

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

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

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Victoria Hall on Monday 12 January 2026 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
Mrs. C. Benbow – Town Clerk

In attendance: 2 members of the public.

Minute Ref:		Agenda No:
C25/148	Apologies for Absence	1

Apologies were received from Cllr. Jane Walmsley who was absent due to holiday.

RESOLVED

That apologies from Cllr. Jane Walmsley due to holiday, were approved.

C25/149	Public Participation: Public Have Your Say	2
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There was no representation made by the public.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

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Westmorland and Furness Council Report

Councillor Tim Bloomer sent his apologies and wrote that has contacted Cllr. Thornton about mobility access on Main Street, as requested by Cllr. Thomas, and will be talking to Cllrs. Jonathan Brook, Helen Chaffey, and Andrew Jarvis about funding for the Victoria Hall.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cllr. Roger Handley reported that he attended the Grange and District U3A 25th Anniversary event.

C25/151 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 15 December 2025 were accepted as a true record.

C25/152 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations 5

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

C25/153 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.

C25/154 Planning Report 7

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

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

- a. 2025/1209/FPA NEWLYN, PALMERSTON HOUSE & STAFFORD HOUSE KENTS BANK ROAD LA11 7EY Full Application Approved with Conditions
- b. 2025/1424/LBC GRANGE-OVER-SANDS RAILWAY STATION STATION SQUARE LA11 6EH Listed Building Consent Approved with Conditions
- c. 2025/1456/DISC GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LIDO THE PROMENADE LA11 6DP Approval of Details Reserved by Condition(s) Discharge of Conditions
- d. 2025/1957/OPA LANCASTERS MAIN STREET GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6DP Outline Application Approved with Conditions

C25/155 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.

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.

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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 would meet the Finance Administrator by appointment to complete verification.

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GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Payments for Approval

January 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

	£
	-
	-
	-
	-
312 Lloyds Bank Plc - Card Dec 2025 - Monthly fee	3.00
313 WFC - 10/10 Non Dom Rates V Hall	798.00
314 WFC - 10/10 Non Dom Rates Rooms 1 & 3 / Council office	167.00
315 WFC - 10/10 Non Dom Rates Room 4	94.00
316 Npower - Elec V Hall 01/11-30/11/25	383.65
317 Npower - Elec Church Hill PC 01/11-30/11/25	63.40
318 Npower - Elec Prom PC 01/11-30/11/25	41.45
319 Npower - Elec Xmas Tree lights 01/11-30/11/25 (recoverable)	35.20
320 Corona Energy - Gas V Hall 01/11-01/12/25	1,081.03
321 Sage - Support 01/01-31/01/26	126.00
322 BT - Tel & Broadband 01/01-31/01/26	53.94

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Bank Payments

323 A T Illustration & Design - V Hall branding & logo project	150.00
324 Finance Administrator expenses - Trodat Printy 'Paid' stamp	19.95
325 KTD - 6 x Cloud backup and monitoring 01/01-31/01/26	67.20
326 KTD - 5 x Microsoft 365 licences for laptops - 17/01/26-16/01/27	691.20
327 KTD - 6 x Cloud backup and monitoring 01/02-28/02/26	67.20
328 KTD - Photocopying December 2025	56.57
329 JT Atkinson - Wall plugs & woodscrews	17.28
330 JT Atkinson - Metal jigsaw blade & multipurpose drill bit	17.53
331 Treble3-Website update	24.00
332 Treble3-Web hosting 1 yr to 14/01/27 & Domain name 2 yrs to 14/01/27	264.00
333 UK Office Direct - Stationery & refreshments	240.96
334 WFC - Annual rent Yewbarrow allotments (Sept 2025)	232.00
335 Lancasters - Dustpan/brush, batteries, nails, hooks, brackets, boxes etc.	118.50
336 Turnstone HR - HR support 01/01-31/01/26	75.00
337 LITE - 8 x Star Torch c/w mini lights & install/removal (app'd C25/83(i))	2,880.00
338 LITE - 2025 Festive lighting final instalment 30% (app'd C22/21)	1,710.36
339 Debbie's Cleaning - V Hall cleaning 01/12-31/12/25	756.00
340 Walker Fire - Intruder alarm service	206.42
341 Walker Fire - Fire alarm service	335.08
342 Grange Now - Recreation Ground contractor advert	128.47
343 Shorrock Trichem - Cleaning materials	115.39
344 Healthmatic - PC cleaning 01/01-31/01/26	1,715.94
345 Screwfix - Aluminium work platform & Bahco socket set	92.98
346 Screwfix - Coach screws & M8 washers	13.58
347 A Thould - V Hall external window cleaning	45.00
Total Bank Account No. 2	12,887.28

Total Accounts

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

Total Salaries	9,657.35
HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 9	3,476.17
LG Pension Scheme Month 9 - Employer payment	3,157.67
	16,291.19
Total Bank Account No. 2	29,178.47
Total all payments for approval	29,178.47

Accounts paid in previous month:

Bank Account No. 1

Direct Debits

Cheques

Bank Account No. 2

Direct Debits

309 Waterplus - V Hall 06/11-05/12/25	173.95
310 Waterplus - Orn Gdns PC 07/11-06/12/25	67.39
311 Waterplus - Church Hill PC 07/11-06/12/25	17.88

Direct Bank Payments

Total Accounts paid in previous month	259.22
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Grand Total	29,437.69
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Bank Balances

Bank Account No. 1 As at 31/12/25	215,985.34
Bank Account No. 2 As at 31/12/25	234,661.75

Signed (Chairman)

Dated.....

a. **Casual Vacancies**

There are two casual vacancies on the Town Council. These are advertised by notice, on social media and regularly in 'Grange Now.' 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. **Draft Budget 2026/27**

Members considered the draft budget and report 2026/27, discussing that the resolved budget would need to cover:

i) **Shortfall due to Council Tax Base**

The Council Tax base has decreased by 51 properties, which means the tax load is spread among fewer households.

This means that even if the Precept demand remains the same, residents would still see a 2% increase to cover the reduction in tax-paying households.

This would be an increase of 20p per month for a Band D household.

ii) **Service Provision**

The Town Council subsidises the Victoria Hall and provides services including three blocks of public conveniences and two allotment sites.

The actual cost of providing the public conveniences in 2024-25 was £22,157.

Costs are rising with inflation which is currently at 3.2%.

iii) **Recreation Ground Maintenance**

The non-renewal of the contract to operate the Recreation Ground, due to the Westmorland and Furness Council refurbishment works on the Prom and Lido, means that the Town Council now must pay a contractor to maintain the grounds. The projected cost for this is between £8,000 and £10,000. The deadline for tenders for the work is 31 January.

iv) **Christmas Lights**

The Town Council added more lights to the display along Main Street for Christmas 2025. These have been well-received by the public.

v) **Music in the Park Summer Band Concerts**

The Town Council is responsible for these, and costs have increased as staff are now paid to provide these free events for the public.

vi) **Accessibility Requirements**

There are new website and digital accessibility requirements for the annual external audit. Budget provision is needed for this, including a new, accessible website.

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vii) **Surplus**

The Town Council resolved in December 2025 to consider, in January 2026, a budget with a surplus to allow for increased contract costs.

Other Considerations

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

Following guidance from Westmorland and Furness Council (WAF), it was agreed that CIL should be used for one-off costs to install, improve or maintain infrastructure, not for regular and routine maintenance.

Members noted that the Town Council may use CIL this year for:

- Professional deep-clean of the MUGA, tennis court and skate ramp ground surfaces prior to a routine maintenance contract commencing.
- Re-surfacing of the skate ramps.
- Professional deep-clean of the war memorial and install anti-bird spikes on top.
- Installation of handrails at the Park Road Gardens – resolved December 2025 costing £3,180 ex VAT.

2. **Public Conveniences**

Members discussed that in 2026 the Town Council will need to re-tender for the contract for the cleaning of the public conveniences, from April 2027, and that a significant increase in this contract cost is anticipated.

If the costs of running public conveniences becomes unsustainable, the Town Council has the option to stop running the services and return the assets to the owners (Westmorland and Furness Council). The key is to think what is best overall for Grange and the taxpayers.

RESOLVED

There was a majority vote in favour that the Budget Report and Budget B, as presented, with an agreed surplus of £5,000 to generate a £283,045 precept income, were approved.

c. **Precept 2026/27**

Members considered the precept for 2026/27.

Members noted that the Council Tax demand for the resolved budget would increase a Band D household bill by £11.54 for the year, from £109.35 to £120.89.

This would increase the Town Council's income by £21,486.

A Band D household would pay £10.07 a month to the Town Council, an increase of 96 pence, from £9.11 a month last year.

RESOLVED

That the total amount for Parish Purposes (General Spending) was £283,045 and that Westmorland and Furness Unitary Council were requested to pay Grange-over-Sands Town Council a precept of £283,045.

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C25/157 Consultations 10

There were no consultations.

C25/158 Updates from Members 11

There were no updates from Councillors.

C25/159 Victoria Hall 12

Members considered the reviewed Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Policy.

RESOLVED

That the reviewed Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Policy were approved.

C25/160 Westmorland and Furness Council (WAF) 13

a. Climate Adaptation Workshop

Members noted that WAF scheduled an online session about climate adaptation for 7 January 2026 at 7pm. To note an update from Cllr. Tych, that it was a well-run workshop considering the impact of floods and heatwaves and how individuals and organisations are adapting.

b. Call for Sites 2024 Assessment Outcomes Report

Members noted that WAF have published their Call for Sites 2024 Constraint Assessment Outcomes Report and this is available to view on their website:

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/call-sites/2024-call-sites>

Westmorland and Furness Council are not seeking comments on this report at this stage. There will be opportunities to comment as the Local Plan progresses.

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C25/161 Recreation Ground

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- a. Members noted the tender for the ground's maintenance contract at the Recreation Ground is being advertised in 'Grange Now,' on noticeboards and via social media. The deadline for quotes is 31 January 2026, and the tenders will be considered at the next Town Council meeting.
- b. Members noted that the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), tennis court, and skate ramps ground surface need a deep clean and consider seeking quotes for this work.

RESOLVED

That quotes are sought to deep clean the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), tennis court, and skate ramps ground surface.

C25/162 Christmas Lights

15

Members noted an update from the Town Clerk on the Christmas lights provided under contract by LITE Ltd, that good feedback was received from the public. This year is the final year of the contract with LITE Ltd.

C25/163 Public Conveniences

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Members noted that the Prom loos had been closed. This was because the water supply to the Prom stopped suddenly on 19 December 2025. The Prom Café was also without water.

Westmorland and Furness Council (who own the Prom and manage the water supply) were aware of the problem.

On 7 January, Westmorland and Furness contacted the Town Clerk to inform that the supply was back on.

Westmorland and Furness have instructed a contractor to replace the old water supply pipe that services both the toilets and the Prom Café. The intention is to start works in the next couple of weeks and they will need to close the toilets for a couple of days to connect the supply. They hope that this will be the end to the long-running problems with this water pipe.

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C25/164

Staffing

17

Finance Administrator Recruitment

Members noted that recruitment is underway, and the application deadline is 19 January 2026. All details are on the Town Council website. Shortlisting will take place on 20 January, and interviews held on Monday 26 January.

C25/165

Next Meeting

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Grange-over-Sands Town Council