

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 15th MARCH 2021 ON LINE VIA GO TO MEETING

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

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

20/236 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Concerns raised by email regarding road safety, especially what can be done to deter speeding in Garden City, more so on Sealand Avenue as it is notorious for speeding.

The Police have advised that the car that is mentioned in the incident has been linked to burglaries in Cheshire over the previous two days and appeared to be on cloned plates. This is being investigated by the Police.

RESOLVED - that Councillors Ashley Griffiths, Mikael Khan and Brian Ward to arrange to undertake a community speed watch at Farm Road, Sealand Avenue and Welsh Road.

20/237 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Jean Fairbrother.

20/238 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted at the beginning of the meeting.

20/239 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.

20/240 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 15th FEBRUARY 2021

The Chair advised that she had not attended any meetings since the previous Council meeting on 15th February 2021.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/241 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15th FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED - that –

- i) the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 15th February 2021 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.

20/242 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 £700.00

The Chair proposed a payment of £100 to Sealand Primary School.

RESOLVED – that the Chair's proposed spend to Sealand Primary School of £100 be agreed.

20/243 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

At the January 2021 meeting Council noted 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.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

- 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.

Constable Scott Noble - 2884 has advised that the Police have had a good month in cracking down on two of their targets for the area and have arrested them for the increase in theft from motor vehicle offences for which they are both on curfew for. Also, with the CBM for Queensferry Scott has been onto the Riverside Park site and spoken and issued letters in relation to the youths throwing stones at cars and buildings and this has massively reduced the incidents of this type that were taking place at Garden City and Queensferry.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

6. Sealand – Police walkabout in the area

Constable Scott Noble – 2884 advised on 12th March 2021 that the date has been confirmed - Wednesday 17th March 2021. Starting at 9am and meeting by the Leprechaun Hotel as there is plenty of parking. It is planned to get officers into groups of 2 and they can meet councillors if they want too. If anyone is interested can you get back to me with how many, names and where they want to walk. At the moment Scott plans to assign two officers to each sub area, The Manor, Garden City, Sealand, Dutton Fields Members of Council were advised of the above on 12th March 2021.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted and for Constable Scott Noble – 2884 to be asked to provide Council with a report of the walkabout identifying outcomes and agreed actions

7. Police Cameras – B5441

The County Councillor reported on an initiative involving Queensferry Community Council that will invoice the Police installing cameras that will record passing vehicle registration numbers – also speed checks will be undertaken

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

20/244 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

- a) **Underpass - Foxes Lane**

RESOLVED – that Wayne Jones to be asked to arrange for the gullies to be jetted.

Note - All the gullies at Foxes Lane and Manor Road were cleaned on Friday 12th March 2021.

b) Ferry Lane Footbridge – Noise Nuisance

Wayne Jones contacted Ian Bushell on 25th February 2021 asking if there are any updates about the footbridge Sealand community Council are asking if there is any progress.

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

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

At a 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

The County Councillor advised on the latest problem at Deeside Lane involving organised motor bike scrambling. All complaints and incidents have been recorded and are being investigated by the County Council's Public Protection and Planning.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

f) Car Park – Welsh Road (Griffiths Pharmacy)

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

g) Safer Routes in the Community's bids – Ferry Lane – 30 mph

Wayne Jones contacted Richard Flood on 25th February 2021 regarding Ferry Lane and safer routes funding for a footpath to be installed. Wayne has previously put this forward as a scheme as the road is joining up two cycle networks and there are a lot of caravan and camping visitors to that area.

RESOLVED – that a progress report be requested from Anthony Stanford.

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 a progress report be requested from Mandy Lewis, Development Manager.

i) Sealand Ditches – Site Meeting and Detailed Report

The County Councillor previously advised that she met with Ruari Barry and Neil Parry from the County Council together with Councillors Mike Walker and Dave Wisinger on 27th January 2021. The Clerk didn't receive details of the meeting until after the meeting had started and he was then away from the office and the Chair was unable to access the meeting.

A report of the meeting outlining the discussions and agreed actions has been requested from Ruari Barry but not received.

RESOLVED – that Ruari Barry be asked to submit his report of the meeting outlining the discussions and agreed actions

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

RESOLVED – that Wayne Jones be advised of the above.

k) Matched Funding Scheme – 2021/22 – Play Equipment

A letter is due out in April 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.

The County Councillor has proposed the installation of basket swing with a rubber seat and with improved support at the Welsh Road Recreation Field.

Richard Roberts, Play Design Officer at Aura Wales had been asked to advise on this and has submitted estimated costings for Council's consideration – provision and install cost £5,817.50 (estimate)

Flintshire County Council would own, maintain and insure the equipment.

Council needs to decide whether to proceed as above and confirm the costings with Richard Roberts or to wait until the match funding scheme for 2021/22 is sent to Council for its consideration.

Funding by Council is covered by the Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 19

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred pending the outcome of the 2021/22 matched funding scheme.

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

Clara Owen, Neighbourhood Housing Officer advised on 20th January 2021 that she was informed over the Christmas/New Year break that Capital works carried out an initial survey on Wednesday 16th December 2020.

They confirmed that it is possible to install driveways to the frontages of most of the Council owned properties, but unfortunately these works will need to be considered for next financial year at the very earliest once the proposed Driveways Scheme has been scored.

The budget has been fully committed for this financial year (up to the end of March 2021) and they are awaiting news on the budget allocation for next financial year.

They will provide a further update as soon as they know where the proposed scheme sits on the Matrix in comparison with other schemes around Flintshire.

RESOLVED – that Clara Owen, Neighbourhood Housing Officer be asked to provide a progress report.

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.

RESOLVED - that Katie Jones be asked to provide a progress report.

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

Stuart Body had asked for a location plan showing the position of the tree that the Council

as requested a TPO. Councillor Mike Walker has provided as requested.

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

o) Children’s Play Areas - Need to improve signage – No Dogs

Wayne Jones copied in Council to his email dated 21st January 2021 asking Environmental Services to confirm that these areas are on the order for marked sports pitches as there are a lot of people using the sports pitch to walk their dogs. Wayne has also witnessed dogs inside the play areas on Welsh Road and Sealand Manor.

RESOLVED – that Wayne Jones be asked to submit a progress report.

p) Parking Complaints – Welsh Road

The County Councillor on 26th January 2021 advised the Enforcement Team concerning the parking issue along Welsh Road, by the Amantola. Cars, vans and lorries are parking at all hours of the day and night. It is making visibility poor for drivers exiting Hawthorn View. John Griffiths – StreetScene has looked at this problem for me a few months ago, but is getting worse. There are drivers sleeping overnight in their cabs.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

q) Parking Complaints – Meadow View

The County Councillor on 13th January 2021 advised StreetScene that there is a major issue with farm workers parking on Meadow View. The residents are furious as they can't park outside their houses. The County Councillor has asked that enforcement should raise the issue with the farmer to ask that the workers park on the farm land, there is plenty of space,

It was reported that the said farmer has provided a hard-core parking area for the referenced farm workers.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

r) Parking Complaints / Speed Limit Review – B5441 – Amantola

The County Councillor on 7th March 2021 asked for the date of the next Flintshire speed limit review. There are many issues on the road by the Amantola, B5441 going passed Amazon and joining the A494. The speed of the traffic is dreadful. There are also terrible parking problems along that road, including Amazon vans and HGVs. A significant number of complaints have been made by residents who live on Welsh Rd, Hawthorn View and Cedar Close.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

s) Safer Routes to School – Garden City – Sealand Primary School

The County Councillor on 7th March 2021 requested that the Garden City Estate be considered for the next round of funding for Safer Routes to Schools. The school is situated at the junction of Farm Road and Welsh Road. The area has many families with young children who attend this school. Numbers are rising with the new build at the Airfields site. The estate is plagued by speeding traffic. The roads that are affected are Farm Road, Brookside, Kingsley Road, Bridge View, Sealand Avenue, Sandy Lane and Queens Road. This is an old estate with narrow roads. The vast majority of children walk to school but need to do so safely. Garden City urgently needs some form of traffic calming, better signage and 20 mph speed limit. This estate needs to be assessed, scored, and plans drawn up to be sent to Welsh Government for funding.

RESOLVED – that Council supports the request and should advise Richard Flood, Lee Shone and Anthony Stanford of Council's decision.

20/245 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

All of the Council's 80 street lights are working. The lighting stock reduces to 69 on 1st April 2021.

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 Council's remaining street lights are at Cedar Avenue, Deeside Lane(unadopted), Ferry Lane, Hawthorn View, Manor Road (unadopted section), Riverside Park, Station Cottages (unadopted) and Villa Road.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**20/246 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.

20/247 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

061235 - Construction of new showroom / offices, installation of Security lighting, and siting of temporary Office and toilets at former Smithy Garage, Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LQ

061236 - Display of new signage at former Smithy Garage, Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LQ

062408 - Application for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission. (058868) at Former Corus Garden City site, Garden City, Deeside

062426 - New Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) kiosk at Sewage Pumping Station Deeside Industrial Park, Parkway, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NS

062462 - 1 - Sign Board to Front Elevation (18.3m X 1.5m). 2 - Sign Board to Rear Elevation (30m X 1.5m). 3 - Sign Board to Rear Elevation (4.5m X 3m) at Unit 38, Drive B, Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NU

062463 - Erection of a 1800mm high close board fence to enclose a dog exercise area at Unit 38, Drive B, Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NU

RESOLVED – that –

- i) no objections be raised regarding the above planning applications 062408, 062426, 062462 and 062463.
- ii) objections be submitted in respect of 061235 – Council is very concerned about the light intrusion for nearby residents at St. Bartholomew's Court that is caused by the on-site securing lighting and the lighting overspill onto the A548 – Sealand Road.
- iii) objections be submitted in respect of 061236 – Council is very concerned about the proposed size of the signs their intrusive nature and council questioned the need for the signs to be illuminated.

20/248 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 most recent period is £7.00 per month with an additional charge of £0.85 per cheque – 7 cheques x 5 = £5.95. £12.95 in total.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003409	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Annual Renewal Fee	£40.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (S111)
003410	P. Richmond	Salary etc. – March 2021	£662.18			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003411	HMRC	PR - Income Tax - £363.60 and NI £24.43 March 2021	£388.03			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003412	Flintshire County Council	Maintenance charge January to March 2021	£500.40			Highways Act 1980 (301)
003413	Sealand Primary School	Payment from Chairs' Fund	£100.00			Ancillary Power Local

						Government Act 1972 (S11).
Total Spend			£1,690.61			

20/249 INCOME

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£0.32
Total		£0.32

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

20/250 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.

20/251 FRIENDS OF SEALAND – FIGTREE PROJECT – ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

RESOLVED - that the matter be deferred as there was no report.

20/252 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.

The County Councillor advised that she has been informed that the said seats can’t be repaired at the present time and there aren’t funds to replace them

RESOLVED - that Mike Angel and Neil Cockerton be advised that Council is very concerned to be advised that the said seats can’t be repaired at the present time and funds are not available to replace them. Council should restate that the two existing seats are in a dreadful state of repair and should be either repaired or replaced. Or removed and not replaced.

20/253 REPORT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2019/20

The Clerk advised the required notice has been published on the Council's web site. This would have been published earlier with September 2020 dates had the relevant communication been received. Date of announcement 8th February 2021.

BDO have been advised and will now complete the review of the file and have it ready for sign off after 22nd March 2021.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

20/254 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred

20/255 NOTICE BOARDS

The Clerk advised that a member of the public has asked whether it would be possible to advertise his novels via a poster on the notice board at the corner of Seahill Road and Sealand road and in any other notice cases you may possess.

One Voice Wales advised that it depends entirely on what your Council's policy is. Some Council's allow advertising, others allow Community groups and others restricted to purely Council business.

The Clerk advised that Council needs to agree on a policy which can then applied uniformly.

RESOLVED – that Council has determined that its notice boards are only to be used for Council business and to display information about Sealand community groups.

20/256 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2020/21 financial year up to cheque number 003413.

2020/21 Financial Year		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income				
General Admin Inc. Precept		£57,000.00	£57,000.00	£0.00
Bank Interest		£10.29	£22.00	-£11.71
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		£57,636.98	£57,822.00	-£185.02
Expenditure		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges		£78.00	£60.00	-£18.00
Chairman's Fund		£800.00	£800.00	£0.00
Staffing Costs		£11,201.99	£10,669.00	-£532.99
Admin Costs inc printer cartridges		£3,334.74	£2,840.00	-£494.74
Council Web Site		£3,262.00	£2,304.00	-£958.00
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		£30,087.72	£23,700.00	-£6,387.72
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		£52,792.85	£59,873.00	£7,080.15
Current Summary	Balance as at 31 March 2020 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£41,075.46		
	Total expenditure	£52,792.85		
	Total income	£57,636.98		
	Balance in year spend	£4,844.13		
	Overall balance as 15 th March 2021	£45,919.59		
End of Year Prediction	VAT Costs for 2020/21 financial year	£799.60		
	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.

20/257 ACCESS TO INFORMATION - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES 2020/21

The Clerk advised that a notice advising that – “In the 2020/21 financial year Sealand Community Council made no payments to its members of Council in respect of the remuneration of community and town councils as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel of Wales” has been added to notices section on the web site and the on the council’s notice boards.

A copy has also been sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

20/258 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

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

Concern about AD Waste Recycling – Deeside Industrial Park – Fire Hazard.

20/259 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Concerns re delays to propose palls to reduce the noise levels – foot bridge.

Concerns about noise levels from the motor bike scrambling

Need to improve broad band connectivity – Ferry Lane

20/260 DATE OF COUNCIL’S NEXT MEETING – 19th APRIL 2021 – Starting at 6pm

20/261 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 7.40pm

..... Signed 19th April 2021