

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Chairman/Mayor:

Cllr. Tricia Thomas

Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor:

Cllr. Ann Walmsley

Town Clerk:

Mrs. C. Benbow



Council Offices
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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 January 2023 commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Present:

Cllr. T. Thomas – **Chair**

Cllr. A. Walmsley, Cllr. R. Handley, Cllr. E. Walmsley, Cllr. Bailey,
Cllr. J Greenway.

Mrs. C. Benbow – Town Clerk

In attendance:

5 members of the public.

**Minute
Ref:**

Agenda No:

C22/140 Apologies for Absence

1

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Logan and Mason who were absent due to other commitments.

RESOLVED

That apologies from Cllrs. Logan and Mason who were absent due to other commitments were approved.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

C22/141 Public Participation: Public Have Your Say

2

- Resident 1** Made representation to the meeting regarding Item 7, Planning, asking what 'Discharge of Conditions' means in a planning application.
- Resident 2** Made representation to the meeting about road safety at Crown Hill roundabout, asking that the Town Council request Westmorland and Furness Unitary Councillors to review traffic safety measures in Grange.
- Council Response** The Chairman asked Shadow Westmorland and Furness Councillor Peter Endors to respond. He asked the resident to email details to him.

C22/142 Reports

3

District Council Report

District Councillors Fiona Hanlon and Robin Ashcroft sent apologies.

District and Shadow Unitary Councillor Peter Endors reported that:

1. **Councillor Surgery** – attended with Cllr. Tricia Thomas. Various matters were raised including concerns from Prom Art about the Prom refurbishment, residents concerned about trees being felled in Kents Bank and trees fallen after Storm Arwen still needing to be moved. Tim Farron MP would like to attend the next Surgery.

2. **Grange Ambulance Service** – the move to the Fire Station is progressing, hopefully to take place in August.

Cllr. Bailey asked about the Council Tax Grants being withdrawn. Cllr. Endors asked the Clerk to email details to him.

Cllr. Thomas asked about the bill for street lighting – this year it will increase the Precept by 8%. This is charged to residents, and the Town Council gets no detail on what this money is spent on. The charge has increased by 62% since last year.

The Chairman requested that the Precept bill to residents is amended so that this charge is not shown as being demanded from the Town Council. It has always been included in the % increase to the Town Council, although the money does not come to the Town Council.

The Town Council requests that the % charge for the street lighting is listed separately to the % demand from the Town Council on residents' bills.

The current way that the bills are issued makes it appear that the Town Council is asking for (and getting) more money than it is actually asking for (or getting).

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Cllr. Endsor asked the Clerk to email details to him.

County Council Report

County Councillor Bill Wearing reported that:

1. **Storm Arwen** – responding to Cllr. Endsor, confirmed that the land where the fallen trees are is not owned by the County or District.
2. **Have Your Say** - responding to resident's concerns about traffic safety at Crown Hill roundabout, will report the problems to the new WFC staff.
3. **Windermere Road Flood Scheme** – works started today.
4. **Meathop Road and Golf Club** – this has recently flooded, and the County Council have been involved in helping.
5. **County Council Health Advice** – circulated information about flu and covid, both more prevalent this year because people have not been mixing.
6. **Cost of Living** - funding for schools approved, £2m allocated for children's meals.

Cllr. A. Walmsley raised problem of potholes in Fernleigh Road, Cllr. Wearing will report this.

County Councillor Bill Wearing left the meeting.

Shadow Unitary Council Report

Shadow Unitary Councillor Jenny Boak sent apologies.

Shadow Unitary Councillor Peter Endsor reported that everything is on target for the new Authority.

Staffing, Councillor training, the new Council Plan and financial matters are all in place ready for taking over on 1 April 2023.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cllr. Tricia Thomas reported that the Town Council had received a card from HM King Charles thanking the Town Council for their condolences and for opening and archiving a Book of Condolence for his mother, HM Queen Elizabeth, who died in September 2022.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

C22/143 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** **4**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 December 2022 were accepted as a true record.

C22/144 **Declarations of Interests and Dispensations** **5**

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

C22/145 **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Item** **6**

RESOLVED That no items were considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2.

District and Shadow Unitary Councillor Peter Endsor left the meeting.

C22/146 **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. SL/2022/1130, Monton, 10 Cart Lane
Variation of condition 1(i) (Replacement of the obscure glass in the window to the side (northern) elevation of dormer with plain glass – Window A) attached to allowed appeal A reference APP/MO933/C22/3293807
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED
OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to this application on grounds of overlooking. The condition of having obscured glass was put in place to protect the privacy of the neighbours. The condition should remain in place for this original reason.

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- b. SL/2022/1131 Monton 10 Cart Lane
Variation of condition 1(i) (Replacement of the obscure glass in the small window to the side (northern) elevation of the dormer (within the enlarged centre section of the structure) with plain glass – Window B) attached to allowed appeal A reference APP/MO933/C22/3293807
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED
OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to this application on grounds of overlooking. The condition of having obscured glass was put in place to protect the privacy of the neighbours. The condition should remain in place for this original reason.

- c. SL/2022/1132 Monton 10 Cart Lane
Variation of condition 1(i) (Replacement of two panes of obscure glass on the front (east facing) elevation within the recessed section of the main structure with plain glass – Window C) attached to allowed appeal A reference APP/MO933/C22/3293807
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED
OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to this application on grounds of overlooking. The condition of having obscured glass was put in place to protect the privacy of the neighbours. The condition should remain in place for this original reason.

- d. SL/2022/1104, Staingarth, Cardrona Road
Construction of a new side garage extension replacing an existing side garage structure, new front porch with glazed façade, alteration of the existing windows and replacement with new aluminium units, construction of new patio hardstanding to the rear & re-rendering of the property in an off-white silicone render
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED
NO OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council does not object to this application but raises concerns about the drainage for the proposal, which shows rainwater run-off from the new hardstanding going into a combined drain. The Town Council requests that a separate soakaway is installed to take surface water run-off from the patio paving into the soakaway rather than into the shared drain.

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- e. SL/2022/1105 Grange Lido The Promenade
Discharge of condition 9 (Architectural Salvage) attached to listed building consent SL/2019/0804
DISCHARGE CONDITIONS

RESOLVED
NO OBJECTION

The Town Council notes that one of the categories of salvage listed for retention and storage includes SLDC signage.

The Town Council requests that the salvage list specifically itemises the Lido Gallery pictures as items to be saved. The Town Council has been assured that the Lido Gallery will be salvaged and would like this to be specified as it is part of the heritage of the site, and it is planned that the pictures are re-used elsewhere.

- f. SL/2022/1157 Rostherne, Charney Road
Demolition of existing porch, construction of new front & side single storey pitched roof extension creating enlarged kitchen & new sunroom, relocation of existing front entrance door
FULL PLANNING

RESOLVED
NO OBJECTION

- g. SL/2022/1182 Palmerston House and Newlyn Kents Bank Road
Full replacement of slated tiled roof with reclaimed slate to match existing
FULL PLANNING

This application was not considered as there was no information on the SLDC planning website.

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

- a. SL/2022/0991 46 Kentsford Road Full Planning Grant with Conditions
- b. SL/2022/0958 Guides Farm Cart Lane Variation of conditions Full Planning – Grant
- c. SL/2022/0949 Ambulance Station, Kents Bank Road Full Planning - Grant with Conditions
- d. SL/2022/0959 Guides Farm, Cart Lane Variation of conditions 3 Listed Building – Grant
- e. SL/2022/0930 Skali, 11 Cat Tree Road Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed) – Grant
- f. SL/2021/0802 Rear of Derlyn Full Planning - Grant with Conditions
- g. SL/2022/0996 Lakeland Optical, Main Street Full Planning Grant with Conditions
- h. SL/2022/1041 2 Blackthorn Gardens Full Planning Grant with Conditions
- i. SL/2022/0897 Guides Farm Cart Lane Listed Building - Grant with Conditions

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

a. Verification of Expenditure

NOTED

That prior to the meeting one Councillor verified invoices received and payments made since the last full council meeting prior to the council meeting and could verify their authenticity.

Members noted that Cllr. J. Mason had been unable to verify so only Cllr. T. Thomas verified this month.

b. Verification of Accounts Reconciliation

NOTED

That prior to the meeting one Councillor verified that the monthly bank reconciliation had taken place.

Members noted that Cllr. J. Mason had been unable to verify so only Cllr. T. Thomas verified this month.

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 approve next finance period payments

RESOLVED

That Cllrs. Bailey and Handley would verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period.

e. Identification of Councillors to complete online authorisation of payments

RESOLVED

That Cllrs. Greenway and A. Walmsley would complete online authorisation of payments for the next payment period.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

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Payments for Approval

January 2023

Accounts for Payment

£

Bank Account No. 1 - Direct Debit

266 Public Works Loan Board - Prom PC's half year repayment		3,067.71
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Bank Account No. 1 - Cheque

Total Bank Account No. 1

£ 3,067.71

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Debits

267 Lloyds Bank Plc - Card Dec 2022 - Monthly fee	3.00	
267a Hexeal Chemicals - Cleaning solution	16.99	
267b Amazon - Marigold gloves	7.49	
267c Emergency Aid - First aid kit supplies	4.00	
267d Safelincs - First aid kit supplies	17.70	
267e Shopex - First aid kit supplies	12.48	
267f HDP Medical - First aid kit supplies	2.09	
267g Hangzhou - First aid kit supplies	21.24	
267h Amazon - First aid kit supplies	6.74	
267i Gardener's Dream - Rock salt	46.76	
267j Pasha - Rubber gloves	7.98	
267k Shenzhenshi - Decorative drawing pins	10.98	
267l Specialist Lighting - 4 x Stage light bulbs	55.15	
267m Stage Depot - 2 x Stage light bulbs	67.80	280.40
268 SLDC - 10/10 Non Dom Rates V Hall		574.00
269 SLDC - 10/10 Non Dom Rates Rooms 1 & 3 / Council office		155.00
270 SLDC - 10/10 Non Dom Rates Room 4		87.00
271 Npower - Elec Church Hill PC 01/11-30/11/22		62.65
272 Npower - Elec Prom PC 01/11-30/11/22		33.61
273 Npower - Elec Xmas Tree lights 01/11-30/11/22 (Recoverable)		10.05
274 Corona Energy - Gas V Hall 01/11-01/12/22		2,204.75
275 Sage - Support 01/01-31/01/23		92.40
276 Waterplus - V Hall 28/11-28/12/22		150.45

Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Bank Payments

280 Sinkfall Recycling - Skip for lengthsman (Nov)	200.00	
281 Sinkfall Recycling - Skip for lengthsman (Dec)	200.00	400.00
282 Lancasters - Sticky pads, grit & keys		19.65
283 SLDC - Electricity recharge Ornamental Gdns PC 05/09/22-02/12/22		66.84
284 KTD - 2 x laptops MS 365 annual fee 17/01/23-16/01/24	379.20	
285 KTD - Photocopying 30/09-30/12/22	28.51	407.71
286 Westmorland Fire - Fire alarm call out, 5 new batteries & repair		843.60
287 WB Electrical - Supply & fit replacement water heater to ladies d/room		235.90
288 Healthmatic - PC cleaning 01/01-31/01/23		1,500.00
289 LITE - 2022 Festive lighting final instalment (approved C22/21)		1,710.36

Total Bank Account No. 2

£ 8,834.37

Total Accounts

£11,902.08

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Page 2

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

Total Salaries	£ 6,981.41
HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 9	2,040.88
LG Pension Scheme Month 9 - Employer payment	2,236.19
	£ 11,258.48
Total Bank Account No. 2	£ 20,092.85
Total all payments for approval	£ 23,160.56

Accounts paid in previous month

Bank Account No. 1

Direct Debits

Cheques

Bank Account No. 2

Direct Debits

277 Plusnet - Tel & Broadband - Rental to 08/01/23 Calls to 07/12/22	39.60
278 Waterplus - Church Hill PC 07/11-07/12/22	25.53
279 Waterplus - Orn Gdns PC 07/11-07/12/22	19.76

Direct Bank Payments

Total Accounts paid in previous month **£ 84.89**

Grand Total **£ 23,245.45**

Bank Balances

Bank Account No. 1 As at 31/12/22	
Bank Account No. 2 As at 31/12/22	134,128.48

Transfer to Petty Cash account to replenish float

-

Signed (Chairman)

Dated.....

a. **Council Tax Base**

Members noted:

This is the number of dwellings liable for Council Tax, expressed as an equivalent number of band D dwellings for the Town.

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) calculate the number.

Previous draft 2023/24 budgets considered by the Town Council (GTC) were calculated on the assumption that the Council Tax Base would remain at 2,170.88.

The decrease or increase in properties will affect Council Tax bills.

At the time of agenda publication, SLDC had not confirmed the Council Tax Base for 2023/24.

Members noted subsequent correspondence from SLDC.

The Chairman updated the meeting that SLDC have confirmed that the Council Tax base for 2023/24 is 2,171.08, an increase of 0.2 properties.

b. **Street Lighting Charge**

Members noted:

At the time of agenda publication, SLDC had not confirmed the Street Lighting Charge for 2023/24.

The District Street Lighting Charge for 2022/23 was £11,606.47.

This is the money that shows on residents' bills as part of the GTC Precept demand. However, it does not come to the Town Council. The District Council retain it.

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

The Chairman updated the meeting that the Street Lighting Charge 2023/24 will be £18,811.87. This is a 62% increase on last year.

SLDC correspondence advises parish and town councils to assume there will be no Council Tax Grant.

The effect of not getting the Council Tax Grant is that residents will bear the entire cost of the street lighting charge.

In previous years, SLDC calculations meant that the grant offset the street lighting charge, so that residents only paid the difference, not the whole amount.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

This will mean that the entire charge - £18,811.87 – will be levied on top of the demand from Grange Town Council.

This year a Band D household in Grange will pay £8.66 (72 pence per month) to SLDC.

This is calculated by dividing the street light charge of £18,811.87 by the Council Tax base of 2171.08.

This will increase residents' bills. Any increase from Grange Town Council will be in addition to this.

Residents' bills show any changes as a percentage figure.

The Street Lighting charge is shown in the Grange Town Council section of Council Tax bills although the money does not come to the Town Council.

c. **Council Tax Grant**

Members noted:

The Council Tax Grant is given by SLDC to supplement the Precept. The Council Tax Grant for 2022/23 was £8,238.80.

At the time of agenda publication, SLDC had not confirmed the Council Tax Grant for 2023/24.

The Chairman updated the meeting that SLDC have told parishes to assume there will be no Council Tax Grant.

d. **Budget 2023-24**

Members considered the revised draft Budget 2023-24 and Summary and Key Features.

It was discussed that the budget needed to cover rising utility, running and maintenance costs for the three blocks of public conveniences and Victoria Hall.

The Hall roof is leaking badly in two places now, into Rooms 9 and 4 and at the back of the dressing rooms. The building is at risk if Grange Town Council does not maintain it.

Upgrades to the fire alarm system are required by the annual inspection. It is anticipated that the fire risk assessor booked for January 26 will advise further changes and improvements to ensure safety.

The cost of utilities has gone up demonstrably – the most recent gas bill for the Victoria Hall, on the payments list for this meeting is £2,204.75 for November 2022.

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The bill for November 2021 was £573.97. Hire rates have increased since 1 January 2023 to cover some of these costs.

All costs are escalating. A maintenance quote for a burst pipe in the Church Hill public conveniences for £1,623.91 plus VAT has been received today.

RESOLVED

That the budget as presented with £213,740 Precept income in the draft Budget 2023/24 and the Budget Summary and Key Features were approved.

e. Precept 2023-24

Members considered the Precept for 2023/24.

RESOLVED

That the Precept for 2023/24 was approved as below, to increase Grange Town Council income by £13,983 to £213,740 and that Cllrs. Thomas, Walmsley and the Town Clerk sign the South Lakeland District Council Precept Form.

Notes:

Last year's Precept was £199,757.00.

This year's will be £199,757.00 plus the increase of £13,983 resolved by the Town Council plus the £18,811.87 street lighting charge.

The total amount of money that SLDC will collect from Grange residents will be £232,551.87.

This charge is divided by the Council Tax base of 2171.08 to give a Band D charge of £107.11. Last year, Band D households paid £93.57.

Therefore, this represents an annual increase of £13.54 (£1.13 per month).

Council Tax bills this year will show an overall increase of 14.5%. However, this includes the £18,811.87 SLDC Lighting Charge, which does not come to the Town Council but is retained by SLDC.

Without the street lighting charge, the Band D household charge would increase from £93.57 to £98.45.

This is calculated: last year Precept (£199,757) plus resolved increase (£13,983). Total (£213,740) divided by Council Tax base (2,171.08) = £98.45.

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Estimate of Total amount for Parish Purposes

Cost of District Council owned Footway Lighting (for your information only) £ 18,811.87	A	Parish Purposes (General Spending) Before grant (Box E)	£ 213,740
	B	Parish Elections	£ 0.00
	C	Parish Council Footway Lighting costs paid by District Council	£ 0.00
	D	Total Amount for Parish Purposes = A + B + C	£213,740

South Lakeland District Council is required to pay ... GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL... Parish Council a precept of £ 213,740 (**Box D**)

C22/149

Updates from Members

10

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

- a. Cllr. Greenway – informed the meeting that the SLDC planning department had put an enforcement notice on Compass Point on the Esplanade.
- b. Cllr. Greenway – had received a request from a resident to find squirrel benches for Kents Bank Station, asking the meeting if anyone knew where they could get hold of a bench.

C22/150

Promenade and Lido Refurbishment – Update from District Council

11

Members noted that no update had been received on the District Council's refurbishment of the Promenade and Lido.

SLDC have been in touch to arrange a meeting but have not yet confirmed date.

C22/151

Victoria Hall

12

- a. **Cost-of-Living Working Party**
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 January 2023, 7pm.
- b. **Fire Risk Assessment**
This has been rescheduled by Ardent Ltd to Thursday 26 January 2023.

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C22/152 SLDC Recreation Ground Inspection

13

Members noted that SLDC inspected the Recreation Ground on the Prom (see correspondence below received 23 December 2022).

Members noted the report and considered any actions required.

We have recently had all our play areas independently inspected due to SLDC purchasing a licence to enable our inspectors to carry out inspections using an app on a portable tablet.

The reason for my contacting you at this time is because the inspector perhaps parked at Yew Tree Fields and walked past your play area at the Donkey Paddock. He has inspected the area believing it to be ours. I have enclosed a copy of his report for your records.

There are no issues to be concerned about but some minor findings may require remedial work.

You will notice that there are a couple of photos showing our site further along the promenade. He has used these for reference when compiling his report on site and was unable to remove these once the report was generated.

Our future Annual reports will be in the same pdf format as this is the same app we shall be using from January 2023.

C22/153 Christmas Lights

14

Members noted that the cross-street display and lights on lower Main Street were switched off over Christmas. These lights are powered by Hackney and Leigh Estate Agents from their premises. During the extreme cold weather, the Christmas lights caused the supply to their office to short-circuit. Discussion is underway with Lite Ltd. and Hackney and Leigh to resolve this.

C22/154 Next Meeting

15

Members noted that the next Full Council Meeting would be held Monday 13 February 2023, 7.00pm Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Grange-over-Sands Town Council

DRAFT