

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, Victoria Hall
Main Street
Grange-over-Sands
Cumbria, LA11 6DP

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

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Victoria Hall
on Monday 9 February 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllr. R. Handley – **Chair**
Cllr. A. Walmsley, Cllr. T. Thomas, Cllr. E. Walmsley, Cllr. J. Mason, Cllr. J. Walmsley
Mrs. C. Benbow – Town Clerk

In attendance: Westmorland and Furness Unitary Councillor T. Bloomer and 4 members of the public.

Minute Ref:		Agenda No:
C25/166	Apologies for Absence	1

Apologies were received from Cllr. W. Tych who was absent due to holiday.

RESOLVED

That apologies from Cllr. W. Tych due to holiday were approved.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

C25/167 Public Participation: Public Have Your Say

2

- Resident 1** Made representation to members regarding green waste collections.
- Council Response** Unitary Cllr. Tim Bloomer indicated that he would comment in his report.
- Resident 2** Made representation to members, speaking as a member of PEAT (Peninsula Environment Action Together), regarding Item 16, requesting support for their proposal to install a water fountain on the Prom, and giving an update on their *Let's Talk Travel and Transport* project.
- There is a display of the project work in the Library. PEAT aims to work with Town and Parish Councils to identify areas that needs specific action such as quiet lanes, ghost footpaths and traffic calming measures. They will be sending a questionnaire to all the local Town and Parish Councils.
- Resident 3** Made representation to members regarding concerns about parking on the pavement, parking enforcement, traffic speed control and asking if Westmorland and Furness Council could mark dropped kerbs and provide highways statistics.
- Spoke to object to Planning Application 2025/1227/FPA on grounds of noise nuisance, lack of parking and restricted highway access.

C25/168 Reports

3

Westmorland and Furness Council Report

Councillor Tim Bloomer reported:

- 1. Westmorland and Furness Council Revenue Funding**
Central Government's *Fairer Funding Formula* has changed the way funding settlements for local councils are calculated. This will mean a significant reduction in revenue funding for the Unitary Council and subsequent financial pressure.
- 2. Waste Collection**
Residents will be charged directly for green bin collections. There will be a £60 annual collection charge. There are no plans to charge residents to use the tip.
- 3. Accessibility on Main Street**
Problems with the kerb, and pavement access, have been brought to the attention of Highways for inclusion in their work plan.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

4. **Victoria Hall** – Unitary Cllr. Helen Chaffey is going to contact the Town Council as portfolio holder for Communities, Customer Services, Culture and Communications. There may be some grants available that Grange Town Council could apply for from the Unitary Council, but Grange owns the Hall and will have to continue to rise to the challenge of looking after it. Cllr. Bloomer committed to help.
5. **Flooding at Cart Lane**
This is a complex situation that the Unitary Council is working with other agencies and bodies to resolve. Residents are creating a Flood Action Group.
6. **Lido**
There was no update on the Lido refurbishment works.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cllr. Roger Handley reported that he attended the *Friends of the Lake District* training on planning for Town Councils on 4 February 2026.

C25/169	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	4
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RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 January 2026 were accepted as a true record.

C25/170	Declarations of Interests and Dispensations	5
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NOTED There were no requests received for dispensations or declarations of interest.

C25/171	Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Item	6
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RESOLVED Those items 14 (a) and (b), Recreation Ground Maintenance and Cleaning Contracts, should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2 as they contained commercially sensitive information.

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. 2025/2336/FPA

Full Application

Yew Tree Playing Fields Yew Tree Road GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7AA

Siting of a metal storage container adjacent to the football pitch to provide secure storage for football equipment.

Extension to comment deadline granted.

RESOLVED

NO OBJECTION

The Town Council has no objection to having a facility to store equipment on the field but requests that the design is more fitting with the surroundings and in keeping with the Conservation Area.

b. 2026/0031/FPA

Full Application

Yewbarrow Lodge Main Street GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6EB

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission SL/2023/0467 (Demolition of existing building and erection of 9 Houses and 9 apartments with associated car parking and landscaping. (Major application))

Extension to comment deadline granted.

RESOLVED

The Town Council could not resolve to either object or support as it is not clear from the plans what any proposed changes are.

c. 2026/0086/HOU

Householder

Cragmere, Lyndene Drive GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6QP

Alterations to dwelling and replacement porch

RESOLVED

NO OBJECTION

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

- d. 2025/1227/FPA
Full Application
Harrisons Lodge Kents Bank Road GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7EY
Change of use from dwelling

RESOLVED OBJECTION

Grange Town Council reiterates the OBJECTION made previously to this proposal.
The objections made are on record.

There is nothing in the revised application that mitigates these concerns.

- The proposal is unneighbourly in the extreme, too close to permanent residences.
- Noise nuisance is a major concern for permanent neighbouring properties.
- The site is an unsuitable location for a multi-occupancy holiday let.
- Parking is inadequate – see the comments from Westmorland and Furness Council Highways.
- Road access would be dangerous - there is no turning circle, so vehicles would have to back in or out onto the main road.

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

- a. 2025/1840/FPA KIRK HEY KIRKHEAD ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7DB Full Application
Approved With Conditions
- b. 2025/2043/FPA LAND OPPOSITE GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LIDO THE PROMENADE GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6DP Full Application Approved With Conditions
- c. 2025/1487/HOU HOLLYBANK EDEN MOUNT ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6BN Householder
Approved With Conditions

C25/173 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.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

b. Verification of Accounts Reconciliation

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

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.

e. Identification of Councillors to approve next finance period payments

RESOLVED

- i) That Cllrs. E. Walmsley and Thomas would verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period.
- ii) That Cllr. Thomas would meet the Finance Administrator by appointment to complete verification.
- iii) That Cllr. E. Walmsley would meet the Town Clerk at 6.15pm prior to the next Full Council meeting to complete verification.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Payments for Approval

February 2026

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

351	Lloyds Bank Plc - Card Jan 2026 - Monthly fee	3.00	
351a	Contrado - Montage wallpaper for Chamber (VHSG donation)	217.08	
351b	Amazon - Projector mount for Chamber (VHSG donation)	45.98	
351c	Amazon - Folding parking post	59.99	
351d	Smart Horizon - Fire Warden training	24.00	350.05
352	Npower - Elec V Hall 01/12-31/12/25		327.30
353	Npower - Elec Church Hill PC 01/12-31/12/25		85.49
354	Npower - Elec Prom PC 01/12-31/12/25		41.35
355	Npower - Elec Xmas Tree lights 01/12-31/12/25 (recoverable)		261.36
356	Corona Energy - Gas V Hall 01/12-01/01/26		1,027.90
357	Sage - Support 01/02-28/02/26		126.00
358	BT - Tel & Broadband 01/02-28/02/26		53.94

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Bank Payments

359	KTD - 6 x Cloud backup and monitoring 01/03-31/03/26	67.20	
360	KTD - Photocopying January 2026	49.80	
360a	KTD - Microsoft Entra ID annual fee 14/02/26-13/02/27	66.24	
360b	KTD - MFA/2FA for 365 support annual fee 14/02/26- 13/02/27	86.40	269.64
362	Robinsons - Repair to strands on Xmas Tree lights (recoverable)		172.80
363	Brayshaw Heating - Repair to gas boiler		171.00
364	S Lycett - Balance Chamber re-decoration (VHSG donation)		3,950.00
365	Lamont Pridmore - Payroll services Oct - Dec 2025		426.00
366	JT Atkinson - Materials for corridor shelves		149.51
367	Screwfix - Contractor cleaning kit, Access lever, Hi Load bracket etc.		221.62
368	Turnstone HR - HR support 01/02-28/02/26		75.00
369	Debbie's Cleaning - V Hall cleaning 01/01-31/01/26		648.00
370	Healthmatic - PC cleaning 01/02-28/02/26		1,715.94
371	The Lawn Man - Recreation Ground maintenance - 01/12-31/01/26		818.00
372	Lengthsman - 01/12-31/12/25	229.65	
373	Lengthsman - 01/01-31/01/26	734.88	964.53
374	Hall Manager expenses - Moulded grating, Xmas wreaths, Shelf & tape		374.10
375	Councillor expenses - Recruitment catering		28.00

Total Bank Account No. 2

12,257.53

Total Accounts

12,257.53

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Page 2

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

Total Salaries	9,402.19
HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 10	3,446.34
LG Pension Scheme Month 10 - Employer payment	3,146.32
	15,994.85
Total Bank Account No. 2	28,252.38
Total all payments for approval	28,252.38

Accounts paid in previous month:

Bank Account No. 1

Direct Debits

Cheques

Bank Account No. 2

Direct Debits

348	Waterplus - V Hall 06/12-05/01/26	168.06
349	Waterplus - Orn Gdhs PC 07/12-06/01/26	90.50
350	Waterplus - Church Hill PC 07/12-06/01/26	76.99

Direct Bank Payments

361	Lampenwelt GmbH - 6 x lights for Chamber (VHSG donation)	1,293.76
364	S Lycett - Deposit Chamber re-decoration (VHSG donation)	1,000.00

Total Accounts paid in previous month **2,629.31**

Grand Total **30,881.69**

Bank Balances

Bank Account No. 1 As at 31/01/26	216,071.74
Bank Account No. 2 As at 31/01/26	240,444.40

Signed (Chairman)

Dated.....

a. **Casual Vacancies**

There are 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

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

b. **Quarterly Financial Report**

Members considered the 9-month quarterly financial report to 31 December 2025.

RESOLVED

That the 9-month quarterly financial report to 31 December 2025, as below, was approved.

c. **Victoria Hall Support Group (VHSG) Donation Report**

Members noted that in the quarter to 31 December 2025 there were no purchases using VHSG donations. The balance remains unchanged from the last quarter at £15,717.33. The next quarter will reflect VHSG donations covering the Chamber refurbishments costs.

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

Members considered putting an article in 'Grange Now' about the budget, cost to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

That an article in 'Grange Now' about the budget, cost to be confirmed, is published.

e. **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

Members noted receipt of £33,228.47 Community Infrastructure Levy funds. These are held in a ring-fenced reserve which now totals £66,508.48.



TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Grange-over-Sands Town Council		Meeting: 9 February 2026			Prepared: Jan 2026	
Budget Monitoring 9 months to 31 Dec 2025		75%				
	Sage	Budget	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
INCOME	Code	for year	to date	to date	£	Spend
		£	£	£		to date
Precept	4000	261,559	196,169	196,169	(0)	75%
Refreshment Sales	4009	-	-	944	944	Incls. Bandstand concerts
Sundry Receipts	4010	-	-	25	25	Refund underpaid postage/Compensation Prom loo damage 2019
Interest Received	4015	-	-	-	0	
Grant Receipts - General	4105	-	-	-	0	
Grant Receipts - WFC Comm Infrastructure Levy	4107	-	-	28,567	28,567	Total CIL grant received
Donations Received	4115	1,200	900	150	(750)	13% Donation from Civic Society for Band concerts
Donations for Assets	4116	-	-	-	0	
Donations - Victoria Hall	4117	-	-	60,342	60,342	£10k VHSG donation & £50k Crane-Wexler donation
Tenanted Room Rent Receipts	4120	6,800	5,100	4,464	(636)	66% Room 6/7 (The Planning Office) no longer tenanted
Allotment Rent Receipts	4121	1,631	1,223	1,607	383	99%
Room Hire Receipts	4125	20,000	15,000	17,024	2,024	85%
Hospitality Recharged	4126	-	-	287	287	
Hall Team Recharged	4127	2,000	1,500	3,436	1,936	172%
Bay Villa Trust Admin Fee	4162	450	338	-	(338)	0% See 4th quarter
Commission Received	4170	-	-	29	29	Ticketsource referral income
Lease Registration Fees	4175	-	-	-	0	Cedric Walk
Toilet Entry Fees	4500	12,000	9,000	9,568	568	80% Entry price 40p
Fund Raising Income	4600	500	375	844	469	169% Christmas Fair
		306,140	229,605	323,455	93,850	106%

	Sage	Budget	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
EXPENDITURE	Code	for year	to date	to date	£	Spend
		£	£	£		to date
Fund Raising Expenditure	6170	200	150	316	166	158% Christmas Fair
Musicians' Fees	6200	1,200	900	400	(500)	33% Bandstand concerts
Band concert Staff Team Costs	6201	580	435	2,562	2,127	442% Chair set up/take down/Serving refreshments/Meetings
Mobile Toilets	6220	750	563	450	(113)	60% For Bandstand concerts
Event Equipment	6550	-	-	1,265	1,265	Ice-cream freezer; 2nd hand freezer; trolley; cooler box; fridge; posters; 2 x banners
Event Refreshments - Purchases	6560	-	-	399	399	
Staff Salaries	7000	117,000	87,750	108,417	20,667	93%
Hall Team Salaries	7000	24,000	18,000	11,462	(6,538)	48% Excludes Band concert Staff Team Costs - see code 6201
Pensions	7001	29,000	21,750	22,566	816	78%
Printing and Stationery	7010	650	488	704	217	108%



TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

EXPENDITURE cont...	Sage Code	Budget for year £	Budget to date £	Actual to date £	Variance £	% Spend to date
Postage	7012	70	53	24	(28)	34%
Water	7015	5,400	4,050	3,380	(670)	63%
Business Rates	7020	10,000	7,500	7,943	443	79%
Telephone/Broadband	7025	650	488	411	(76)	63%
Insurance	7030	6,800	5,100	4,951	(149)	73%
Subscriptions	7040	1,355	1,016	1,036	20	76% Annual CALC, NALC, SLCC subscriptions
Information Technology	7046	9,000	6,750	6,831	81	76% Incls. HP Probook i5 laptop £1,290 & Terra 1517 i5 laptop £875
Website	7047	2,500	1,875	828	(1,047)	33%
Travelling Expenses	7050	100	75	-	(75)	0%
Training Expenses	7052	1,600	1,200	650	(550)	41% First Aid/Fire Warden/Data Protection Compliance toolkit £495
Civic Expenses	7055	300	225	96	(129)	32% Wreaths VE Day & VJ Day
Hospitality	7065	100	75	131	56	131% Refreshments (see also code 4126 Hospitality Recharged)
Bank Charges	7070	240	180	174	(6)	72%
Audit Fees	7075	1,200	900	1,292	392	108% 2 x Internal and external audit fee to 31/03/25
Accountancy Fees	7080	2,800	2,100	2,438	338	87% Accountancy £1,330 Y/e 31/03/25 & 9 months payroll
Gas	7100	7,000	5,250	4,006	(1,244)	57%
Electricity	7105	6,050	4,538	2,932	(1,605)	48%
Christmas Lights	7106	4,800	3,600	8,088	4,488	169% 2025 + 8 x Startorches/9 x stress testing/8 x column conversions
Donation Expenditure - Victoria Hall	7110	-	-	836	836	Thermobox/Ice pack set/Chest Freezer/Chairs/cushions Planning Office
Hall Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals	7119	18,700	14,025	35,705	21,680	191% Incls. hall LED lights £19,195; redecoration hall exterior £4,056; building masonry inspection & repairs £1,050
Repairs and Maint. (Toilets, Rec Ground, Bandstand, Allotments & Public Domain)	7120	14,500	10,875	8,640	(2,235)	60% Incls. 3 x signs for Rec Ground £1,342; 50% contribution to bollard Park Rd Gardens £764; Rec Ground maint.
Professional Fees - Non Financial	7125	3,180	2,385	828	(1,557)	26% Incls. HR support/Premises Licence
Toiletries and Cleaning Materials	7130	9,300	6,975	637	(6,338)	7% See below
Hall Cleaner	7131	-	-	6,174	6,174	New code - Budget incl. in code 7130
Rent Payable	7160	760	570	807	237	106% Rent bandstand & Grange Fell/Yewbarrow allotments
Card Handling Charges (Toilets only)	7190	1,300	975	1,285	310	99% Nayax card readers & service fee
Cleaning	7200	16,455	12,341	12,870	528	78% Toilets
Communications	7255	600	450	901	451	150% Adverts for Finance Administrator/Grounds Contractor
Lengthsman	7455	8,000	6,000	8,724	2,724	109% Excludes December. Incls. Skip hire
Parish Election Costs	7600	-	-	-	0	
		306,140	229,605	271,160	41,555	89%
Net profit (Loss)		-	-	52,295		

Balance Sheet Summary as at 31/12/25

Total Assets Less Total Liabilities

381,851

C25/175

Consultations

10

There were no consultations.

C25/176

Updates from Members

11

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

Cllr. Thomas – **Cumbria Better Connected** – reported that the windows at Grange station are going to be replaced.

There will be significant disruption at Manchester Piccadilly from 14 - 22 February 2026.

C25/177 Victoria Hall

12

a. **Chamber Renovation**

Members noted that decoration is now complete and lights have been purchased. The renovation of the Chamber is being funded by donations from the Victoria Hall Support Group.

Members noted an update, that the lights have now been installed.

Councillors congratulated the Hall Manager and Hall Administrator on their achievement in transforming the room.

b. **The Planning Office (Room 6/7)**

Members noted that an application for Listed Building Consent has been submitted to Westmorland and Furness Council, to remove the partition wall, as resolved in December 2025.

C25/178 Westmorland and Furness Council

13

a. **Community Governance Review**

Members considered any response to the second consultation for the Community Governance Review, noting that Westmorland are proposing to take forward the response the Town Council gave to the first consultation, resolved November 2025 (C25/117) that:

Grange Town Council requests that the wards are removed and that the nine Councillors all work together to represent all residents in an unwarded parish.

RESOLVED

That no further response is required as Westmorland and Furness Council have taken forward the proposal made by the Town Council to the first consultation.

b. **Public Conveniences Fund Launch**

Members noted correspondence received on 30 January from Westmorland and Furness Council, that they are launching a capital investment fund to support the ongoing sustainability of public conveniences.

Members noted that the original closing date for the receipt of applications and supporting documentation was Friday 20 February 2026 with successful applicants notified the w/c 2 March.

Members noted an update from the Town Clerk that Westmorland had revised the timescale:

Following the communications previously sent regarding the Public Convenience Capital Investment Fund, feedback has been considered in terms of the deadline for

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application submissions and the challenges with obtaining quotations within this timeframe. Therefore, in order to support applicants, we are able to extend the deadline until Friday 13th March.

RESOLVED

That an application would be made to the fund if quotes could be obtained in time.

C25/179 Recreation Ground

14

a. **Grounds Maintenance Contract**

To consider responses to the Invitation to Tender for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground and award the contract.

This item was considered in Part Two of the meeting.

b. **Site Cleaning**

To consider quote to deep-clean the surfaces of the skate park, tennis court, and MUGA.

This item was considered in Part Two of the meeting.

c. **Skate Ramps**

Members noted that work is underway to find a contractor to renew the surfaces of the skate ramps.

C25/180 Bailey Lane Level Crossing

15

Members considered response to the Planning Inspectorate's correspondence about the Public Inquiry scheduled for June 2026.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council will not be making any representation to the Inquiry or attending the Inquiry.

The Town Council's objection to the Order was to reiterate that the judgement of the Inspector at the first Public Inquiry, that the crossing should re-open, should be respected and acted on.

It is a waste of public money to hold a second Public Inquiry. A government-appointed Inspector made a clear, legal decision, and this decision should be upheld.

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C25/181 PEAT Water Fountain Project

16

Members considered the proposal from PEAT (Peninsula Environment Action Together) that they apply to Sea Changes for a water fountain to install at the public conveniences on the Prom.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council would support PEAT (Peninsula Environment Action Together) in their application to Sea Changes for a water fountain on the Prom, by granting permission for the fountain to be installed at the public conveniences and funding the water supply.

C25/182 Music in the Park

17

Members noted that the annual application to Westmorland and Furness Council for an Events Licence, for permission to hold the Music in the Park concert season, has been submitted. This cost £35.

Members noted an update from the Town Clerk, that a Street Collections Licence was also required to run these events and that this is being applied for.

C25/183 Training

18

Planning Training

A training session on planning was scheduled at the Victoria Hall, delivered by the *Friends of the Lake District*, in exchange for a donation, on 4 February 2026 at 7pm.

Cllrs. Handley, Thomas, A. Walmsley, and Mason, B. Berry and the Town Clerk took part.

Members noted an update from the attendees, that it was an excellent session, helpful in giving an oversight of the whole planning process, and the current reforms.

RESOLVED

That a donation of £100 is given to the *Friends of the Lake District* in exchange for the Planning Training session, as agreed, held on 4 February 2026 at the Victoria Hall.

C25/184 Staffing

19

Members noted that a new Finance Administrator has been appointed.

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C25/185

Part Two

6

RESOLVED

That the meeting moves to Part Two.

C25/186

Recreation Ground

14

a. **Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Members considered responses to the Invitation to Tender for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED

That the contract for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground was awarded to Paul Johnson Property Developments, for one year from 1 April 2026, with an annual cost of £7,140.

b. **Site Cleaning**

Members considered quotes to deep-clean the surfaces of the skate park, tennis court, and MUGA.

RESOLVED

That the quote from Aqua Clean Cumbria of £6,921.50 to deep-clean the surfaces of the skate park, tennis court and MUGA at the Recreation Ground was approved.

C25/187

Next Meeting

20

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

Monday 9 March 2026, 7.00pm Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Grange-over-Sands Town Council