SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19th OCTOBER 2020 ON LINE VIA GO TO MEETING

PRESENT: Councillors Barbara Hinds (Chair), Gwyneth Bullock, Jean Fairbrother, Ashley Griffiths, Bob James, Chris Jones (County Councillor), Alex Lewis, Mary Southall, Mike Walker, Brian Ward and David Wisinger.

Peter Richmond: Clerk and Financial Officer One member of the public.

20/102 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised

20/103 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Norman Jones (Vice - Chair) and Mikael Khan

20/104 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted at the beginning of the meeting.

20/105 <u>COVID - CONTINATION OF ON LINE COUNCIL MEETINGS</u>

RESOLVED – that Council will continue holding its meetings on line and will keep under review as and when further Covid advice has been issued.

20/106 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 21st SEPTEMBER 2020

The Chair advised that she had not attended any meetings since the previous Council meeting on 21st September 2020. The Chair advised that she was interviewed by Radio Merseyside regarding the impact of Covid on the community of Sealand and the different measures being adopted in respect of England and Wales - Chester and West Cheshire Council and Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/107 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED - that -

i) the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21st September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

ii) Clerk should visit the Chair to obtain a signed copy of the said minutes for record retention.

20/108 **CHAIR'S FUND 2020/21**

The Clerk reminded Council that the agreed spend for the Chair's Fund for the 2020/21 financial year is £800.00. No payments have been made in the current financial year.

Payments being made under expenditure powers - Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S11).

The Chair will be proposing payments at the November 2020 meeting of Council.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/109 POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Gareth Cust had been invited to attend the meeting but is unable to attend as the Police are not permitted to use Go to or Zoom.

1. Riverbank cycle path - Shotton to Chester (in particular by the Railway Bridge / John Summers old offices) – Drugs Problem.

Inspector Gareth Cust has previously advised that the police will patrol in order to disrupt as much as possible. The Inspector has asked that councillors or residents should report any matters as they happen so that the Police can target their response and be more effective.

2. Drugs Problem –Garden City

The County Councillor has previously advised that the Police have indicated that they will provide additional patrols.

3. Community Speed Watch – Seahill Road, Foxes Lane and Welsh Road.

Councillor Mike Walker advised on the recent speed watch and that he was assisted by Councillors Ashley Griffiths and Mikael Khan. These were undertaken on the railway bridge on Seahill Road and on Welsh Road by the Spar Shop and near to the blue river bridge. Mike advised on the number of vehicles reported to the Police for speeding. Mike has asked John Morris at North Wales Police to provide new Hi-Viz jackets that state NWP.

4. CCTV and laptop –The Council's inoperative CCTV attached to a lighting column o/s 12 Farm Road, Garden City was removed by the County Council on Monday 17th August 2020. The Clerk had been informed by the County Council and Inspector Gareth Cust that they do not wish to take ownership of the CCTV. The County

Council has now disposed of the CCTV and it has been removed from the Council's Physical Asset Register and insurance cover. The removal from the insurance cover had no impact on the insurance charge.

5. At the previous Council meeting Council was informed by the Ferry Lane Residents Association of their concern of motorbikes crossing from Saltney over the River Dee footbridge and then proceeding with great speed and noise along the cycle path towards Chester along the riverbank until they reach Bumpers Lane where they use a rough wooded area next to the old tip as a scrambling venue. These events take place most weekends and some evenings during the week around 4-5pm. They cause great disturbance to the residents at Ferry Lane and great danger to pedestrians, particularly those crossing the footbridge. Riding across the bridge at speed as they do is illegal and needs to be stopped.

This was referred to Inspector Gareth Cust and he advised on 23rd September that Council will be aware of the work Rob Bainbridge has done with Flintshire over the location and the activity on the land. The matter has been passed to the Roads Policing team.

6. Problems of serious anti-social behaviour were referred by County Councillor and Council.

Inspector Gareth Cust replied on 23rd September 2020 and a copy of the email was circulated to all members of Council.

We are aware of the increase in some ASB and crime issues in the Garden City area and analysis shows the three areas below as being the main areas of issue. Sealand Ave – Llys Andrew, Sandy Lane and Farm Road.

There is some ongoing problem-solving work with Llys Andrew in particular where we have identified a group responsible for a lot of the ASB in the area. This group are to be subject to intervention from us and Youth Justice. We will look at Interventions but if unsuccessful it will be the criminal justice route. We will be looking at Social media campaigns and we will endeavour to increase Patrol when resources allow.

I note the reference to a dispersal order. These are short term tactics normally for 48 hours maximum so can be considered for short term issues but the longer-term problem solving needs to be in place also.

We have a couple more PCSO's coming to Deeside in October which will obviously help.

Rob remains your local PCSO and Bethan as the Neighbourhood Sergeant.

Crime remains fairly static year to date in Garden City despite the above obvious issues.

Can I thank the council for raising and ask that constituents in your areas report issues to allow us to effectively address the issues.

RESOLVED – that the reports be noted.

20/110 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

a) Underpass - Foxes Lane

The Clerk was informed by Steve Jones by email on 25th September 2020 and copied to all members of Council on 26th September 2020 that Nic Wright, Principal Structures Manager, North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent did his monthly inspection of Queensferry River bridge on 24th September 2020. Photos of the underpass were also provided.

The leaking wall joints on western approach to the underpass are a very longstanding issue that he first became aware of back in 2016. Ground water from behind the wall continued to leak through the joints after rainfall had dried up on the carriageway. Three joints (2 on the north side and one on the south) showed signs of leakage (see plan). The biggest joint on the north side was the worst (see photo 124643). The footway next to the joints and the kerbside channel would often be wet and when these surfaces dried there would be an unsightly stain but nothing more. However, there was a safety concern due to the possibility of water on the footway freezing creating a slipping hazard. Following discussions with Mark Humphreys a two-pronged approach was agreed upon. FCC would install a drain across the footway at the worst joint to catch the leaking water (see photo 124643) and NMWTRA would replace the sealant in all the joints to help stem the leakage. The drain across the footway was installed by FCC in 2018. The sealant was replaced in 2019 but it wasn't a good job so it was replaced again in July this year. It's been wet recently so ground water would be trying to leak through the wall joints but the photos show the new sealant is holding it back. The only water evident on site yesterday had just fallen out of the sky.

It had been suggested that the water leakage could be due to a leaking water main at the rear of the east side wall. Welsh Water tested the water and confirmed the water was not from the mains supply. The leakage also ceases after a long dry spell (see photo 1547143 taken in June 2018) which confirms it is rain water based ground water.

The photos taken yesterday show a damp carriageway with a little standing water at the low point which is 'business as usual' at this site throughout the winter months. The sheltered nature of the site means that wind and sunlight do not aid the evaporation of surface water which will linger here when it has disappeared from road surfaces nearby. Cold air also collects in depressions (the low point is 7ft AOD) — another reason for slow evaporation. The issue of regular dampness in the underpass combined with water trickling from the joints seems to have led the Community Council to come to the conclusion that the leaking joints were the cause of all dampness in the underpass. I think this theory has now been disproved. It's mostly due to rain water falling onto the carriageway which drains to a sheltered low point.

The Community Council is advised that the leakage from the wall joints has been solved by replacing of the sealant. This work can be repeated if the joints leak again, which is likely, although the benefits are now very marginal given that the safety issue has been addressed and the cause of the dampness has been proven to be majorly due to rain and lingering damp. A long-term fix would require excavation to a considerable depth at the rear of the wall which would be costly and may not be 100% effective - this level of intervention is unwarranted. I can't think of any simple measures which would dry up the carriageway and footway under the underpass. Resurfacing the carriageway may help: -

- Replace the surfacing with porous surfacing to allow surface water to drain through the surfacing into the sub grade. This might not work as road grit collects here and may quickly clog the pores. The sub grade may be saturated in the winter due to elevation/water table.
- If not, porous surfacing then relays and re-profile the surface course to provide steeper camber thus channelling water better against the kerb. The headroom is low and raising the crown would reduce this further.

If the surface is replaced the gullies can be re-installed paying particular attention to the frame level to ensure water does not by pass the gully.

RESOLVED – that report be noted.

b) Ferry Lane Footbridge – Noise Nuisance

The Clerk reported that he has been in discussion with Ian Bushell who has temporally taken on responsibility for the issues about the footbridge. Ian has advised that he has instructed a structural engineering consultant to investigate the cause of the humming noise and to provide him with recommendations / options report to resolve the issue. Ian will update Council once he has received the report.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Car Sales – Sealand Road / St. Bartholomew's Court

RESOLVED – that Mark Harris be asked to advise on the current planning situation for this location and to respond to the Council's concerns that lighting is creating a nuisance for residents at St. Bartholomew's Court. The email to Mark should be copied into Robert Harris.

d) Land opposite St. Bartholomew's Church – The Spinney

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred.

e) Deeside Lane

The County Councillor referred to the enforcement notice that has recently been issued.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

f) Car Park – Welsh Road (Griffiths Pharmacy)

RESOLVED — the Ian Bushell / Paul Edwards be asked to provide an update on the proposed car parking provision at this location.

g) Speed Limit Review – Ferry Lane – 30 mph

The Clerk advised that Claire Parry will inform Council when further information on the review is available. A reminder has been sent to Claire Parry.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

h) Dandy's Top Soil – Sealand Road

The Clerk referenced the report provided at the June 2019 meeting as provided by Karl Slater. Following previous meetings, the Clerk has emailed Karl Slater requesting an update. A reply has not been received.

The County Councillor advised that Dandy's Top Soil are now renting out large storage containers from the Sealand Road site.

RESOLVED – that Karl Slater at Flintshire County Council be asked to provide an update report regarding this site. The email to Karl should be copied into Mandy Lewis, County Councillor Chris Bithell, Matthew Georgio and Andrew Farrow.

i) Sealand Ditches – Site Meeting and Detailed Report

Since the September 2020 meeting Councillors Mike Walker and Dave Wisinger have emailed Neil Parry setting out their specific drainage concerns. A reply is still awaited from Neil Parry

RESOLVED - that -

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Neil Parry be asked to provide an update on the Council's drainage concerns and replies to the emails sent by Councillors Mike Walker and Dave Wisinger the email to Neil should be copied into Ruaria Barry.

j) Pot Holes – Manor Road and Sealand Avenue.

The various potholes have again been reported to StreetScene.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

k) Matched Funding Scheme – 2019/20 – Play Equipment – Riverside Park

Richard Roberts confirmed on 25th September 2020 that the match funding scheme at Riverside Park play area has now been completed. The Clerk has asked Richard to advise on whether matched funding schemes will be provided in the 2020/21 financial year. A reply is awaited.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

I) Keep Wales Tidy Project

Wayne Jones has previously advised that there is no update due to Covid 19.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

m) Vehicle being driven on to grass verge at Meadow View, Sealand Manor

Clara Owen, Neighbourhood Housing Officer advised on 26th September 2020 copy email sent to Councillor Mary Southall that Legal services have requested more information before being able to move forward.

Clara is in the process of gathering the information which she will then send onto them.

RESOLVED - that -

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Clara Owen be asked to provide a progress report.

n) Airfields Development Site

The Clerk advised that following the previous meeting Kate H. Jones' email that clarified the access arrangements to the Airfield Development Site was emailed to all members of Council.

Councillor Bob James said he still has concerns about the access arrangements and will email his concerns to the Clerk.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

o) Sustrans Cycleway – Chester to Deeside – Overgrown Grass and Bushes.

The Clerk advised that he had no further information to report on.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

p) Motorcycle/ Quad bike track- Pochins fields

Following the September 2020 meeting Tom Creer at Legat Owen be asked to provide his comments on this matter. A reply is awaited,

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/111 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk advised that all of the Council's 80 street lights are working.

The Clerk advised that the 2020/21 financial year lighting programme to upgrade and have adopted the following lights 11 lights has been completed - 107 and 108 on Stafford Road, 110 to 113 on Maplewood Avenue ,116 to 118 on Queens Road and 119 to 120 at Dee Road. The cost being 11 x £2150 = £23,650. The council's lighting stock will reduce from 80 to 69 at 1^{st} April 2021.

The 2021/22 lighting improvement programme should be aimed at the Riverside Park / Stoneleigh Close lights columns 138 to 140, 154 to 157 and 160 to 162: 10 in total. That leaves 14 columns at Riverside Park to be replaced and adopted over the next two financial years.

The Clerk reminded Council that at the February 2020 meeting minute Ref 19/250 ii) it resolved that the Financial Regulations should be suspended with regard to securing three written estimates that should not apply with regard to the Council's required street lighting maintenance and adoption contract. The Clerk advised that he has agreed the new lighting contract with Jamie Bennett copied in the Chair and Vice Chair and is now awaiting a hard copy from FCC for signature.

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Council re states that the Financial Regulations should be suspended with regard to securing three written estimates that should not apply with regard to the Council's required street lighting maintenance and adoption contract and that the Clerk is authorised to sign the said contract.

20/112 <u>SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</u> <u>PAYMENT OF GRANTS</u>

The Clerk advised that Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes

The Clerk advised that appropriate sum for the S137 Expenditure Limit for the purpose of Section137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the calculation of the Free Resource Base is based on the local population taken from the current electoral role.

The amount per elector is £8.32 and this applies to the 2020/21 financial year. The recently issued electoral role from Flintshire County Council at January 2020 indicates a total of 2168 (Sealand East 879 and Sealand West 1289). For the 2020/21 financial year the maximum expenditure is 2132 x £8.32 = £17,738.24. Allocated spend is £2,500 for grants and £2,800 for school milk. Total £5,300

Spent to prior to the meeting and for authorisation at the meeting £165.00 for school milk and £1,150.00 on grants.

The expenditure on free school milk comes under well-being (Local Government Act 2000, Sections (1-5) - this power is again restricted again by the S137 limit £8.32 in 2020/21.

RESOLVED -

- i) report be noted.
- ii) in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971 that the Council should award a grant of £200.00 to the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal which is in the best interests of the area and its inhabitants.

20/113 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised on the planning applications have been received from Flintshire County Council.

061810 - Change of Use from Music Studio to residential flat at 38 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2RA

061859 - Minor external alterations at Unit 47, Zone 2, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NU

061860 - External alterations at Unit 42, Zone 2, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NU

RESOLVED – that no objections be raised in respect of the reported planning applications.

20/114 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: - that

- i) the under mentioned accounts be approved for payment.
- ii) the Clerk will now arrange with three members of Council for the cheques to be signed.
- iii) it be noted that the Lloyds Bank charges for the period as previously notified to Council £5 per month.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003376	P. Richmond	Salary etc. – October 2020	£649.12			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003377	HMRC	PR – Income Tax £364.00 and NI £24.52 October 2020	£388.52			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003378	Flintshire County Council	Street Lighting Energy Charge – July to September 2020	£723.75			Highways Act 1980 (301)
003379	Earl Haig Poppy Appeal 2020	Grant	£200.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (S137
Total Spend			£1,961.39			

20/115 **INCOME**

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£0.38 and £0.44
Total		£0.82

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

20/116 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that some general correspondence had been emailed to members of council which did not need reporting at the meeting.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/117 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Committee has arranged for this year's Annual General Meeting of the Wrexham-Bidston Rail Users' Association to take place on Friday 20th November 2020.

The meeting will be held via the Zoom platform. It will commence at 14:00 and finish at 14:40. The agenda can be found below.

If members of Council wish to take part in the meeting, please email the Secretary guy.a.barker@btinternet.com.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/118 AREA COMMITTEE ONE VOICE WALES

The Clerk referred to the recently circulated email asking for a nomination to represent the Council.

The Clerk asked members of Council to contact him should they be interested in attending the OVW meetings.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/119 FRIENDS OF SEALAND – FIGTREE PROJECT – ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Councillor Brian Ward reported on recent progress. It is anticipated that all works will be completed in two weeks.

Councillors asked whether the gas tank could be hidden in some way from open view

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/120 PROVISION OF BENCHES AT STONELEIGH CLOSE – GARDEN CITY

RESOLVED - that the Council should consider meeting the cost for the County Council to install two new benches on the basis that the benches are maintained as County Council assets and future maintenance and insurance costs are fully met by the County Council.

20/121 REPORT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2019/20

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred pending the Clerk's next update.

20/122 <u>SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BANK RECONCILIATION – 30th</u> SEPTEMBER 2020

The Clerk advised that in line with council's Financial Regulations and audit requirements he submits details of the Council's overall bank balances in respect of – as at 30th June, 30th September, 31st December and 31st March each year.

The position as at 30th September 2020 is –

Account - no - 0388217 - £11,419.11 Account - no - 7326098 - £54,563.63 Total - £65,982.74

Less unpaid cheques - 003373 dated 21st September 2020 – JOLORA Ltd for £576.00

Total bank accounts -£65,982.74 less unpaid cheques of £576.00 leaves a closing balance of £65,406.74. This amount cross references with the summary of income and expenditure report as at 30^{th} September 2020 as previously circulated by the Clerk.

The bank reconciliation statement including copies of the appropriate bank statements was circulated to all members of Council on 15th October 2020.

The Vice Chair has signed and returned the two hard copies of the bank reconciliation statement.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

20/123 <u>SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR</u>

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2020/21 financial year up to cheque number 003378.

	2020/21 Financial Year		Actual		Anticipated	Difference
	Income					
	General Ad	l Admin Inc. Precept		0.00	£57,000.00	-£19,000.00
	Bank Intere	·			£22.00	£12.96
	Cancelled p	payment from 2019/20	£50.00		£0.00	£50.00
	VAT Refund	•	£467.5	6	£400.00	£67.56
	Milk Claims		£109.13		£400.00	-£290.87
	Total		£38,635.73		£57,822.00	-£19,186.27
	Expenditur	Expenditure			Anticipated	Difference
	Bank Charg	Bank Charges			£60.00	-£30.00
	Chairman's	Chairman's Fund			£800.00	-£800.00
	Staffing Co	Staffing Costs		.84	£10,669.00	-£4,133.16
	Admin Cost	ts inc printer cartridges	£2,362.27		£2,840.00	-£477.73
	Council We	eb Site	£1,882.00		£2,304.00	-£422.00
	Insurances		£770.12		£875.00	£104.88
	Defibrillato	r – LGA Act 2000(S2)	£0.00		£75.00	-£75.00
	Play Schem	es and New Equipment	£0.00		£10,500.00	-£10,500.00
	Highways		£0.00		£2,500.00	-£2,500.00
	Street Light	ting	£3,170.17		£23,700.00	-£20,529.83
	CCTV Main	tenance	£0.00		£250.00	-£250.00
	Grants – Se	ection 137	£1,150.00 £165.00		£2,500.00	-£1,350.00
	School Milk	c – Section 137			£2,800.00	-£2,635.00
	Total		£16,06	5.40	£59,873.00	£43,807.60
	irrent immary	Balance as at 31 March 2020 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£41,075			
		Total expenditure	£16,065			
		Total income	£38,635			
		Balance in year spend	£22,570.33			
		Overall balance as at 19 th October 2020	£63,645	5.79		
		VAT Costs for 2020/21		05.00.00		
Er	ıd of Year	financial year	£569.60			
	ediction	Balance as at 31 st March 2020		£41,075.46		
		Total anticipated expenditure		£59,873.00		
		Total anticipated income		£57,822.00		
		Anticipated balance for the year		-£2,051.00		
		Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31 st				
		March 2021		£ 39,024.46		

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/124 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8th NOVEMBER 2020

The Clerk advised that he has ordered 4 wreaths from Colin Sargeant – Council, Royal British Legion, Merchant Navy and St. Bartholomew's Church. Councillor Norman Jones has agreed to collect.

With regard to the street light poppies Colin has advised that the British legion are not issuing any of these this year.

Council has about 25 remaining from last year. Councillors Mike Walker and Bob James have agreed to install in line with 2019.

Jennifer Watson has advised that an outdoor Remembrance Service and wreath laying ceremony of no longer than 30 mins will take place in the centenary garden at MOD Sealand on 8th November 2020.

A maximum number of 30 guests will be invited to the Service.

This number includes the Chairs of Sealand and Queensferry Community Councils and Christine Jones as representative of FCC and pupils from Sealand Primary School.

A single service sheet will be provided on the day and collected in afterwards for disposal. Everyone will be asked to wear masks. No singing will take place but music will be provided through speakers. There will be no refreshments.

DECA will send out the official invitations and each guest will be asked to respond individually for security and track and trace purposes.

It was agreed at the previous meeting that Councillor Norman Jones (Vice Chair) and Mike Walker will attend the Remembrance Service to represent Council.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

20/125 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Orchard Way – need to prune horse chestnut tree that is affecting BT broadband services.

Sealand Manor – East Green - incident involving a white van.

Lookers Garage – cars advertised for sale – Sealand Road – near to Villa Road.

At rear of 29/31 Welsh Road – Enforcement issue – urgent need for the removal of a metal fence.

20/126	MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC				
Ferry Lane – Fly Tipping					
20/127	DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 16 th NOVEMBER 2020 – Starting at 6pm				
20/128 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTEREST					
Council Member		Item	Minute Reference		
The meeting opened at 6pm and closed at 7.30pm					
		Signed 16 th November	2020		