

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Chairman:
Cllr. Bill Woods

Civic Mayor:
Cllr. Ron Shapland M.B.E.

Acting Town Clerk:
C. Benbow



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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Victoria Hall, on Monday 18 May 2015 commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr. Woods – Chair
Cllr. Hathorn, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Walmsley, Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Greenway, Cllr. R. Shapland, Cllr. J. Shapland, Cllr. Ingle

C. Benbow – Acting Town Clerk

In attendance: 9 members of the public

Minute Ref:		Agenda No:
C15/001	Council Chairman for the Council Year 2015/16 Cllr. Bill Woods was elected the Council Chairman for the Council Year 2015/16 from the current council membership and the chairman acceptance of office forms were received from Cllr. Woods.	1
C15/002	Civic Mayor (Vice Chairman) 2015/16 Cllr. Ron Shapland was elected the Civic Mayor for the Council Year 2015/16 (Vice Chairman) from the current council membership and the vice chairman acceptance of office forms were received from Cllr. R. Shapland.	2
C15/003	Apologies for Absence NOTED There were no apologies received.	3
C15/004	Minutes of the Previous Meeting RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 20 April 2015 were accepted as a true record.	4
C15/005	Declaration of Interests and Dispensations NOTED That regarding item 18, Cllrs. Thomas and R. Shapland had non-pecuniary interests as they were members of the Edwardian Festival Committee.	5
C15/006	Public Participation: Public Have Your Say <i>Members of the public agreed that their names may be included in the minutes.</i>	6

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

- Tony Coles** Made a representation to members with regard to:
- Further to the elections, Mr Coles was pleased that a new council had been elected.
 - He was alarmed at the speed at which new developments were being passed and built in the town and informed members that builders were leaving mud on the road which was dangerous.
- Council Response** The Chairman, Cllr. Woods, said that he would phone Mr. Coles the next day.

Cllr. Woods announced that the band concert season would commence on the next weekend.

Police Report

PCSO Firth sent his apologies and the following crime report:

Crime report for Grange past thirty days as follows-

CONCERNS FOR WELFARE-3
RTCs-4
MISSING PERSONS-1
SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT-4
ASB-6(PERSONAL MAINLY- NOT ON STREET)
HIGHWAY DISRUPTION-3
ABANDONED 999 CALLS-2
THEFT-3
ROAD RELATED OFFENCES-1
BUGLARY DWELLING-1(ATTEMPTED)
BURGLARY NON DWELLING-3
ALARM SOUNDING-5
SUDDEN DEATH-1
DOMESTICS-2
ASSAULTS-1
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES-1

No further calls for incidents at Yewbarrow woods.
Grange Primary School has been visited re parking / speeding issues.

District Council Report – District Cllr. Mary Wilson

District Councillor Wilson reported that:

- Residents had been in touch with her about the Berry Bank development regarding how the houses would be allocated for rent/sale. Cllr. Wilson said she would put an article in Grange Now to let people know what the process would be.
- Residents in Kents Bank had reported to her that they wished to be represented on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr. Wilson had received a complaint from a resident regarding SLDC's consultation about a planning item at Low Fellgate.

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District Council Report – District Cllr. Eric Morrell

District Cllr. Eric Morrell introduced himself as the elected member representing the District for Grange North.

Cllr. Woods asked him to clarify the situation regarding the funding for the plants in the Ornamental Gardens.

District Cllr. Mary Wilson said that funding cuts regarding planting had been made by SLDC across the District and said that they had consulted with Grange Town Council.

District Council Report – District Cllr. Tom Harvey

District Cllr. Tom Harvey gave a brief report, saying that activity at District had been quiet due to the elections.

County Council Report

County Councillor Bill Wearing reported that:

1. Parking at Grange School – he had a meeting with the Traffic Engineer at the school and had been liaising with PCSO Firth. Cllr. Wearing would be meeting the Head Teacher and communicating with the parents. He had put an article in Grange Now asking people to consider where they park.
2. Cllr. Wearing thanked Cllr. Shapland and the Prom Youth Project for all their hard work in achieving the renovation of the Crazy Golf, which was being very well-received by the public.
3. Cumbria County Council has had a poor OFSTED report regarding Childrens' Services. The report is on the CCC website.

Civic Mayors Report for final month of 14/15 Council Year

Mayor's Report May 2015

My last outing as Mayor was with the Rotary Club of Grange over Sands at their 68th Charter Dinner at the Netherwood Hotel. This formal dinner was an excellent evening meeting interesting people and hearing about some of the amazing things that Rotary International does for charities, not only in the United Kingdom but worldwide.

I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of being your Civic Mayor for the past year and would like to thank all the organisations and people who have invited me to share their events throughout the year. Meeting you all and being a part of the town in this way has been amazing. Thank you all.

Since the last Town Council meeting there have obviously been huge changes not only nationally but also locally. I would like to welcome new Councillors, Martin Ingle, Judith Shapland, Bill Woods, Anne Walmsley and Tracy Hathorn. I hope you all enjoy your new role and I look forward to working with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to the outgoing councillors for all their hard work over the last few years. We will miss your enthusiasm and expertise, and we will also miss you. Thank you for what you have done and I wish you well for the future. The next Councillor Surgery at the Library will be on Thursday June 25th from 10am until 12 noon. Councillor Greenway and I look forward to seeing you there.

Cllr. Tricia Thomas May 2015

TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE – OVER – SANDS

C15/007	Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Item	7
	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.	
C15/008	Training for Councillors	8
	Members considered if any councillors (both new and re-elected) wished to attend the ‘Good Councillor’ training offered by CALC.	
	RESOLVED That Cllrs. Woods, J. Shapland, Ingle, Hathorn and Walmsley wished to attend the ‘Good Councillor’ training offered by CALC on June 16, 6-8pm at Gilpin Bridge, at a cost of £29.50 per person, to be paid from the Training Budget.	
C15/009	Committees and Delegation Scheme	9
a.	NOTED Members noted the Committee and External Body Information Briefing for new councillors.	
b.	NOTED Members noted the annual report received from the Council’s representative on the Cartmel Old Grammar Foundation Trust and thanked Mrs Strawbridge for continuing. The Acting Town Clerk to write to Mrs Strawbridge to thank her.	
c.	Members received nominations to existing committees and external bodies as circulated in the draft Member Office Holders list for 2015/16.	
d.	RESOLVED That Members had noted that the Delegation Scheme had been reviewed and resolved to defer agreeing the nominations to existing committees and external bodies until the new council had met and discussed the council’s priorities.	
C15/010	Review of Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	10
	a. Standing Orders	
	NOTED Members noted that as the law had changed, Section 3 (l) of the Standing Orders had been amended to read: <i>Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted.</i> <i>A person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if s/he is present at the meeting but otherwise may:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>film, photograph, or make an audio recording of a meeting;</i> • <i>use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;</i> • <i>report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting, or orally report or comment after the meeting.</i> 	

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b. Financial Regulations		
NOTED	Members noted that there had been no amendments made to the Financial Regulations approved by Full Council in June 2014. (C14/043)	
C15/011	Asset Register	11
a. NOTED	Members noted that a full review of the assets inventory including buildings and equipment had taken place.	
b. NOTED	Members noted that the version noted at 9 March 2015 Full Council (C14/196 b) included a spreadsheet calculation error reducing the final total by £1,500.	
c. NOTED	Members noted that this error had been amended and the corrected final figure read £1,505,367.00. All items remained correctly listed.	
C15/012	Insurance	12
NOTED	Members noted that the insurance was due for renewal 1 July 2015 and that the Council would enter the third year of a three year agreement with WPS Insurance and that there was cover in respect of all insurable risks.	
C15/013	Membership of other bodies	13
	Members reviewed the Council's and employees' memberships of other bodies noting that the membership of the following bodies required approval for renewal:	
	a. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) – annual membership for Acting Town Clerk due in May – amount to be confirmed and payment approved in June.	
RESOLVED	That the Annual membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for the Acting Town Clerk due in May be renewed with the amount to be confirmed and payment approved in June.	
	b. Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) annual membership renewal for Council £339.00 to be paid from the Subscriptions Budget.	
RESOLVED	That the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) annual membership be renewed and £339.00 be paid from the Subscriptions Budget.	
C15/014	Council Procedures	14
a. NOTED	Members noted the review schedule for Council policies and procedures.	
b. NOTED	Members noted that the Council was required to review some policies and procedures on an annual basis, including the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and delegation arrangements to committees. These were covered on the agenda.	
c. NOTED	Members noted that other policies and procedures which required annual review, and no changes had been made to, included the Freedom of Information - Model Publication Scheme and the Meetings Part 2 Exclusions.	

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- d. Members noted that the Complaints Policy required annual review and considered approving the amended policy as recommended by the November 2014 Personnel Committee. (Ref PC14/16)

RESOLVED That the amended Complaints Policy was approved and that the policy was to be further reviewed.

C15/015

Meetings

15

To determine the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full council including the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Council meeting and to note that dates, times and place of council committee meetings would be decided as necessary.

RESOLVED That the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full council including the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Council meeting as circulated were approved as below and that dates, times and place of council committee meetings would be decided as necessary.

The dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full council including the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Council meeting for 2015-16:

All Meetings 7pm, Victoria Hall, Main Street
2015-2016

Annual Town Council – Monday 18 May 2015

Monday 8th June 2015

Monday 13th July 2015

Monday 10th August 2015

No meeting in September

Monday 12th October 2015

Monday 9th November 2015

Monday 14th December 2015

Monday 11th January 2016

Monday 8th February 2016

Monday 14th March 2016

Annual Town Meeting (followed by Full Council Meeting) – Monday 11 April 2016

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C15/016 Planning Report

6

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

Application Number, Address and Specification

a. SL/2015/0362 - 3 The Old Nurseries

Rear balcony

Full Planning

This application was withdrawn after the agenda was prepared.

b. SL/2015/0463 - 3 The Old Nurseries

Installation of a rear balcony and steps

Full Planning

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

c. SL/2015/0370 – Fairlands, Charney Well Lane

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling

Full Planning

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

Grange Town Council makes the following requests:

- i) That all rainwater runoff is dealt with on site.
- ii) That mitigation is put in place on the glass balustrades to reduce the possibility of bird strike.

d. SL/2015/0390 – Applethwaite, Methven Road

Erection of single dwelling

Full Planning

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

Grange Town Council makes the following requests:

- i) That the neighbour's request that the wall and fencing is done first is taken into account.
- ii) That mitigation planting is done to reduce impact and loss of green space.

e. SL/2015/0395 – Murrell House, Fernleigh Road

Formation of off-road parking (retrospective).

Retrospective Full Planning

RESOLVED OBJECTION

Grange Town Council OBJECTS to the retrospective application on the following grounds: The Council is concerned about drainage capacity onto Fernleigh Avenue, which is an area which already suffers from runoff. Clarification about the proposed drainage is sought, and a full Maintenance Plan and Drainage Specification requested.

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f. SL/2015/0399 – 43 Main Street

Application to modify S106 (Remove local occupancy) attached to planning SL/2007/0015

Variation of S106/S52

RESOLVED OBJECTION

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

That the risk is that the property becomes a second home and is empty during the winter.

g. SL/2015/0407 – Brooklyn, Kents Bank Road (Pharmacy)

Non-illuminated sign

Advertisement

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

h. SL/2015/0429 – Former Candle Factory, Lindale Road

Change of use from light industrial to Sui Generis (builders merchants – Builders Supply Co.), installation of security fence & gates and new signage.

Full Planning

RESOLVED OBJECTION

Grange Town Council supports the development of business in the town and wishes to encourage businesses but OBJECTS to this application in its current form on the following grounds:

Several aspects are in direct conflict with planning conditions imposed last year (2014/0094) on application for light industrial units.

1. Impact of use on character of conservation area. Negative effect on views in and out of conservation area. Negative visual impact of 2m high galvanized metal security fence around the site, visible from tourist cycleway, pedestrian bridge at Blawith Point, trainline, footways and road. Inappropriately industrial for the area. Fencing and stored materials would block views of the Bay, railway and attractive coastal scenery at the entry point to the town.
2. Involves open storage of stock. Existing planning permission Condition 7 explicitly prohibits storage of any description on open land, to ensure no adverse effect on character of area.
3. Existing planning permission 2014/0094 specifically excludes all other uses except Class B1a B1c and B8, to ensure use of the premises is compatible with character of surrounding area, and to avoid detriment to amenities. Question whether this proposed use is Sui Generis. If retail sales on premises, it's Class A1. If no retail sales on premises, no need for big advertising signs facing the road or gates kept open during day, or early morning opening. Not proposing changing existing building to a showroom, so not primarily wholesale and distribution.

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4. Highway safety. Increased volume of traffic and heavier delivery vehicles at a recognized traffic accident spot. Awkward restricted turning for vans and large vehicles on site carpark, and onto Lindale Rd. Large black and yellow signs distracting to passing traffic. No time for traffic from Lindale to slow down from blind bend at Meathop Rd corner to avoid shunting slow turning vehicles. Large delivery vehicles will have to pull over the centre line to turn left out of the yard. Awkward and dangerous right hand turn across the traffic coming from the blind bend when turning into the site from the Grange direction.
5. Detrimental impact on amenity of neighbouring residents from early morning pickups and deliveries, and conflict with users of Berriedale Terrace Car Park which abuts the entrance.
6. Potential impact on Morecambe Bay SSI and nearby pond and watercourses from chemicals and chemically treated stock stored outside, accidents with commercial chemical preparations sold on site, and oil and particulate emissions carried into watercourses from carpark runoff. May be within buffer zone for SSSI. No proper drainage plans.
7. No increase in employment to offset negative impact – extra employees indicated 'none' on application form.

g. SL/2015/0428 – Former Candle Factory, Lindale Road

Change of use from light industrial to Sui Generis (builders merchants – Builders Supply Co.), installation of security fence & gates and new signage.

Advertisement

RESOLVED

OBJECTION

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

The proposed signs are large and would be a distraction to drivers on an already dangerous spot.

i. SL/2015/0446 – Newlyn, Highfield Road

Alteration to the existing outbuilding

Full Planning

RESOLVED

OBJECTION

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

The application is incomplete because there is no design and access statement.

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j. SL/2015/0378 – Land at 49 Priory Lane

Discharge of Condition 5 (finished floor level) & Condition 6 (surface water drainage) attached to planning permission SL/2012/0210

Full Planning

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

k. SL/2015/0439 – Land at 49 Priory Lane

Appeal against an Enforcement Notice

Alleged Breach: The erection of a single storey building.

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

l. SL/2015/0454

Hazel Cottage, The Orchard, Cart Lane – Two storey & single storey extensions & detached garage

Full Planning

RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

2. Delegated Authority

NOTED The following items were responded to under delegated authority as the consultation deadline fell between meetings.

SL/2015/0324 – The Bandstand, Park Road

Installation of 4 loudspeakers to bandstand (Temporary period mid-May to mid-September)

Listed Building Consent

No response as this is a Town Council application

SL/2015/0265 – 4 The Mews, Fernleigh Road

Replacement UPVC sash windows and door & installation of roof light

Full Planning

Response from Grange Town Council: **NO OBJECTION**

The Town Council makes the observation that the information supplied does not make clear whether the glazing bars to the replacement front windows were part of the window structure or merely slim line plastic strips simulating glazing bars.

The Town Council requests that if the latter is the case, the case officer checks this out, as they can look very inauthentic.

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C15/0017 Finance - Monthly Payments 7

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. Identification of Councillors to approve next month payments

RESOLVED

1. That Cllrs Thomas and Harvey would verify the invoices and payments for the next payment period.
2. That the Council Chairman, Cllr. Woods, would be authorised as a signatory for the Council.

d. 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 follows:

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Payments for Approval

May 2015

1 <u>Accounts for Payment</u>	£
<u>Cheques (Nat West)</u>	
16 Clive Brown - Information Centre (IC) stock	48.60
19 Ian Lockyer Joinery - V Hall sash window repair & repair to open 2 windows (Council Chamber)	1,440.00
Petty Cash	36.91
<u>Direct Debits (Nat West)</u>	
1- M2 SLDC - Non.Dom Rate. V. Hall	552.00
2- M2 SLDC - Non Dom Rate Rooms Rooms 1 & 3/Council Office	137.00
3- M2 SLDC - Non.Dom Rate Police Room 4	86.00
11 British Gas - V Hall 26 March to 30 March 2015	58.74
13 Npower - C Hill toilets electricity 1 Feb to 31 Mar 2015	107.41
14 Npower - Prom Lido toilets electricity 1 Feb to 31 Mar 2015	26.01
15 Npower - V Hall electricity 1 Feb to 31 Mar 2015	540.42
28 British Gas - V Hall 31 March to 24 April 2015	365.23
31 SAGE - monthly Payroll software & support	58.24
34 Barclaycard transaction fees April 2015	19.34
 Total Nat West account	 £ 3,475.90
 <u>Unity Trust</u>	
17 PR Books - IC stock	161.50
18 Viking - cartridge colour inks x 2 packs	153.58

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21	Cllr. Brennand - travelling expenses	47.50
22	Shorrock Trichem - toiletries & cleaning materials	202.04
23	YPO - cleaning materials	63.50
24	YPO –stationery	73.86
25	Grange & Dist Nat. History Society - IC stock	137.36
26	Yellow Publications - IC stock	24.00
27	C Benbow – expenses	106.41
29	Healthmatic Public Conveniences cleaning April 2015	74.70
30	Lengthsman - April 2015	1,590.00
32	Intouchcrm - website monthly hosting May 2015	330.00
33	Cllr. Thomas – expenses	35.99
35	Joel Davenport - V Hall window cleaning	6.75
	Temple Heelis - May monthly payment HR support	30.00
		120.00
	Total Unity Trust account	£ 3,019.83
	Total accounts	£ 6,495.73
2	<u>Salaries, PAYE & N.I. (Unity Trust)</u>	
	Total Salaries	£ 5,069.36
	HMRC PAYE & NI - Tax Month 1	£ 1,427.67
		£ 6,497.03
	Total Unity Trust account	£ 9,516.86
	Total all payments for approval	£ 12,992.76
3	<u>Accounts paid in previous month - approved</u>	
	<u>Unity Trust</u>	
	Grant to Grange Prom Youth (C14/196d)	4,000.00
	<u>Nat West</u>	
	<u>Cheques</u>	
	Cumbria in Bloom (grant C14/216e)	60.00
	<u>Accounts paid in previous month - not yet approved</u>	
	<u>Unity Trust</u>	
	<u>Nat West</u>	
	<u>Direct Debits</u>	
12	Plusnet 9/04 to 8/05 2015 - tel & broadband	47.90
20	XLN calls & line rental May 2015	29.76
	Total Accounts paid in previous month	£ 4,137.66
	Grand Total	£ 17,130.42

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4 Alto Prepaid Card (Pre-Authorised £1,000.00)

5 Bank Balances

NatWest Current Accounts	120,273.54
Unity Trust Bank	84,718.38
Alto Prepaid Card	452.19

6 Transfers between bank accounts

Nil

C15/018 Grants 18

Members noted that the Edwardian Festival Committee had written as requested at the last meeting (Ref: C14/211) and considered a £100 grant to sponsor the prizes for the Festival on an annual basis.

RESOLVED That the Edwardian Festival Committee be granted £100 annually from the Grants budget to sponsor the prizes for the Festival, this to be reviewed in 2019.

C15/019 Consultations 19

There were no consultations to consider.

C15/020 Neighbourhood Plan 20

NOTED

Members noted a progress report from the Steering Committee Spokesperson Cllr. Greenway who reported that:

- The Steering Committee are progressing with the Plan.
- The meeting with SLDC Strategic Development Team had been productive.
- A new member from Kents Bank had joined the Steering Group and was thanked for volunteering.
- There was an article and competition in June's Grange Now on the Lido.
- New councillors were welcome to contribute and would be invited to the next meeting to see if they wish to join in.

C15/021 Reports/Minutes from Meetings/Briefings and Updates from Members. 21

There were no reports from meetings and briefings attended by members since the last full council meeting.

C15/022 Finances 22

a. **Victoria Hall Grant**

This item was deferred to C15/024 Victoria Hall.

b. **HR Support Services**

Members considered the renewal of Temple Heelis HR support services.

RESOLVED 1. That the annual contract with Temple Heelis to provide HR support services was not renewed.

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2. That the WPS Council Shield Service was subscribed to at an annual cost of £75 (+VAT) paid from the Professional Fees Non-Financial Budget.

c. CALC Training

Members considered the Acting Town Clerk attending a CALC training in Ulverston on 4 June regarding pension auto-enrollment at the cost of £5. The aim of the course was to prepare councils for the enrolment of paid employees into a pension scheme and provide an understanding of the new duties and guidance from The Pensions Regulator and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) enabling councils to comply with the regulations.

RESOLVED That the Acting Town Clerk attending a CALC training in Ulverston on 4 June regarding pension auto-enrollment at the cost of £5 was approved, to be paid from the Training Budget.

C15/023 Public Art Installation at Berners

23

Members received a progress report from Cllr. Greenway. The work is going ahead and going to plan, having been approved for payment from the Projects Budget at the April 2015 Full Council meeting.

C15/024 Victoria Hall

24

- a. Members noted a report from the Victoria Hall Manager concerning the suspected dry rot and considered the repairs recommended in the report.
- b. **RESOLVED**
 1. That the repairs recommended in the report were approved and the Victoria Hall Manager would contact contractors.
 2. That up to £1,000 for immediate investigation and repairs was approved from the Repairs and Maintenance Budget.
- c. **NOTED** Members noted a report from Cllr. Harvey about the meeting with himself, the Acting Town Clerk and David Sykes from SLDC regarding the Victoria Hall grant, that SLDC and GTC had agreed that both councils would work together to clarify and simplify the grant, that SLDC would continue to offer support in the immediate term and would work with GTC on the future of the Victoria Hall.
- d. Members received a progress report on the development of the Victoria Hall from Cllr. Thomas.
Update re Victoria Hall
The Victoria Hall Manager (Sally Haines) and I have been working over the past few weeks to determine avenues for increased revenue for the Victoria hall. We have looked at various options –
 - 1) We looked at the possibility of holding wedding ceremonies in the Council Chamber with the reception in the main hall. With this in mind I contacted the Chief Registrar in Kendal. While she is very keen to get more venues for ceremonies in South Lakeland, the fact that the Chamber is upstairs with no disabled access poses a severe problem. Ceremonies must have disabled access and cannot be held in a room where alcoholic beverages are available, so the whole ceremony and reception could not be done in the Hall. If we wanted to investigate this possibility further she would be very happy to come along, look at the building and give us advice.

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- 2) I contacted the Chief Fire Officer and discussed the possibility of a stair lift. There are safety regulations giving the minimum width of stairs in a public building where a stair lift is considered. Sadly our staircase is just not quite wide enough. The officer would be happy to come to the building to offer advice on the matter, should we wish it.
- 3) I contacted Graham Isles, a local Estate Agent with experience of selling buildings similar to the Victoria Hall. He was extremely helpful and went round the whole building with us. The value of the building, should we eventually decide to sell, could be as little as £300,000. This is because of the restrictions of the physical site as well as the listed status. The building has no outside space for parking or gardens and would be very difficult and costly to convert for another use, even if planning permission could be achieved.

Should we decide to go down this route there is also the re-housing of the Council offices and the Information centre to consider, as well as finding a venue for Council meetings and committees. This could be costly. Selling the building would also make a number of local groups 'homeless' since there is no other building in the town of comparable size or with similar backstage type facilities.

Any decision to do this would have to be very carefully debated as the Victoria Hall is an integral part of the community and even people who rarely or never use it might well object.
- 4) Sally contacted a local company who specialise in catering kitchens. We talked to their representative on site about the possibilities of upgrading the kitchen and the most economical and sensible use of the space available. A better kitchen would make us more able to let the Hall. At present a number of individuals and groups have turned the venue down for use for their events due to the totally outdated and inadequate catering facilities. We are awaiting drawings and costings for a simple kitchen with a water boiler, catering sized oven, commercial dishwasher and stainless steel work surfaces.
- 5) Later this week Sally and I, with a little help from our friends, will be setting up a series of photo shoots in the main hall to illustrate the potential for the hall to be used for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas parties etc. The resultant photos will be added to the website and also used in a leaflet about Grange over Sands being prepared by the Information Centre manager. We are very aware that at present the only pictures of the hall on the website illustrate it as a venue for talks, lectures etc with rows of seating. Knowing that some people find it difficult to envisage a room set up in a different way we are hoping to encourage more bookings for a variety of events.
- 6) We are working on the idea of an open day at the Hall later in the year, where people can come and see what is possible for their event. This day will include guided tours of the building. We are in conversation with Robin Webster to follow this with an illustrated evening lecture about the history of the town. Tickets and refreshments would be sold with the proceeds going towards a fund for improving the kitchen.
- 7) We consider it might be useful to start a 'Friends of the Victoria Hall' group to fundraise for the refurbishment and upgrade of the kitchen. Initially this group would be constituted from user groups of the hall and other interested bodies. As yet this is only an idea and needs working on.

Tricia Thomas May 2015.

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C15/025 Next Meeting

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NOTED

That the next Full Council Meeting would be held:
Monday 8 June 2015, 7.00pm, Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Grange-over-Sands Town Council