

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Chairman/Mayor:
Cllr. Roger Handley

Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor:
Cllr. Ann Walmsley

Town Clerk:
Mrs. C. Benbow



Council Offices
Main Street
Grange-over-Sands
Cumbria
LA11 6DP

Tel: (015395) 32375
www.grangeoversandstowncouncil.gov.uk
council@grangeoversandstowncouncil.gov.uk

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

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the Meeting of the Town Council in accordance with Schedule 12 para.10(2) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to be held in the Victoria Hall, on Monday 15 December 2025 at 7.00pm.

Note: Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 this meeting was advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media, or the public.

Signed  C. Benbow, Town Clerk

AGENDA FULL COUNCIL MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2025

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and approve apologies from members.

2. Public Participation: Have Your Say

Have Your Say: Members of the public are invited to speak.

3. Reports

To receive the following reports:

- a. Westmorland and Furness Council Report
- b. Mayor's Report

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 November 2025 as a true record.

5. Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

Members to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed and to decide requests for dispensations.

6. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To consider if any items should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2.

7. Planning

To consider planning applications as circulated and to note submissions to planning applications considered under delegated authority. All applications received before the meeting will be considered (*circulated*).

8. Monthly Payments Councillor Verification and Payment Approval

- a. To note that prior to the meeting two councillors verified invoices received and payments made since the last full council meeting and can verify their authenticity.
- b. To note that two councillors verified that the monthly bank reconciliation has taken place.
- c. To approve and authorise the payment of accounts and wages as recorded in the payments list.
- d. To identify and approve two councillors to complete the online authorisation of the payments for the next payment period.
- e. To identify and approve two councillors to verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period.

9. Finance and Governance

a. Casual Vacancies

There are currently two casual vacancies on the Town Council. 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. Internal Audit

To note the interim half-year Internal Audit report to 30 Sept 2025 following the Internal Audit on 27 November 2025. There were no recommendations. The Internal Auditor confirmed that the Council finances are operated in compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (*circulated*).

c. **Draft Budget 2026/27**

To note the below and consider the draft Budget and report 2026/27 (*circulated*):

- i) The Council Tax base for 2026-27 has decreased by 50.5 properties, from 2,391.9 to 2,341.4.
- ii) This decrease in properties means that there would be a 2% increase to council tax bills to keep the same level of income to the Town Council.
- iii) Budget provision has been made for a website to comply with the new accessibility requirements for the annual external audit.
- iv) Apportioned salary amounts give an indication of the true cost of operating the Hall and providing the Music in the Park events.

10. Consultations

To consider the Council's participation in appropriate consultations: none received.

11. Updates from Members

To receive councillor updates on works in progress and meetings and events attended, including:

Cllr. Thomas - Furness Line Community Rail Partnership - 11 December online meeting.

12. Victoria Hall

a. **The Crane-Wexler Donation**

To note the receipt of a £50,000 donation to the Victoria Hall. This is from Liz and Lynn Crane-Wexler, from the United States, who visited the Hall during their stay in Grange.

They took part in the Victoria Hall Support Group's quiz, and the Hall Manager gave them a tour of the building. The donation is held in a ring-fenced reserve, designated to support the development and enhancement of the Hall as a community venue.

b. **Central Heating**

To note that the Hall boilers needed urgent repairs this month, to keep them going, and that the central heating system is due for renewal.

c. **Task and Finish Group**

To consider setting up a Task and Finish Group with the remit to research options and viabilities for renewing the central heating system.

To appoint councillors to the group.

d. **Energy Audit**

To consider a quote for an Energy Audit for the whole building (*circulated*).

e. **Planning Office (Room 6/7)**

- i. To consider applying for Listed Building Consent to remove the partition wall in Rooms 6/7 to make one space (The Planning Office) that will be more usable for hirers.
- ii. To consider quotes to remove the partition wall in Rooms 6/7 (*circulated*).
- iii. To consider quote to move the radiators as part of the work to remove the partition wall (*circulated*).
- iv. To consider quotes to paint and decorate the room (*circulated*).

f. **Victoria Hall Christmas Fair**

To receive a report from Cllr. Tricia Thomas on the event, which took place on Saturday 29 November 2025.

13. Westmorland and Furness Council Updates

a. **CALC Westmorland and Furness Branch Event - Winter Readiness**

To note the 'Is Your Community Winter Ready?' briefing held online, 6.45pm on Wednesday 26 November 2025 and to receive any update from attendees.

b. **Second Call for Sites – Submit Land for Future Development**

To note Westmorland and Furness Council is preparing a new Local Plan. The Second 'Call for Sites' runs from 28 November 2025 to 20 February 2026. Details are on their website: www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control

c. **Draft Planning Design Code**

To note that Westmorland ran a workshop in the morning, and a public consultation in the afternoon, at the Victoria Hall on 27 November. Cllr. Thomas and the Town Clerk attended the workshop. To note any updates.

d. **Grit Bins**

To note that residents can check if grit bins are owned by Westmorland by using the postcode search on the map on their website: www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/salt-bins
If it is, and it's empty, anyone can submit this on the highways online reporting form on their website or call the Highways Hotline on 0300 373 3306.

e. **Expression of Interest in 20 mph speed limit zones**

To note that Westmorland and Furness Council have received and logged the Town Council's expression of interest for Grange to be included in the next 20mph programme.

14. Recreation Ground

Contractors Invitation to Tender

To note that contractors are invited to quote for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground. This is advertised in 'Grange Now', on the website, on noticeboards and social media. Anyone interested please contact the Town Clerk (*circulated*).

15. Park Road Gardens

To consider a proposal from Cllr. Thomas to approve a quote to install two handrails at Park Road Gardens using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reserve funds (*circulated*).

16. Christmas Lights

To note an update from the Town Clerk on the provision by Lite Ltd. that it appears that the wrong street column was tested so there isn't a street column decoration outside the Vic Hall as planned. Lite Ltd have agreed to rectify this by testing the column, and adding another motif, free of charge, for Christmas 2026.

Cllr. Ann Walmsley has agreed to be the contact again for Lite Ltd over Christmas.

17. Training

CALC Website Accessibility

To note that Cllr. Mason, the Hall Manager, Hall Administrator and Town Clerk attended the CALC online training on Website Accessibility on 26 November at 7pm.

18. Staffing

To note the draft minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held Wednesday 19 November 2025 (*circulated*).

19. Next Meeting

To note that the next Full Council Meeting will be held:

Monday 12 January 2026 at the Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands, 7pm