

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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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 March 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Present:

Cllr. R. Handley – **Chair**

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

Cllr. B. Berry joined the meeting after being voted onto the Council at Item 9 (a)

Mrs. C. Benbow – Town Clerk

In attendance:

Westmorland and Furness Unitary Councillor T. Bloomer and 9 members of the public.

**Minute
Ref:**

Agenda No:

C25/188 Apologies for Absence

1

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mason who was absent due to work commitments.

RESOLVED

That apologies from Cllr. Mason due to work commitments were approved.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

C25/189 Public Participation: Public Have Your Say

2

Resident 1 Made representation to members regarding concerns about how United Utilities managed recent water supply discolouration, about graffiti on the Prom and hoping that Planning Application 2025/1227/FPA (on the previous Town Council agenda) would be heard by the Westmorland and Furness Council Planning Committee.

Council Response The Chairman responded that the graffiti perpetrator was identified using CCTV and the police are dealing with the situation.

C25/190 Reports

3

Westmorland and Furness Council Report

Councillor Tim Bloomer reported:

a. **Lido Refurbishment**

Cllr. Bloomer received a briefing from the Westmorland and Furness Council (WAF) Head of Assets about the Lido and reported:

Last summer, WAF and contractors RH Irving agreed that an independent assessor be appointed to avoid legal arbitration. This assessor has now reported back to both parties and confirmed that there are around ninety areas of issue regarding the fulfilment of the contract.

The assessor has confirmed it is the contractors who were at fault. The contractor will now resolve these issues, at their expense, and resolution will be monitored by the independent assessor. WAF has outstanding payments on the work and is confident that the independent assessor is highly regarded and will serve the people of Grange.

WAF expect the project to be completed by end of this summer and the site leased to a tenant at the end of the year.

b. **Prom Gardeners**

Cllr. Bloomer had a useful meeting with the Prom Gardeners and WAF Officers. The partnership is working well. Although there are no existing plans for the shelters, the WAF Officers were made aware of the problems with them and Cllr. Bloomer is optimistic that improvements can be made.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cllr. Roger Handley attended the meeting with the Prom Gardeners and Cllr. Bloomer. At the meeting, they noticed that trees on the boundary of the railway had been cut and the foliage dumped on the Town Council's Recreation Ground.

The police have been involved, and are investigating, as this is criminal damage and fly tipping.

C25/191 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 February 2026 were accepted as a true record.

C25/192 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations 5

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

C25/193 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Item 6

RESOLVED That item 12 (a) Victoria Hall Roof Repairs should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2 as the matter includes quotes which are commercially sensitive information.

C25/194 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:

- a. 2026/0156/FPA WESTWINDS ALLITHWAITE ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7EP Change of use from domestic curtilage (use class C3) for the siting of single storey modular building for use as chapel of rest (use class E) associated with funeral directors' business and associated works.

**RESOLVED
NO OBJECTION**

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

- b. 2026/0328/FPA LINGWOOD PARK CARTMEL ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7QA
Demolition of the existing storage building and construction of seven new storage units (Use Class B8 – Storage and Distribution).

Full Application

RESOLVED

NO OBJECTION

- c. 2026/0038/FPA Brown Robin Lindale Road GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6EU
Proposed new access driveway (Resubmission of SL/2022/0586)

Full Application

RESOLVED

NO OBJECTION

- d. 2026/0039/LBC
Brown Robin Lindale Road GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6EU
Listed Building Consent for a proposed new access driveway (Resubmission of SL/2022/0587)

Listed Building Consent

RESOLVED

NO OBJECTION

- e. 2026/0288/FPA Flat 3 Ravenscourt Lindale Road GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 6EL
Proposed ground floor double garage with first floor connected tiled terrace deck with internal and external access (Resubmission of SL/2021/0169)

Full Application

RESOLVED

NO OBJECTION

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

- a. 2025/2337/DISC COOPERATIVE SUPERMARKET KENTS BANK ROAD GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7EY
Approval of Details Reserved by Condition(s) Discharge Of Conditions.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

C25/195 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.

e. Identification of Councillors to approve next finance period payments

RESOLVED That Cllrs. Tych and Thomas would verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period, meeting the Finance Administrator by appointment to complete verification.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Payments for Approval

March 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

378	Lloyds Bank Plc - Card Feb 2026 - Monthly fee	3.00	
378a	Amazon - Floor Cable Cover (VHSG Donation)	40.62	
378b	Shenz - Cable Management under desk (VHSG Donation)	14.23	
378c	Hangz - Adapter Extender Gold (VHSG Donation)	4.74	
378d	Shenz - Tower extension Lead (VHSG Donation)	55.90	
378e	Amazon- Angle Adapter Coupler (VHSG Donation)	13.99	
378f	Amazon - Desk Cable Grommet, Hole Cover (VHSG Donation)	22.96	
378g	Izilla Limited - Bluetooth Soundbar (VHSG Donation)	69.95	
378h	Friends of the Lake District - Donations (App'd C25 /183)	100.00	
378i	BPF - Hall Chair Clips	49.82	
378j	Ebay - Chair linking Clips x 10	16.59	
378k	Smart Horizons - Health and Safety Training x2	72.00	463.80
379	Npower - Elec V Hall 01/01-31/01/26		253.56
380	Npower - Elec Church Hill PC 01/01-31/01/26		92.15
381	Npower - Elec Prom PC 01/01-31/01/26		40.41
382	Npower - Elec Xmas Tree lights 01/01-31/01/26 (recoverable)		63.43
383	Corona Energy - Gas V Hall 01/01-01/02/26		1,356.91
384	Sage - Support 01/03-31/03/26		126.00
385	BT - Tel & Broadband 01/03-31/03/26		53.94

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Bank Payments

386	Sinkfall Recycling - Skip for lengthsman		384.00
387	JT Atkinson - Sand and Cement Mortar		24.58
388	Butler Procter Ltd - Building insurance Valuation		1,140.00
389	Grange Now - Full Page Advert Budget Article		414.25
390	Treble 3 - New Website		1,554.00
391	Shorrock Trichem - Fold hand Towel & Soap		123.23
392	KTD - 6 x Cloud backup and monitoring 01/04 -30/04/26	67.20	
393	KTD - Photocopying February 2026	47.35	114.55
394	Lengthsman - Prom toilet door repair		65.00
395	WFC - Non Dom Rates V Hall Room 6&7		547.05
396	J Davenport - Clean int. office, ground floor ext. windows & bus shelter		36.00
397	Dobsons - Jet Wash		120.00
398	PPL PRS Ltd - Performing Rights to 05/01/26 (recoverable)		224.57
399	Lancasters - Lights, Mop, Brackets, Hooks, Screwdriver		68.25
400	Turnstone HR - HR support 01/03-31/03/26		75.00
401	Debbie's Cleaning - V Hall cleaning 01/02-28/02/26		567.00
402	Healthmatic - PC cleaning 01/03-31/03/26		1,715.94
403	The Lawn Man - Recreation Ground maintenance - 01/02-28/02/26		409.00
404	Lengthsman - 01/02-28/02/26		566.47
405	Waterplus - Wastewater room 6&7 01/04/26 - 31/03/27		263.55
406	CALC - Equality & Diversity Training 02/03 TT		40.00
407	Hall Manager Expenses - Refreshments, posters, Bar Stool (VHSG)		106.03
408	Screwfix - Weatherstrip, Portable vice, screws		88.14
	Total Bank Account No. 2		11,096.81

Total Accounts

11,096.81

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

Total Salaries	11,677.11
HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 11	3,429.66
LG Pension Scheme Month 11 - Employer payment	3,282.18
	18,388.95
Total Bank Account No. 2	29,485.76
Total all payments for approval	29,485.76

Accounts paid in previous month:

Bank Account No. 1

Direct Debits

Cheques

Bank Account No. 2

Direct Debits

375	Waterplus - V Hall 06/01-05/02/26	118.54
376	Waterplus - Orn Gdns PC 07/01-06/02/26	67.99
377	Waterplus - Church Hill PC 07/01-06/02/26	90.50

Direct Bank Payments

Total Accounts paid in previous month	277.03
Grand Total	29,762.79

Bank Balances

Bank Account No. 1 As at 28/02/26	216,887.05
Bank Account No. 2 As at 28/02/26	216,974.04

Signed (Chairman) Dated.....

a. **Casual Vacancies**

Members noted that there were two casual vacancies on the Town Council and that an Expression of Interest in Co-option had been received. Members voted to co-opt.

RESOLVED

That Barbara Berry was co-opted by unanimous vote onto Grange Town Council, North Ward.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed and Cllr. Berry joined the meeting.

b. **Year End Accounts**

Members noted that Hall hire invoice number 2396, for £85.00 plus VAT, dated 30 April 2025, was not settled. A Civil Money Claim issued by the court was not responded to by the hirer. This cost the Town Council £35.00. Members considered approving writing off the debt, as required by the Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED

That writing off the unsettled debt for Hall Hire invoice number 2396, for £85.00 plus VAT dated 30 April 2025, was approved, as required by the Financial Regulations.

c. **Budget Publicity**

Members noted that an article was published in 'Grange Now,' costing £345.20 plus VAT.

d. **Annual Authorisation of Payments**

Members considered 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.

RESOLVED

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

e. **KTD Annual IT Service Schedule Renewal**

Members considered the annual service, maintenance, and security licensing renewal schedule for renewal on 30 March 2026.

RESOLVED

That the annual service, maintenance, and security licensing renewal schedule from KTD Ltd, for renewal on 30 March 2026, was approved.

f. **AGAR Accessibility Compliance 2026**

Members noted that the new Town Council website is now operational, to ensure compliance for audit, as resolved in October 2025.

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C25/197

Consultations

10

There were no consultations.

C25/198

Updates from Members

11

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

Cllrs. Handley and Thomas – Councillor Surgery – held with Unitary Cllr. Bloomer on Saturday 21 February 2026 at the Victoria Hall.

Two residents attended, representing Kents Bank Station and Foreshore Group, concerned that the Group may have to pay for green waste removal. Cllr. Bloomer is investigating.

C25/199

Victoria Hall

12

a. Roof Repairs

These are needed after leaks during heavy rain last year. The drainage from the flat roof is inadequate; this overwhelms the flashing where the roof joins the wall and missing mortar lets water into the building. There are also broken and missing tiles over the chair store. To consider quote for roof repairs.

This item was considered in Part 2 of the meeting.

b. Working Party

A Victoria Hall Working Party was held on Thursday 5 March at 4pm. Cllrs. Handley, Thomas, A. Walmsley, Tych and the Hall Manager, Hall Administrator and Town Clerk took part.

Members noted an update from participants, that the refurbishment of the Chamber was discussed, including chairs and carpets.

C25/200

Westmorland and Furness Council

13

a. Tree Preservation Order No. 10, 2025

Members noted correspondence from Westmorland and Furness Council Assistant Director of Inclusive and Green Growth, that the Tree Preservation Order at Shoreside Development, adjacent to Kents Bank Road, has now been made.

Grange Town Council objected to this Order, supporting the concerns of the residents.

b. Prom Gardeners Meeting

Members noted that a meeting took place with the Prom Gardeners, the Westmorland and Furness Council Delivery and Commercial Officer, and Community Development

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Officer, and Grange Town Council Chairman and Hall Manager and a representative from ID Verde maintenance contractors on 24 February at 10.30am on the Prom.

The Chairman reported that it was a useful meeting, discussing the ID Verde contract, how everyone works together and where compost bins could be located.

C25/201 Cumbria Combined Authority

14

Members noted an online briefing for CALC members was held on 25 February, 7pm, to update on progress in the creation of the authority.

Members noted an update from the Chairman:

The Cumbria Combined Authority has now been legally formed. The Interim Chief Executive is John Barradell OBE, who has experience in both the private sector and local government. There was no indication whether he would stand for Mayor in May 2027.

The rest of the team so far are Mark Fryer, Leader of Cumberland Unitary Council and Jonathan Brooke, Leader of Westmorland and Furness Unitary Council and both their deputies. Emily Woolfe is Communications expert.

Major questions concerned finance. The initial set up is funded by Whitehall. Running costs may be better than expected as four of the new team are already drawing salaries from their own Councils and the post of Police and Crime Commissioner will be subsumed into the new authority.

The Cumbrian Combined Authority Mayor will have precepting powers, but any tax demand will need to be approved by the rest of the board.

C25/202 Recreation Ground

15

a. Maintenance Contract

Members noted that the contract with Paul Johnson Property Developments, to maintain the Recreation Ground from 1 April 2026, has been issued and agreed.

b. Skate Ramps

Members noted an update on the renewal of the skate ramp surfaces, that a quote has been received. Members noted that the matter was raised in the annual safety inspection.

RESOLVED

That, as the matter was raised in the annual safety inspection, the Town Clerk was authorised under delegated powers to commission the work to re-surface the skate ramps and report to the next meeting.

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c. Deep Clean

Members noted an update on the contract to deep clean site surfaces as resolved at the previous meeting, that the work is scheduled for as soon as the weather permits.

C25/203 PEAT (Peninsula Environment Action Together)

16

Members considered a response to PEAT 'Future of Transport and Travel' questionnaire.

PEAT are working with Alistair Kirkbride, a specialist in rural sustainable travel and transport, to create a report. This will help identify priorities in the area and strengthen the case for future funding opportunities, to make the area more supportive of active travel.

PEAT are requesting that local councils fill in the questionnaire to identify where improvements can be made.

RESOLVED

That a Working Party to complete the questionnaire would be held Wednesday 18 March, 7pm, in the Chamber.

C25/204 Music in the Park

17

Members noted that a street collection licence has been applied for, as requested by Westmorland and Furness Council, so that the performers can collect donations for their organisations, at the events.

Members noted an update from the Town Clerk, that a permit allowing performers to hold street collections on the dates and in the location specified, has been granted.

Members noted a further update that the Events Licence to hold the events at Park Road Gardens has also been granted.

The meeting was adjourned to ask Unitary Cllr. Tim Bloomer if WAF still intended to paint the bandstand.

C25/205 Public Conveniences

18

Members considered a draft application for £11,675 to Westmorland and Furness Council Public Conveniences Capital Investment Fund for works to improve the facilities.

RESOLVED

That the application for £11,675 to Westmorland and Furness Public Conveniences Capital Investment Fund for works to improve the facilities was approved for submission.

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C25/206 Training 19

CALC Equality and Diversity Training

This took place on 2 March at 7pm costing £40 per participant. Cllr. Thomas took part, reporting that the training was useful and councils are encouraged to complete a skills audit.

C25/207 Staffing 20

Finance Administrator

Members noted that the new Finance Administrator started on 2 March 2026 and considered the revised salaries sheet to include the appointment.

RESOLVED

That the revised salaries sheet to include the appointment was approved.

C25/208 Part 2 6

RESOLVED That the meeting move to Part 2, and the press and public were asked to leave.

C25/209 Victoria Hall 12

a. Roof Repairs

See Item 12 (a) Members considered quote for roof repairs.

RESOLVED

That the quote of £1,820 from Cumbria Roofing Ulverston was accepted to complete roof and gutter repairs.

C25/210 Next Meeting 21

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

Monday 13 April 2026 at the Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands, after the Annual Town Meeting which starts at 7pm.

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

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Grange-over-Sands Town Council