

# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

**Chairman/Mayor:**

Cllr. Peter Endsor

**Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor:**

Cllr. Ann Walmsley

**Town Clerk:**

Mrs. C. Benbow



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

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held remotely on Monday 12 April 2021 commencing at 7pm.

**Present:**

Cllr. P. Endsor – **Chair**  
Cllr. Greenway, Cllr. Walmsley, Cllr. Hathorn, Cllr. Bailey,  
Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Logan, Cllr. Handley  
Mrs. C. Benbow – Town Clerk

**In attendance:**

7 members of the public

### HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

At the start of the meeting, Chairman Cllr. Peter Endsor invited all those present to join in a minute of silence and reflection in tribute to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who died on Friday 9 April 2021.

**Minute  
Ref:**

**Agenda No:**

**C20/174 Apologies for Absence**

**1**

There were no apologies received.

**C20/175 Reports**

**2**

**Police Report**

The police report is now online:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCUMBRIA\\_POLICE/bulletins/2c764a4](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCUMBRIA_POLICE/bulletins/2c764a4)

# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

## County Council Report

County Councillor Bill Wearing reported:

1. **Covid Pandemic** - cases were reducing; he would continue sharing information.
2. **Grange Library** – now open on Monday and Wednesday mornings.
3. **Kents Bank Traffic** - he would share notes from meeting with residents about traffic and Cross Bay Walks.
4. **Highways** – following a resident complaint about the scaffolding outside old Nat West bank completely blocking the pavement, he has worked with Highways to get this moved so pedestrians can use the pavement.

Cllr. Greenway asked if County staff had spoken yet to the new Guide over Sands regarding measures for traffic management for this season's walks.

## District Council Report

District Councillor Robin Ashcroft reported:

1. **Kents Bank Planning Complaint** – SLDC investigated this complaint, and it was not upheld. Complainants now have the opportunity to take the complaint to the next stage.
2. **Lido and Prom Refurbishment** – SLDC has approved funds for this work and are now negotiating with Network Rail about access to the site. The plan is that the work will start late Autumn. SLDC are working alongside Save Grange Lido, and both have attended meetings with Eden North who plan to open in 2024. This has implications for the whole Bay area and is a challenge and opportunity for Grange. Cllr. Ashcroft invited businesses, the community and the councils to work together on their vision for the town.

Cllr. Thomas asked if any interim repairs would be made to the Prom surface.

Cllr. Ashcroft confirmed that there was no funding for non-urgent interim repairs, prior to the refurbishment, but asked that urgent repairs are reported to SLDC.

He confirmed that the Lido is a listed building, and that the refurbishment would ensure that all the buildings would not be allowed to deteriorate further.

Cllr. Thomas asked what the plans were for the existing Lido Gallery panels.

Cllr. Ashcroft confirmed that the panels were not included in the SLDC plans for the site.

The Community is welcome to have the panels and display them elsewhere.

# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

## Mayor's Report

*There were no civic events due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*

## C20/176 Public Participation: Public Have Your Say 3

- Resident 1** Made representation to members regarding:
1. **Lido Gallery** – highlighting the importance of the panels, which were created and funded by the Community, saying that if they are not part of the Lido refurbishment, they should be used constructively, not disposed of.
  2. **Item 14, Remote Meetings** – requesting that the Council consider continuing use of remote meeting technology to make the meetings more accessible.
- Council Response** The Town Clerk responded that after May 7, Town Council meetings would be hybrid – held physically in the Victoria Hall with the facility for people to attend and participate remotely.
- Resident 2** Made representation to members regarding the scaffolding the on old Nat West bank which had completely closed the whole pavement. He had contacted Cumbria County Council who had agreed to revisit the site and move the skip so that the pavement could be kept open.
- Resident 3** Made representation to members regarding Item 8 (b) Planning Matters - about the Town Council's response as consultee to planning application for The Shielings, requesting that the Town Council revisit their response.
- Resident 4** Made representation to members regarding Item 8 (b) Planning Matters - about the Town Council's response as consultee to planning application for The Shielings, reiterating the previous speaker's concerns.

## C20/177 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4

- RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 March 2021 were accepted as a true record and would be signed physically in due course.

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

**C20/178**      **Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**      **5**

**NOTED**                      Cllr. Handley declared an interest in Item 7 (d), Planning, SL/2021/0288, as he is known to the applicant.

**C20/179**      **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.

**C20/180**      **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/2021/0200** 31 Fell Close  
Single storey side extension  
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council is concerned that the development could be unneighbourly, and could cause maintenance access problems, as the extension appears to extend all the way to the neighbour's boundary.

- b. **SL/2021/0216** 16 Carter Road Kents Bank  
Application for a Lawful Development Certificate (proposed) for a single storey rear extension  
Lawful Dev Cert – Proposed

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

- c. **SL/2021/0270** Silver Holme, Albert Road  
Single storey front extension and side porch/store.  
FULL PLANNING

# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

## RESOLVED

## NO OBJECTION

Grange Town Council is concerned that the development could be unneighbourly, and could cause maintenance access problems, as the extension appears to extend all the way to the neighbour's boundary.

- d. **SL/2021/0288** 25 Oversands View  
Replace existing post and wire fence with one-meter-high wooden fence  
Lawful Dev Cert - Proposed

## RESOLVED

## OBJECTION

Grange Town Council OBJECTS on the following grounds:

1. The application would reduce biodiversity by removing a hedge. This is in contravention of the Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The application doesn't show any details of the fence.

- e. **SL/2021/0281** Fellbank Great Heads Road  
Change of Use from garage to holiday let  
FULL PLANNING

## RESOLVED

## OBJECTION

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to the application on the following grounds:

1. **Out of Character**  
The proposed conversion would be out of keeping with the surrounding residential area. The garage in question is clearly part of this, not part of the caravan park. A holiday let in the middle of a residential area is out of character.
2. **Access**  
The plans do not make it clear how the development would be accessed. It appears that this would be through the caravan park.

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

- f. **SL/2021/0283** Rose Grove Fernleigh Road  
Application for Lawful Development Certificate (existing) to establish that Rose Grove has been used as a dwelling house for more than 10 years  
Lawful Dev Cert (existing)

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

- g. **SL/2021/0286** 30 Kirkhead Road  
Replacement rear extension  
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

- h. **SL/2021/0292** Barclays Bank Plc Main Street  
Change of use of former Barclays bank (Class Ec), now officially known as Follybank House, into 2 bedroomed Dwellinghouse (Class C3). Including installation of new window opening into rear elevation.  
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council requests that a condition is made that the building is used as a dwelling not used as a holiday let.

- i. **SL/2021/0293** Barclays Bank Plc Main Street  
Change of use of former Barclays bank (Class Ec), now officially known as Follybank House, into 2 bedroomed Dwelling house (Class C3). Including installation of new window opening into rear elevation.  
LISTED BUILDING

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council requests that a condition is made that the building is used as a dwelling not used as a holiday let.

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

- j. **SL/2021/0295** 1 Fellside Court  
Rear extension, new rear dormer, front dormer improvements and partial garage conversion  
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

Grange Town Council is concerned that the development could be unneighbourly, and obtrusive, as it appears it is very close to the adjacent property.

- k. **SL/2021/0169** Ravenscourt, Flat 3, Lindale Road  
Proposed ground floor double garage with first floor connected tiled terrace deck with internal and external access.  
FULL PLANNING

**RESOLVED**

**NO OBJECTION**

- l. **SL/2021/0322** Highfield Cottage, 25 Highfield Road  
Single & 2 storey extension  
FULL PLANNING

Members noted that SLDC corresponded 12 April 2021 as follows:

*Please note this application has been made invalid, we will re-consult when we have received the information required.*

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

- a. SL/2021/0033 Green Rigg Methven Road FULL PLANNING Grant with Conditions
- b. SL/2021/0066 2 Charney Court Discharge of condition 4 (bird box/swift brick) attached to planning permission SL/2020/0754 DISCHARGE CONDITIONS Partial disc of Conditions.
- c. SL/2020/0103 Grange Promenade FULL PLANNING Grant with Conditions
- d. SL/2020/0811 Unit 7 Station Yard FULL PLANNING Grant with Conditions
- e. SL/2021/0079 High Spring Bank Farm, Spring Bank Road Discharge of conditions 6 attached to planning permission SL/2020/0861 DISCHARGE CONDITIONS Partial disc of Cond.
- f. SL/2021/0134 Blawith Farm Lindale Road Discharge of condition 4 attached to planning permission SL/2020/0762 Partial disc of Cond.

a. **Resident Correspondence - SL/2018/0897 and SL/2018/0898**

Members considered further response to complaint received 1 February 2021 about the Town Council's response as consultee to planning applications SL/2018/0897 and SL/2018/0898, in light of queries raised by residents speaking during Item 3, Have Your Say, at March 2021 meeting.

Members considered correspondence subsequently received 22 March in response to the Town Council's reply as resolved in the March meeting.

**RESOLVED**

That the following response was made:

Councillors have spent many hours, and a great deal of effort, poring over the plans and other documents relating to site MN25 – the site at the top of Allithwaite Road, Grange over Sands. They have put in comments to SLDC at various times, and spent a great deal of time working with the developers to try to get the best outcome possible for the site, not just for the present residents of the town but for future residents of the development.

From the beginning of Councillor's engagement with the developers, it was very obvious that that the Holker Estate, who own the land, had no use for the site for their own commercial purposes. The piece of land for commercial development was thus put up for sale or let with a reputable company the land owners had used in the past.

When there was no interest from outside, those of us on the Neighbourhood Plan team tried to persuade the representatives from the estate that a series of small, stone-built, slate roofed 'starter' or small business units (similar to the courtyard in Cartmel) would be a good move on the site. The developer's response was that there was no known need or call for such and they did not wish/intend to go into speculative building of this type.

At this point, we believe, the developers were in dialogue with the planning department at SLDC about other uses for the site. They came up with the site as a possible for Extra Care Housing, and although Grange itself may not need the number of units suggested, South Lakeland will have a probable shortage of such developments in the future due to its aging population.

While the Neighbourhood Plan did say that Extra Care Housing was a preferred option for the site at the bottom of the Berners car park (the old nurseries) due to its location, this does not preclude such development elsewhere in the parish. Neither was the Plan able to state that nothing else was built on that particular site. To be viable commercially, such an enterprise would need to be of a reasonable size and the Holker estate obviously considered the piece of land they had on offer was suitable.

It is indeed a pity that more or better paid jobs may not be available at the site, though depending on which commercial company runs the facility there may be options for small



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start-up businesses such as chiropody, occupational or physio - therapy, hairdressing and beauty therapy etc as support facilities for the new residents and possibly for the wider community. Included in the plan is a small shop and café – surely an asset to the whole of Kents Bank and Allithwaite who have lost two post office/shops in the last few years as well as the get-together facility of the Abbott Hall café.

It is, however, up to SLDC Planners whether the site can be used for an alternative use from that in their Local Plan. Whatever GTC may think or indeed, say, the power for that decision lies with SLDC and it is with them that the developers have been negotiating.

At present, the application SL/2019/0898 is only for outline planning permission. GTC will be scrutinising what comes next with a view to getting the best outcome possible from both the developers and SLDC.

While Councillors stated their dismay in their last response to SLDC at the small number of affordable units on offer, given the difficulties of building on the site at all, despite it being designated for development by SLDC, it was not altogether a surprise that the full number of affordables as against the total number of dwellings on the site was smaller than hoped.

Having read the reasons why in the documentation provided by the developers, it would appear that the town was actually quite lucky to get the number of affordable units offered.

During discussions with the developers the importance of a green corridor for wildlife through the site was emphasised, as well as the requirement to retain or replace hedges and dry-stone walls across the development. Both these were achieved as directed by the Neighbourhood Plan. The mix of dwellings was also rejigged by Holbeck Homes between their initial plans for the site and the plans presented at application in line with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the need for more smaller homes rather than larger ones.

Throughout the planning process for these two sites GTC Councillors have done their best with the information, (including residents' comments) and skills available to them. They have reiterated their objections to certain parts of the plans and in general these objections have been taken up by the relevant bodies and authorities – e.g., CCC as the Lead Flood Authority. Councillors are thus dismayed that a small group of residents consider their efforts were inadequate. They did, and will continue to do, their best.

A query was raised by a resident at the March meeting, about the Councils' consideration of planning application SL/2020/0534, 6 Thornfield Road.

Councillors wish to clarify why this was considered at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

They met to revise their response to this planning application as significant further information came to light. The application had been for the change of use and alterations of 6 no bedroom House in Multi Occupancy (Class C3) to form 7-bedroom HMO (Sui Generis). In fact, it came to light that the house was not previously a HMO (House of Multiple Occupancy).

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

This was a significant piece of information and the Council needed to meet to resolve an amended response.

An extraordinary meeting was called because the Council does not schedule a meeting in September. The next meeting would have been in October, which would have missed the deadline for responses set by SLDC.

### **b. Resident Correspondence - SL/2020/0742**

Members considered response to correspondence received from residents on 24 March and 29 March about the Town Council's response as consultee to planning application SL/2020/0742.

### **RESOLVED**

That the following response was made:

#### **The Role of Grange Town Council in Planning Matters**

Following recent correspondence from several Grange residents, the Council feel that there is a misunderstanding in the Community as to the capability and function of the Council in planning matters.

The elected Councillors of Grange are ordinary people from the Community, most either self-employed or with full time jobs, who voluntarily give up their free time and energy for no remuneration.

Neither the Councillors, nor any Town Council staff, are qualified Planning Officers, nor do they wish to be. That is the role of South Lakeland District Council (SLDC).

When planning applications are publicised, Councillors may respond to the information available on the SLDC Planning Portal, which includes comments from outside bodies and residents.

This information may be inaccurate, unclear, misleading or biased and it is for the Council to make a judgement on this and respond to the application accordingly.

The aim of the Council is to view each application dispassionately and to consider its impact on the wider community.

Any Councillor seen to have a stake in the application, either commercially, or as a neighbour of the proposed development, must declare their interest and are not allowed to vote on the issue.

Councillors can always consult Google Earth if they consider this might be helpful but cannot be expected to make personal visits to the location of every application.

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Even if they did, they cannot view the potential development from the same vantage points as all the neighbours' houses and gardens.

Councillors discuss planning applications in open Council meetings and their conclusions, based on the information that has been presented to them, are sent as comments to SLDC.

These conclusions may not be the same as everyone in the Community, but are valid conclusions, reached after discussion of the information Councillors have been given. Councillors' comments sent to SLDC carry equal weight to those of residents, but Grange Town Council has no power to dictate to SLDC.

### **The Shieling**

The Shieling is the property at the centre of the shot, set at a slight angle. The grey rooves to the right of the picture are Norland at the top side and The Moorings below. The two properties are semidetached. Eden Park Road is to the north of Norland and is tarmac to that point, it runs through to Charney Road at the top left of the shot as a dirt road. The new extension to The Shieling will project into the garden space to the north by just over half the length of the existing building.

In view of residents' letters, the Council has re-visited this application. When assessing the original application, Councillors agreed they were probably swayed by the residents' comments and failed to give the application full consideration. They were glad of the opportunity to change their response.

The comments are dealt with below as made as a Council last time.

1. ***Out of Keeping with Surrounding Properties*** - the current property is a bungalow located between other bungalows. Currently all the buildings have the same height roof. A house would not be in keeping with the neighbouring properties.

When the location is viewed with an open mind, this comment is not really accurate. Yes, The Shieling is one of three bungalows of the same vintage, all built on the lane off Eden Park Road. However, the other houses in the area, apart from one bungalow on the other side of Eden Park Road, are all large houses, some of them three stories, maybe plus cellars. By comparison, the current bulk of The Shieling is very small and after the development would still be less bulky than the surrounding semis.

It seems that the bungalows are out of keeping with their surroundings and probably should not have been built initially. No doubt one of the reasons why they are Red Listed in the Conservation Area. Increasing the size of The Shieling will bring it more into keeping with the older neighbours. Certainly, the added gables will reflect the houses above on Charney Road.

2. ***Over-looking and Loss of Privacy*** -the higher development would cause an invasion of privacy into neighbouring properties and gardens.

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The large properties on Charney Road, up-slope of The Moorings and Norland, already overlook the gardens, all be it from a little further away but from a much higher vantage point. The garden of The Shieling is overlooked from both the Charney Road houses, and those on Eden Mount Road.

The full-length nature of the proposed windows in The Shieling extension will make no difference to the privacy issue. If one stands at a window to look out, the fact that your legs are visible from outside makes no difference to what you can see.

3. **Over-development** - *The proposed 4-bed house is disproportionately large for the size of the plot.*

We no longer think this to be the case. Studying the plot on Google Earth makes us quite happy that this development will not look out of place on the plot. Bear in mind that the owner could legally build a second property on the garden to the north of the Shieling.

The total plot size, judged from Google Earth, seems larger than that of either The Moorings or Norland.

Photos of the following locations were included in the response:

1. Ariel shot of plot.
2. Views of The Shieling and garden from Eden Park Road.
3. View of Norland and The Moorings from the lane just outside of the garden of The Shieling.
4. View along the lane towards Eden Park Road, the garage of The Shieling on the left with the dormer window and roof of The Moorings top right. All the buildings abutting the lane on the right are garages.

### c. **Planning Working Party**

Members considered setting up a monthly working party, to take place at 7pm on the Wednesday prior to Full Council, to look at planning applications.

### **RESOLVED**

That Cllrs. Handley, Thomas and Walmsley would take part in a monthly working party to look at planning applications. All Councillors were welcome to attend or send comments.

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

C20/182 Finance - Monthly Payments

9

### a. Verification of Expenditure

**NOTED**

*Usual wording: 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.*

That the above did not take place due to Covid-19 National Restrictions. The Town Clerk (Responsible Financial Officer) completed the verification.

### b. Verification of Accounts Reconciliation

**NOTED**

*Usual wording: That prior to the meeting two Councillors verified that the monthly bank reconciliation had taken place.*

That the above did not take place due to Covid-19 National Restrictions. The Town Clerk (Responsible Financial Officer) completed the verification.

### 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**

*Usual wording: That Cllrs and would verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period.*

Not applicable due to ongoing Covid restrictions.

### e. Identification of Councillors to complete online authorisation of payments

**RESOLVED**

That Cllrs Logan and Hathorn would complete online authorisation of payments for the next payment period.

(8.15 Cllr. Stuart Bailey left the meeting)

# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

## GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

### Payments for Approval

April 2021

#### Accounts for Payment

£

#### Bank Account No. 1 - Direct Debit

319 Barclaycard - Transaction Fees 01/02-28/02/21 - No charge

-

#### Bank Account No. 1 - Cheque

**Total Bank Account No. 1**

**£ -**

#### Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Debits

320 Lloyds Bank Plc - Card March 2021 - Monthly fee	3.00	
320a Chamber of Commerce - Training Course 18/03/21 - C Benbow	174.15	
320b Undercover - Stationery	24.99	
320c The Paintshed - Paint for Ladies toilets - V Hall	36.12	
320d The Paintshed - Paint for glass passageway - V Hall	75.79	314.05
321 Npower - Elec V Hall 01/02-25/02/21		203.04
322 Npower - Elec Prom PC 01/02-28/02/21		7.88
323 Npower - Elec Church Hill PC 01/02-28/02/21		45.26
324 Npower - Elec Xmas Tree lights 01/02-28/02/21 (Recoverable)		6.95
325 Corona Energy - Gas V Hall 01/02-01/03/21		400.51
1 SLDC - 1/10 Non Dom Rates V Hall		572.50
2 SLDC - 1/10 Non Dom Rates Rooms 1 & 3 / Council office		151.90
3 SLDC - 1/10 Non Dom Rates Room 4		90.25
4 Waterplus - Wastewater Room 2 01/04-30/09/21		71.17
8 Sage - Support 01/04-30/04/21		78.00

#### Bank Account No. 2 - Direct Bank Payments

327 T Newell - Plastering works to Room 2		150.00
328 JT Atkinson - Timber for sound deck		61.27
329 C Benbow - Quartz heater for V Hall		12.99
330 E Newman - Sale or Return Information Centre stock		16.17
331 WB Electrical - V Hall Repair to hot water heater in toilets		72.00
332 YPO - Cleaning materials		13.24
333 Treble3 - Website updates		81.60
334 Royal Images - 2 x Formal prints		187.20
335 CALC - Training course 11/03/21 - L Owen		30.00
336 KTD - Photocopying 22/02-26/03/21		16.50
337 Lengthsman - To 31/03/21		62.00
338 JT Atkinson - Items for passageway painting		7.80
5 Healthmatic - Public Conveniences cleaning 01/04-30/04/21		1,500.00
6 SLCC - Training course 9-10/06/21 C Benbow		90.00
7 SLDC - Bandstand & Store annual rent from April 2021		37.50

**Total Bank Account No. 2**

**£ 4,279.78**

**Total Accounts**

**£ 4,279.78**

# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

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

<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>£ 5,133.37</b>
HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 12	£ 1,441.15
LG Pension Scheme Month 12 - Employer payment	£ 1,853.89
	<b>£ 8,428.41</b>
<b>Total Bank Account No. 2</b>	<b>£ 12,708.19</b>
<b>Total all payments for approval</b>	<b>£ 12,708.19</b>

## Accounts paid in previous month - approved

### Bank Account No. 1

### Bank Account No. 2

## Accounts paid in previous month - not yet approved

### Bank Account No. 1

### Direct Debits

### Cheques

### Bank Account No. 2

### Direct Debits

326 Plusnet - Tel & Broadband - Rental to 08/04/21 Calls to 08/03/21 35.41

## Direct Bank Payments

<b>Total Accounts paid in previous month</b>	<b>£ 35.41</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 12,743.60</b>

## Bank Balances

Bank Account No. 1 As at 31/03/21	174,899.73
Bank Account No. 2 As at 31/03/21	110,333.21

## Transfers between bank accounts

## Transfer to Petty Cash account to replenish float

**C20/183**

**Casual Vacancy**

**10**

Members noted Grange Town Council has a Casual Vacancy due to the resignation of Councillor Lyndon Howson. SLDC was informed and the Notice of Casual Vacancy posted on 31 March. Members noted an update from the Town Clerk; that the Notice of Casual Vacancy was acknowledged by SLDC who would write again at the end of the 14-day period, which expires on 22 April 2021, to inform whether the vacancy is to be filled by election or co-option.

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

**C20/184**

**Finance and Governance**

**11**

- a. Members considered draft Reserves Policy.

### **RESOLVED**

That the draft Reserves Policy was approved.

- b. Members noted that the Town Council was approached by Daisy Roots Bookshop and offered £1,500 (plus VAT) for the stock from the Information Centre, which had a historical cost of £2,052. The offer was accepted, goods have been transferred and money received.

**C20/185**

**Annual Town Meeting**

**12**

Member noted that, in compliance with Government restrictions, the Annual Town Meeting 2021 was cancelled.

Members noted that there is no duty for Town Councils to convene an Annual Town Meeting (not to be confused with the Annual Meeting of the Council which is in May). The Local Government Act 1972 Part III requires that an annual parish meeting takes place between 1st March and 1st June each year.

The Town Council does not have to convene the meeting; it has simply become customary that it is convened by the Parish or Town Council Chairman. There is no sanction should the Parish Council not set a date and time for this to occur or if the Chairman does not convene the meeting.

**C20/186**

**Annual Meeting of the Council**

**13**

Members noted that the Annual Town Council Meeting would now be on Wednesday 5 May, 7pm.

This was because, at the time of publication of this agenda, the Government had not extended the legislation to allow councils to make decisions remotely after 7 May. Conversely, to hold a public meeting would be in breach of the coronavirus restrictions. There is obviously inconsistency here. Much lobbying and negotiation is in progress, a call for judicial review has been made. In the interim, NALC advised that town and parish councils hold their annual meetings before 7 May to avoid breaking any laws.

Members noted a letter from Luke Hall MP (MHCLG) received 25 March 2021.



## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

**C20/187**

**Consultations**

**14**

Members considered response to the following consultation:

### **Government Call for Evidence on Remote Meetings**

The Government has issued an online consultation about whether there should be permanent arrangements allowing parish council meetings to take place online. This closes on 17th June: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence)

### **RESOLVED**

That the item was deferred to the next Town Council meeting.

**C20/188**

**Unitary Authority**

**15**

Members noted correspondence from Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council about their proposal for Unitary Authority in Cumbria.

**C20/189**

**Updates from Members**

**16**

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

a. **Cllr. Endsor – Yewbarrow Allotments Door**

The door has been repaired and a new mortice lock fitted. Each of the ten plot holders has their own key.

b. **Cllr. Endsor – SLDC Updates Fountain at Ornamental Gardens and Town Clock**

The fountain at the Ornamental Gardens has not been working. We are talking to SLDC. The pump has a cut-out for when the water level in the pond drops so that the pump doesn't burn out.

The clock isn't keeping good time. If there is a power cut the clock should automatically re-set itself 24 hours later.

The clock repairers (from Derby) were here last week. The clock was repaired and worked for a day. SLDC assure us they are onto this. May have to install a device to log power cuts or drops in voltage which may be causing the clock to stop.

c. **Cllr. Endsor – Sculpture at the Stumpery**

The Prom Gardeners have had the final part of the Stumpery project installed.

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

This is a wooden “Green Man” sculpture. It is fixed the side of the toilet building on the promenade. The sculpture was created by Andy Levy who has created the other wooden sculptures along the prom.

d. **Cllr. Thomas – Cumbria Better Connected**

Cllr. Thomas attended the meeting on 12 March; it was discussed that the Windermere line is applying to have more trains. This could have an effect on the rolling stock available for our line.

e. **Cllr. Thomas – PEAT meeting 15 March**

PEAT is having regular meetings about the Greening Project. On 5 May there will be a public zoom meeting open to all.

f. **Cllr. Thomas – Furness Line Community Rail Partnership**

There is a new timetable, with some changes. The Partnership are canvassing Northern to bring back the train for school children to get home from Lancaster.

g. **Cllr. Thomas - Civic Society**

The Society has a new Treasurer and Membership Secretary and is working on a project to refurbish the blue plaques.

h. **Cllr. Handley – Local Government Restructure Presentation**

Cllr. Handley attended the presentation along with Cllr. Howson. Four proposals have been made to central government. It is not clear how any of them will work with parish and town councils.

*(8.45 Cllr. Stuart Bailey re-joined the meeting)*

**C20/190**

**Play Equipment**

**17**

a. **I-Play Replacement**

Members received an update from the Working Party (Cllrs. Bailey, Hathorn and Logan) set up at the February meeting to investigate ideas, get quotes and research funding and report back to Full Council with recommendations.

Cllr. Bailey reported they have created a survey which they are circulating and sending to the schools.

b. **Fell Close Playground**

Members noted that SLDC confirmed they removed the slide from Fell Close Playground as it was dangerous. SLDC are doing an asset review and confirm that this playground is on the list for an additional piece of equipment.

The Town Clerk was asked to contact the SLDC Locality Officer to find out how this is progressing and where Fell Close playground is on the list.

a. **Risk assessments**

Members noted that the Risk Assessment for Re-opening Victoria Hall and the Special Conditions for Hire during Covid-19 were updated in line with the Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown.

**RESOLVED**

That the Risk Assessment for Re-opening Victoria Hall and the Special Conditions for Hire during Covid-19, updated in line with the Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown, were approved.

b. **Victoria Hall Support Group**

Members noted update from Cllr. Roger Handley, speaking as Victoria Hall Support Group Chairman.

He reported that the following work has been completed during the pandemic:

- Whole building has been deep cleaned
- Glass Passage and Chair Store walls painted
- Hall wooden panelling painted
- Emergency lights replaced and PAT testing throughout
- Chimney and roof repaired
- Room 4 re-plastered and re-painted following roof leak
- Cracked window in Room 4 repaired
- Room 9 ceiling replastered after roof leak
- Room 2 (Information Centre) re-worked for new tenant
- Display boards moved from Room 2 into Room 4
- Sound desk for the Hall is under construction

c. **Glass Passage Floor**

Members considered quote for vinyl flooring for glass passage, men's loo and loo lobby area.

**RESOLVED**

That the quote from Wilson Robinson for vinyl flooring for glass passage, men's loo and loo lobby area was approved, total, including discount £2,541 (plus VAT).

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

**C20/192**

**Rec Ground 2021 Season**

**19**

Members noted that Horton Leisure re-opened the facility, in line with the Government Roadmap out of Covid-19 Lockdown, on 1 April 2021.

Members noted that the site was risk assessed and that attention was drawn to the following points:

- a. The fence at both ends of the games court is damaged. The damage to the fence between the games court and tennis court has occurred repeatedly. This was assessed as a medium risk as there were wires sticking out and the damaged panel has been removed. Quotes for MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) fencing are being sought.
- b. The railway-side fence of games court is damaged. A temporary repair is in place and permanent repairs resolved December 2020 are scheduled.
- c. The first phase skate ramps are in the process of being renewed by contractor Phil Dalton. The third and final ramp is due this year.
- d. The SLDC annual inspection was received, and its findings incorporated in the risk assessment (tighten skate ramp bolts and reduce excess length on shelter window bolts).

### **RESOLVED**

That the Recreation Ground Site Risk Assessment 2021 was approved.

**C20/193**

**Band Concert 2021 Season**

**20**

Members noted that the Band Concerts at the Park would restart when the Government Roadmap out of Covid-19 Lockdown permits. This is currently 17 May 2021.

Members noted that the events were risk assessed and attention was drawn to the following points:

- a. The store ceiling is crumbling – SLDC have been notified.
- b. The padlock on the water tap has now been glued. At Christmas, the door padlock was glued. This was replaced.
- c. The power box on the bandstand was vandalised and is being replaced by GTC.
- d. The noticeboard locks were broken. These have been removed by SLDC who are in the process of replacing the noticeboard.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Band Concerts Event Risk Assessment 2021 was approved

## TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

**C20/194**

**Training**

**21**

- a. Members noted that the Town Clerk completed online HR training with Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and considered payment of £145.

**RESOLVED**

That payment of £145 for HR training with Cumbria Chamber of Commerce was approved.

- b. Members noted that the Town Clerk was enrolled to take part in SLCC online training 'Virtual Leadership In Action' on 9-10 June 2021 and considered payment of £75.

**RESOLVED**

That payment of £75 for SLCC online training 'Virtual Leadership In Action' was approved.

**C20/195**

**Staffing Committee**

**22**

Members noted that a meeting of the Staffing Committee took place on Thursday 8 April, 2pm. Draft minutes to come to Town Council when available.

**C20/196**

**Next Meeting**

**23**

Members noted that the next Full Council Meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Council and would be held remotely:

Wednesday 5 May 2021, 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

**Signed:**

**Dated:**

**Chair, Grange-over-Sands Town Council**