting the concerns of the leaseholders and Management Group:

- i) Hazelwood Court is an historic and significant building within the Grange-over-Sands Conservation Area.
- ii) The proposed extension would be out of keeping and disproportionate with the building and detrimental to the architectural symmetry of it.
- iii) There is concern about the ecological impact of the proposed garages, cutting into woodland and removing habitats.
- iv) No bat survey has been undertaken.

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- c. 2025/0391/HOU
Householder
Alderley The Heads GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7EE
Construct a patio raised deck with balustrade at the same level as the existing external landing outside the main entrance.

**RESOLVED
NO OBJECTION**

- d. 2025/0385/FPA
Full Application
Guides Farm Cart Lane GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7AF 340068, 476426
Garage/Storage Building, Stable and Pod for Ancillary use/letting (retrospective).

**RESOLVED
OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to the application on the following grounds:

- i) The pod is unsightly and out of keeping. In the original application, this was put in place for use while the work was done on the residence. It appears that, as it is now used for commercial letting, it is no longer required. As the original, temporary, requirement for the pod is now irrelevant, it should be removed.
- ii) There are several contradictions in the application and clarity on these is requested. There is clearly commercial activity at the site, as evidenced by TripAdvisor reviews.
- iii) The application also states that there is no flooding near the property but in fact the adjacent Cart Lane area floods regularly.
- iv) Dispensing of surface water to a pond/lake/soakaway is unlikely to be sufficient as the site is at the base of a long steeply sloping hill. The area would be likely to flood in heavy rain.

2. Decisions - Members noted that the following decisions had been made since the last Full Council meeting:

- a. 2024/2340/FPA SANDYFIELD COTTAGE HAMPSFELL ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS CUMBRIA LA11 6BG Householder Approved with Conditions
- b. 2024/2183/FPA VICTORIA MOUNT CHURCH HILL GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6BD Householder Approved with Conditions
- c. 2024/2220/DISC PINE TREES FERNLEIGH ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7HG Details Reserved by Condition (Discharge) Part Discharge of Conditions

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- d. 2024/2420/FPA SILVER MIST 6 FELLSIDE COURT GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6BY Householder Approved with Conditions
- e. 2024/1432/LBC HARDCRAGG HALL 4 GRANGE FELL ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6BJ Listed Building Consent Refused
- f. 2024/2371/FPA FOUR OAKS 23 FERNHILL ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7JD Householder Not Progressed

C24/183 Finance - Monthly Payments

8

a. Verification of Expenditure

NOTED

That prior to the meeting two Councillors verified invoices received and payments made since the last full council meeting prior to the council meeting and could verify their authenticity.

That Cllr. A. Walmsley verified in place of Cllr. Mason.

b. Verification of Accounts Reconciliation

NOTED

That prior to the meeting two Councillors verified that the monthly bank reconciliation had taken place.

That Cllr. A. Walmsley verified in place of Cllr. Mason.

c. Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the payments of the accounts and wages for this finance period as recorded in the payments list were approved as below.

d. Identification of Councillors to complete online authorisation of payments

RESOLVED

That Cllrs A. Walmsley and Handley would complete online authorisation of payments for the next payment period.

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e. Identification of Councillors to approve next finance period payments

RESOLVED

That Cllrs. Mason and Thomas would verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period and arrange to meet the Finance Administrator by appointment to complete verification.

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GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Payments for Approval

March 2025

Accounts for Payment

Bank Account No. 1 - Direct Debit

Bank Account No. 1 - Cheque

Total Bank Account No. 1

£

-

-

-

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Debits

312 Lloyds Bank Plc - Card Feb 2025 - Monthly fee	3.00	
312a Amazon - Thermometer & large sticky note pads	20.26	
312b Amazon - A3 laminating pouches, fountain pens & 2 x desk lamps	62.06	
312c Amazon - A4 laminating pouches & sticky note pads	38.97	
312d Ofcom - 2 year licence radio mics 06/02/25-05/02/27	135.00	
312e Ikea - Shelving	375.00	
312f Amazon - Pentel lead refill	3.83	
312g Amazon - 12 x Papermate blue pens	12.89	
312h Amazon - Pencils	17.66	
312i Amazon - 12 x Papermate black pens	15.99	
312j Amazon - Smart plug	<u>29.49</u>	714.15
313 Npower - Elec V Hall 01/01-31/01/25		272.40
314 Npower - Elec Church Hill PC 01/01-31/01/25		110.09
315 Npower - Elec Prom PC 01/01-31/01/25		39.81
316 Npower - Elec Xmas Tree lights 01/01-31/01/25 (recoverable)		62.77
317 Corona Energy - Gas V Hall 01/01-01/02/25		1,341.82
318 Sage - Support 01/03-31/03/25		109.20
319 BT - Tel & Broadband 01/03-31/03/25		52.39

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Bank Payments

320 Hall Manager expenses - Ikea - Hall storage		76.50
321 Cumbria Film Archive - Optoma Projector (VHSG donation)		250.00
322 JT Atkinson - Masking tape & Tilebacker		32.74
323 CALC - Effective Councillor Module 2 Training - WT	30.00	
324 CALC - Common Land & Village Greens Training - JM	<u>50.00</u>	80.00
325 Grange Now - Precept article		369.56
326 Simon Wroe Piano Services - Piano tuning		95.00
327 J Davenport - Clean int. office, ground floor ext. windows & bus shelter		35.00
328 PPL PRS Ltd - Performing Rights to 05/01/25 (recoverable)		287.81
329 Healthmatic - PC cleaning 01/03-31/03/25		1,645.49
330 KTD - Photocopying 31/01-28/02/25		32.23
331 Lengthsman - 01/02-28/02/25		905.24
332 Turnstone HR - HR support 01/03-31/03/25		60.00
333 Treble3 - Website update		18.00
334 Debbie's Cleaning - V Hall cleaning 01/02-28/02/25		648.00
335 Lancasters - Brackets, pliers, padlocks, dust sheet, drill bits etc.		112.55

Total Bank Account No. 2

7,350.75

Total Accounts

7,350.75

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Salaries, PAYE & N.I. (Bank Account No. 2)

Total Salaries	<u>7,400.52</u>
HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 11	2,603.95
LG Pension Scheme Month 11 - Employer payment	<u>2,571.52</u>
	<u>12,575.99</u>
Total Bank Account No. 2	<u>19,926.74</u>
Total all payments for approval	<u>19,926.74</u>

Accounts paid in previous month:

Bank Account No. 1

Direct Debits

Cheques

Bank Account No. 2

Direct Debits

309 Waterplus - V Hall 06/01-05/02/25	158.50
310 Waterplus - Orn Gdns PC 07/01-06/02/25	63.09
311 Waterplus - Church Hill PC 07/01-06/02/25	66.60

Direct Bank Payments

Total Accounts 1 paid in previous month	<u>288.19</u>
Grand Total	<u>20,214.93</u>

Bank Balances

Bank Account No. 1 As at 28/02/25 (See April 2025)	
Bank Account No. 2 As at 28/02/25	145,541.40

Signed (Chairman)

Dated.....

a. **Casual Vacancies**

Members noted that the Notice of Casual Vacancy in South Ward due to the resignation of Claire Logan was published on 13 February 2025.

As fourteen days have now elapsed, and no election has been called, the Town Council can now co-opt to fill the vacancy.

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There are now two casual vacancies. Anyone interested in getting involved is invited to contact the Town Clerk or the Chairman for more information, or see www.grangeoversandstowncouncil.gov.uk

b. **Budget Publicity in 'Grange Now'**

Members noted that an article was published in 'Grange Now' about the budget, costing £307.97 + VAT.

c. **Annual Authorisation of Payments**

To consider the annual review of payments made by variable direct debit and standing order and to approve the use of BACS payments in compliance with Grange Town Council Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the annual review of payments made by variable direct debit and standing order and the use of BACS payments in compliance with Grange Town Council Financial Regulations was approved.

C24/185

Consultations

10

To consider the Council's participation in:

Devolution Priority Programme (DPP)

This consultation seeks views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for the local government areas of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.

The full consultation document can be found on the GOV.UK page <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cumbria-devolution>

Deadline for the consultation is 11.59pm on 13 April 2025.

To take part and have your say, please visit:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/cumbria-devolution-consultation>.

RESOLVED

That Grange-over-Sands Town Council responds to the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) consultation raising the following points:

- i) In principle, the Town Council can see the possible benefits of this over the long-term, specifically in terms of improving transport across Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Unitary Authorities. This would be dependent on sufficient funding.

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- ii) However, there are concerns. The timing is unfortunate as the two new Unitary Authorities have only just been established and the confusion and disorganisation caused by this is far from resolved.
- iii) More administrative and bureaucratic change at this stage seems unhelpful and unlikely to improve services for residents.
- iv) The proposals seem very vague, and it is not clear what the benefits to residents would be.
- v) The size of Cumbria is a factor. Central government decreed that Cumbria County Council was split into two because of the size, poor transport links and geography of the county. There is the risk that wherever the mayor was based would assume power to the detriment of other areas.
- vi) Funding is currently being cut from central government and adding another layer of government would be expensive and a further burden on local taxpayers.

C24/186

Updates from Members

11

Members received the following updates from Councillors on works in progress and meetings and events attended, including:

a. **Cllr. Thomas – Lido Gallery**

The panels were delivered to the Victoria Hall; some have been reclaimed by donors. Cllr. Thomas had a meeting with WAF who were very positive about using them for the underpass.

b. **Cllr. Thomas – Civic Society AGM**

The committee was elected, and all the gardening groups were thanked for all their hard work over the year. Cllrs. Ann and Emma Walmsley were thanked for removing all the debris and detritus after the post van ran into the planter at Windermere Road.

C24/187

Victoria Hall

12

Members noted that following a theft at the Hall, security arrangements are being reviewed and that the doors to the Hall would be locked during Council meetings.

C24/188

Westmorland and Furness Council updates

13

There were no updates.

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C24/189 Furness Line Action Group (FLAG)

14

Members considered the July 2024 press release issued by FLAG and presented to the Council in Item 2 Public Participation 'Have Your Say' at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED

That the item was deferred due to lack of information; the Town Clerk was asked to write to the FLAG contact named on the press release.

C24/190 Public Conveniences

15

Members noted correspondence from Healthmatic about the annual cleaning contract review.

The contract ends in March 2027; the contract price is increasing by £1,530.32, from the existing annual price of £16,455 to £17,985.

C24/191 Recreation Ground

16

Members noted that the putting greens are getting damaged by dog owners exercising their pets on the space. The consequent dog poo is a significant problem for maintenance of the greens.

To consider the quote below for two signs for the same specification as the street workout sign:

Keep the A4 sign on 76mm diameter powder coated white post with all clips and caps needed at the previous price of £288 plus vat each, then installation for the pair would be £358.00 plus vat making a job total of £934.00 plus vat fitted.

Members noted that the Town Council leases the site from WAF and are in negotiation with them and SGL to re-open and operate the facilities as part of the Lido offer. It is important to keep the site maintained as putting greens, even though it is temporarily closed.

RESOLVED

- i) That three signs are commissioned; the two as quoted for each of the putting greens and a third one for the grassed area at the far end of the Prom where the street workout equipment is.
- ii) That the signs are funded from the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) reserve.

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C24/192 Training

17

Councillor Training

Members noted that:

- a. Cllr. Tych took part in the 'Councillor Module 2' online course.
- b. Cllr. Mason took part in online courses about Village Greens and Common Ground.

C24/193 Staffing

18

Hall Administrator

Members noted that the Hall Administrator will start in May and approved the Chairman to sign the revised salaries sheet to include the appointment.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman was approved to sign the revised salaries sheet to include the appointment of the Hall Administrator.

C24/194 Next Meeting

19

Members noted that the next Full Council Meeting would be held:

Monday 7 April 2025 at the Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands, to be held after the Annual Town Meeting, which starts at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Grange-over-Sands Town Council