

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2021 ON LINE VIA GO TO MEETING

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

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

20/189 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised

20/190 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mikael Khan,

20/191 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted at the beginning of the meeting.

20/192 CONTINUATION OF ON LINE COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was noted that Council will continue holding its meetings on line and will keep under review as and when further Covid advice has been issued. Unlikely to change before August 2021.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/193 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 14th DECEMBER 2020

The Chair advised that she had not attended any meetings since the previous Council meeting on 14th December 2020.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/194 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14th DECEMBER 2020

RESOLVED - that –

- i) the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14th December 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.

20/195 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. Payments being made under expenditure powers - Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S11). Payment to date is £350.00

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/196 POLICE ISSUES

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

Deferred pending further updates.

2. Drugs Problem –Garden City

On 15th December 2020 Inspector Stephen Roberts advised that he has requested that a community engagement plan be produced, together with a demand profile. Once he has this, he will be back in touch to outline what we are/ will be doing to make things better for your community.

On 19th December 2020 Sergeant Bethan Pritchard advised that he line with her previous emails all incidents should be called in at the time they take place so that the Police can either attend or create an intelligence picture so that they can target the areas on the right day at the right times.

The Police do have information about the clock tower but that isn't a current dealing place.

Rob Bainbridge the local PCSO will patrol, but information on days/times locations would enable more investigations to be carried out.

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted
- ii) Council notes that it is important that all incidents should be reported to the Police at the time they take place so that the Police hold all available intelligence.

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

Councillor Mike Walker advised that no further speed watches had been undertaken.

Mike has asked John Morris at North Wales Police for the purchasing details for Council to obtain a speed radar gun estimated cost £125. Expenditure being under Power of Wellbeing 2000. Expenditure to go against Council's S137 limit.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

4. Ferry Lane Residents Association - 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.

Deferred pending further updates.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

5. Problems of serious anti-social behaviour.

The Police are encouraging residents of the area to contact the Police directly at the time it is happening. This is assisting in building a full picture of what is happening and when.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/197 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

a) Underpass - Foxes Lane

Wayne Jones to be advised should flooding occur.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Ferry Lane Footbridge – Noise Nuisance

At the November 2020 meeting the Clerk reported that Ian Bushell advised the Council commissioned a Structural Consultant to investigate the noise / vibrations made by the bridge in certain weather conditions. The consultant has also been in discussions with the manufacture of the handrails and other County's with a similar bridge design. It is Ian's understanding that the consultant has been out to view the bridge in different conditions over the past few weeks and spoken to local residents within the area. Ian said that then he has a meeting this week to discuss their findings and will review the recommendations.

An update report has been requested. Wayne Jones did advise at the December 2020 meeting that he will also discuss with Ian Bushell.

RESOLVED – that Ian Bushell be asked to provide a progress report.

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

At the previous meeting the Clerk advised that he had been informed by Mark Harris that the Pollution Control have been asked to provide details of the adjustment necessary i.e. max height of the lighting and introduction of a cowl to meet light pollution concerns.

An update report has been requested.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

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

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred.

e) Deeside Lane

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred.

f) Car Park – Welsh Road (Griffiths Pharmacy)

The County Councillor advised that she will request an update from Sam Tully

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

g) Speed Limit Review – Ferry Lane – 30 mph

Ian Bushell previously advised earlier today that he has copied in Richard Flood (Transport Strategy Manger) who manages the WG bids on behalf of StreetScene. Richard will be able to advise on possibilities of future Safer Routes in the Community’s bids and it may be worth investigating Active Travel measures for Ferry Lane as I know this is a promoted cycle route on our integrated mapping system. Richard Flood has now been asked about this. The County Councillor previously advised that she has also sent an email to Richard Flood requesting the same. An update has been requested.

RESOLVED – that Ian Bushell and Richard Flood be asked to provide a progress report.

h) Dandy’s Top Soil – Sealand Road

On 15th December 2020 Mandy Lewis, Development Manager advised that the Council may not be aware of the significant reduction in capacity of the Development Management team

during the Spring and Summer of this year. The service is now recovering from this position however consultants had to be appointed to prevent the service from shutting completely.

She has asked those consultants to review the position of Dandy's on Sealand Road with regard to lawful and an unlawful development. This review is not scheduled to commence until late January 2021 due to existing commitments. Mandy anticipates that the work will be carried out during February 2021 and we would then be able to send a completed summary statement to the Sealand Community Council. Mandy did caveat that this may be subject to change depending on capacity levels of the service and possible re-prioritisation of work if necessary. She hopes that Council will understand that she is being cautious about setting absolute deadlines at this time of uncertainty.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

i) Sealand Ditches – Site Meeting and Detailed Report

Lisa Bilton from NEWTRA provided location maps for Council to identify the culverts it's concerned about. Councillor Mike Walker advised that the blocked culvert is at point A, also the drainage ditch that should run from point A to point F has been filled in for around 3/4 of its length. Lisa advised that the area being referred to is not inspected nor maintained by NMWTRA. Lisa provided a plan showing NMWTRA's network in that area and said that Flintshire County Council may be able to assist further. Neil Parry advised that the County Council own the field to the east of the Cyclepath and nothing else. Neil said that he will have look to see if he can find anything untoward, that is if I am allowed out under current Covid 19 restrictions. Neil asked Mike to confirm whether any physical changes have actually occurred on the ground since they were last inspected.

Mike advised Neil that the water levels are the same as they have been for some time, the ditches you had cleaned out seem to be working better.

The main change is the fact that 3 farmers and a member of the public have all been to points A and F they like myself say that the water coming from the two ponds that take water from the dual carriageway should not be forced towards the Waterloo, this then backs up the water on the fisheries, and ditch that runs past the Station Cottages, this then stops the water from running of the field in front of his house.

If the culvert at point A was clear and the ditch running to point F was reinstated the water from the ponds would run into the two-catchment pond within the roundabout and pumped away.

All are convinced that the watercourse was changed when the work was done on the dual carriageway, one has a video showing the work being done, and him pointing it out to the workmen what they were doing, the video is too large for him to send by email.

RESOLVED – that the County Councillor should ask Ruari Barry at the County Council to arrange for a site meeting with Neil Parry and local councillors to do a walkabout of the area to look at the ditches and the drainage problems in the area.

j) Pot Holes – Foxes Lane, Manor Road and Sealand Avenue.

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred.

k) Matched Funding Scheme – 2020/21 – Play Equipment

On 17th December 2020 Richard Roberts – Play Design Officer – Aura Leisure and Libraries advised that the 2020/21 match funding has been rolled forward to 2021/22, mainly due to delays caused COVID-19 and implementing the 2019-20 programme. A letter is due out in early 2021 inviting Town and Community Councils to take part in match funding for the financial year 2021/22, this will also be accompanied with an independent play survey which will form the basis of planning strategic investment on play areas.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

Clara Owen, Neighbourhood Housing Officer advised on 23rd October 2020 that letters have been sent out advising a complaint has been made to Flintshire County Council with regard to vehicles driving over communal grassed areas. The communal area is not designed to take the weight of vehicles, and may cause damage to the grass and any utility pipes that may be in place to service the properties. Please refrain from driving over the grassed area. Thank you for your co-operation.

Clara also advised on 23rd October 2020 that she emailed capital works on 18th June 2020 and had a response the same day to say they are unable to carry out site visits at present but would put the site down for future consideration. Clara will contact capital works to request an update on their site visits arrangement's.

RESOLVED – that Clara Owen and Neil Cockerton be asked to provide a progress report on recent actions taken or planned actions to be taken.

m) Airfields Development Site

Following the November 2020 meeting Katie Jones at Flintshire County Council was asked for an update on their plans and proposals to mitigate against any traffic problems caused by the Airfields development and the need to continue to monitor traffic flows. Council asked will its concerns be alleviated when the Airfield site has been completed.

An update report has been requested.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

n) Orchard Way – Tree that needs lopping – affecting BT Service

It was that reported Dewi Morris – the County Council’s Tree Inspector has advised that he is unable to lop the said tree.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

o) Chelsea lime tree - Old Sealand Road – Tree Preservation Order

Stuart Body has asked for a location plan showing the position of the tree that the Council has requested a TPO. Councillor Mike Walker has provided as requested.

RESOLVED – that Stuart Body be asked to provide a progress report with regard to the Council’s request for a TPO.

p) Children’s Play Areas - Need to improved signage – No Dogs

RESOLVED – that Wayne Jones and Paul Edwards be asked to provided additional No Dogs signs at the Children’s Play Areas.

20/198 COUNCIL’S STREET LIGHTING

All of the Council’s 80 street lights are working. The lighting stock reduces to 69 on 1st April 2021. There had been an issue at Ferry Lane with 5 lights needing repair.

It was agreed by Council at its December 2020 meeting that 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. Cost per column being £2,150.00 - total cost £21,500.00. That leaves 14 columns at Riverside Park to be replaced and adopted over the next two financial years. And reduces the total lighting stock to 59 on 1st April 2022.

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 signed the new lighting contract April 2020 to April 2023 in September 2020 and has at last received a signed copy back from the County Council. A copy was circulated to all members of Council.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/199

SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
PAYMENT OF GRANTS

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 appropriate sum for the S137 Expenditure Limit for the purpose of Section 137 (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 December 2020 indicates a total of 2152 (Sealand East 874 and Sealand West 1278). For the 2020/21 financial year the maximum expenditure is $2152 \times £8.32 = £17,904.64$ Allocated spend is £2,500 for grants and £2,800 for school milk. Total £5,300. For the 2021/22 financial year this has increased to £8.41 per elector. The amount per elector is £8.41 producing a total of £18,098.32

Spent to prior to the meeting and for authorisation at the meeting £165.00 for school milk and £1,350.00 on grants. The £165.00 for school milk relates to March 2020. The Headteacher of Sealand Primary School advised on 4th January 2021 that due to Covid the school has no plans to restart school milk but they will as soon as they can.

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 and £8.41 for 2021/22.

RESOLVED - report be noted.

20/200

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

062135 - Application for variation of a condition no. 2 following grant of planning permission. (057808) at (Former Garage Site) Land at the rear of 31 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2HU.

RESOLVED – that objections be submitted with regard to 062135 as the fencing line as already built is on the route of a public right of way and is preventing the passing of vehicles in particular County Council vehicles wishing to gain access to the adjacent sewerage pumping station.

20/201 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 has increased from £5 to £7.00 per month with an additional charge of £0.85 per cheque – the total charge as on 30th December 2021 was £8.70 - £7.00 plus 2 cheque payments £1.70.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003400	Communi Corp	Annual Subscription	£100.00			Miscellaneous Powers LGA 1972 (S111)
003401	P. Richmond	Salary etc. – January 2021	£676.94			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003402	HMRC	PR – Income Tax - £364.00 and NI £24.52 January 2021	£388.52			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
Total Spend			£1,165.46			

20/202 INCOME

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£0.29
Total		£0.29

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

20/203 CORRESPONDENCE

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

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/204 FRIENDS OF SEALAND – FIGTREE PROJECT – ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

On 30th December 2020 Stephen Smith circulated an email, then copied by the Clerk to all members of Council thanking all those who helped get the building ready and also attended the open morning on 12th December. It all went well, so that was encouraging. New contacts were made with people interested in using the facility

The first full service with Rev Pam Powell was held on the Sunday before Christmas. It has now been decided to pause services during January because of the virulent new strain of Covid 19.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/204 PROVISION OF BENCHES AT STONELEIGH CLOSE – GARDEN CITY

At the December 2020 meeting it was resolved that Mike Angel and Neil Cockerton be asked to provide replacement benches at Stoneleigh Close. The two existing seats are in a dreadful state of repair and should be either repaired or replaced. A reminder was recently by the Clerk

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/205 REPORT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2019/20

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

**20/206 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BANK RECONCILIATION –
31st DECEMBER 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 31st December 2020 is –

Account - no – 0388217 - £9,445.14
Account - no – 7326098 - £44,564.71
Total - £54,009.85

Less unpaid cheques –

Cheque number	Dated	Payable to	Amount
003390	16 th November 2020	Sealand Primary School	£50.00 – presented on 18 th January 2021
003393	14 th December 2020	Jolora Ltd	£228.00 – presented on 12 th January 2021

003394	14 th December 2020	Flintshire County Council	£237.10
003398	14 th December 2020	SLCC	£166.00 – presented on 7 th January 2021
Total			£681.10

Total bank accounts – £54,009.95 less unpaid cheques of £681.10 leaves a nett balance of £53,328.75. This amount cross references with the summary of income and expenditure report as at 31st December 2020 as circulated by the Clerk.

The bank reconciliation statement including copies of the appropriate bank statements was circulated to all members of Council by email on 12th January 2021 and three copies posted the same day to the Vice Chair for signing.

The Vice Chair advised that he will sign and return two hard copies of the bank reconciliation statement to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

20/207 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2020/21 financial year up to cheque number 003402.

2020/21 Financial Year		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income				
General Admin Inc. Precept		£57,000.00	£57,000.00	£0.00
Bank Interest		£9.68	£22.00	-£12.32
Cancelled payment from 2019/20		£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
VAT Refund		£467.56	£400.00	£67.56
Milk Claims		£109.13	£400.00	-£290.87
Total		£57,636.37	£57,822.00	-£185.63
Expenditure		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges		£48.70	£60.00	£11.30
Chairman's Fund		£350.00	£800.00	£450.00
Staffing Costs		£9,338.38	£10,669.00	£1,330.62
Admin Costs inc printer cartridges		£3,039.79	£2,840.00	-£199.79
Council Web Site		£2,686.00	£2,304.00	-£382.00
Insurances		£770.12	£875.00	£104.88
Defibrillator – LGA Act 2000(S2)		£0.00	£75.00	-£75.00
Play Schemes and New Equipment		£1,743.28	£10,500.00	£8,756.72
Highways		£0.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Street Lighting		£27,057.27	£23,700.00	-£3,357.27
CCTV Maintenance		£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Grants – Section 137		£1,350.00	£2,500.00	£1,150.00
School Milk – Section 137		£165.00	£2,800.00	£2,635.00
Total		£46,548.54	£59,873.00	£13,324.46
Current Summary	Balance as at 31 March 2020 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£41,075.46		
	Total expenditure	£46,548.54		
	Total income	£57,636.37		
	Balance in year spend	£11,087.83		
	Overall balance as of 18th January 2021	£52,163.29		
End of Year Prediction	VAT Costs for 2020/21 financial year	£703.60		
	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 31st March 2021	£ 39,024.46		

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/208 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Grit Bins needed at Orchard Way – County Councillor will action.

Concern about local water – has a strong chemical smell and taste. Dee Valley Water or Welsh Water depending on address.

20/209 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Concerns still about speed limit on Ferry Lane.

20/210 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 15th FEBRUARY 2021 – Starting at 6pm

20/211 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 7.25pm

..... Signed 15th February 2021