

# 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

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 8 January 2024 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 8 JANUARY 2024**

### **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 11 December 2023 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.

## 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 verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period.
- e. To identify and approve two councillors to complete the online authorisation of the payments for the next payment period.

## 9. Finance and Governance

### a. Casual Vacancy

There is a casual vacancy 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](http://www.grangeoversandstowncouncil.gov.uk)

### b. Council Tax Base

To note that this is the number of dwellings liable for Council Tax, expressed as an equivalent number of band D dwellings for the Town. Westmorland and Furness Unitary Council (WFC) calculate the number. Any decrease or increase in properties will affect Council Tax bills. Previous draft 2024/25 budgets considered by the Town Council were calculated on the assumption that the Council Tax Base would remain at 2,171.08.

**At the time of agenda publication, WFC had not confirmed the Council Tax Base for 2024/25.** The draft Budget will be amended and circulated when this information becomes available.

c. **Street Lighting Charge**

To note that the Street Lighting Charge for 2023/24 was £18,811.17.

This is the money that shows on residents' bills as part of the GTC Council Tax demand.

However, it does not come to the Town Council. The Unitary Council retain it.

The calculations to show how the WFC Lighting Charge affects Council Tax bills for Grange residents cannot be done until the Precept demand is agreed and formally resolved.

**At the time of agenda publication, WFC had not confirmed the charge for 2024/25.**

d. **Council Tax Grant**

To note that the Council Tax Grant is given by WFC to supplement the Precept. The Council Tax Grant for 2024/25 will be £7,849.93.

WFC have advised that 2024/25 is the final year of the Council Tax Support Grant.

e. **Reserves Adjustment**

To note that in August this year, Council resolved (C23/76) to put the £8,000 donation from the Victoria Hall Support Group in an earmarked reserve.

To consider adjusting this reserve to pay for the repairs to the Victoria Hall roof, cost £5,759, leaving an earmarked reserve of £2,241.

f. **Draft Budget and Precept 2024/25**

To consider the draft Budget and resolve Precept 2024/25 (*circulated*).

g. **Annual Leave Policy and Procedure**

To approve the updated Annual Leave Policy and Procedure, as recommended by the Staffing Committee at their meeting on Wednesday 6 December 2023 (*circulated*).

## 10. Consultations

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

## 11. Updates from Members

To receive any Councillor updates on works in progress and meetings and events attended.

## 12. Victoria Hall

To receive any updates about the Victoria Hall.

## 13. Westmorland and Furness Council Updates

### Ornamental Gardens

To note that since meeting WFC in October, it has been reported to the Town Council that the condition of the paving slabs at the feeding area has deteriorated. This has been reported to WFC and they have been asked for the timescale for repairs.

#### **14. Westmorland and Furness Council Speed Limit Policy**

To note correspondence from WFC received via CALC on 4 December 2023 (4 documents circulated).

#### **15. Tim Farron MP correspondence received 8 December 2023.**

To consider correspondence received 8 December 2023 regarding WFC Speed Limit Policy (circulated)

#### **16. Westmorland and Furness Council and CALC 'Building Safe and Strong Communities'**

To note correspondence from WF Councillor Virginia Taylor, Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities and Localities; and Councillor Mary Bradley Chair of Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) received via CALC on 20 December 2023.

This correspondence is about the document WFC and CALC have jointly produced: *'Building Safe and Strong Communities - Principles of collaboration between town and parish councils, Cumbria Association of Local Councils and Westmorland and Furness Council'*.

#### **17. Christmas Lights**

To note any update on the Christmas lights provided under contract by LITE Ltd.

#### **18. Climate Change & Biodiversity Loss**

To note that CALC (Cumbrian Association of Local Councils) and CAfS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability) will be hosting a FREE on-line forum in relation to Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss, and how Town and Parish Councils can take action.

This will be held on Thursday 25 January 2024 at 7pm via Teams.

This is part of the Copeland Climate Champions project CALC & CAfS are currently delivering. Cllrs. Greenway and Mason have registered to attend.

#### **19. Next Meeting**

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

**Monday 12 February 2024 at the Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands, 7pm**