

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18th OCTOBER 2021 at ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, OLD SEALAND ROAD, SEALAND, DEESIDE. CH5 2LQ

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

Peter Richmond: Clerk and Financial Officer.

Paul Edwards: StreetScene.

21/124 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC – OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

21/125 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Gwyneth Bullock, Mikael Khan and Alex Lewis.

21/126 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted at the beginning of the meeting.

21/127 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 20th SEPTEMBER 2021

The Chair advised that there were no actions or reports to advise on.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/128 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20th SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20th September 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

21/129 REVIEW OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the September 2021 meeting of Council, it was agreed that all Council meetings to July 2022 be held at St. Bartholomew's Church.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/130 CHAIR'S FUND 2021/22

The Clerk reminded Council that the agreed spend for the Chair's Fund for the 2021/22 financial year is £800.00. Payments being made under expenditure powers - Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S11).

At the September 2021 meeting Council approved the use of the Chair's Fund to be used to fund refreshments at both the Remembrance Sunday on 14th November 2021 and the Celebration of Christmas for Thursday 16th December 2021. There may also be costs for a choir to attend.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

21/131 POLICE ISSUES

Community Speed Watch – Sealand Avenue, Welsh Road and Sealand Road

Councillor Ashley Griffiths advised that with Councillor Brian Ward he will carry out speed checks on Welsh Road and by the Amantola Restaurant.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

Sealand – Police walkabout in the area – Date to be Rearranged.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/132 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

a) Underpass - Foxes Lane

Paul Edwards advised that he inspected the area and a team has attended regarding the overhanging weeds. The side walls will be cleaned late October / early November. The drainage system – gullies and pump will also be inspected.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Ferry Lane Footbridge – Noise Nuisance

Paul Edwards advised that the Council wants to ascertain which properties are affected by the noise nuisance and the frequency of the noise events.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Car Sales – Sealand Road / St. Bartholomew's Court – PA 061235

The County Councillor received an email on 6th July 2021 from Eden Planning advising application 061235 at the Former Smithy Garage, Sealand Road, Deeside, CH5 2LQ has been transferred to us from Mark Harris due to the extensive workload that is being experienced at Flintshire County Council. We have been in contact with the Pollution Officer who has previously undertaken night visits at the site. They have informed us that one luminaire was adjusted after advice however further complaints have been made. The applicant has since submitted a number of amendments for the proposal which are being assessed accordingly.

We appreciate that the delays and the impact of the existing floodlights are frustrating and wish to confirm that we are assessing the application. Our recommendation report will provide an assessment of the lighting and will include a condition to restrict the hours/levels of lighting from the floodlights

RESOLVED – that Mandy Lewis be asked to provide a progress report.

d) Deeside Lane - Motor Biking Activity

The County Councillor has previously advised on the numerous complaints she is receiving from Sealand and Blacon residents. Following the September 2021 meeting an email was sent to County Councillor Chris Bithell, Andrew Farrow, Ian Roberts and by copy to the MP and AM asking for a progress report to have the motor bike activity stopped. The Clerk advised that only the MP responded.

The County Councillor advised that the issue is being investigated by Enforcement.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

e) Car Park – Welsh Road (Griffiths Pharmacy)

RESOLVED – that Paul Edwards to discuss with Ian Bushell.

f) Dandy's Top Soil – Sealand Road

On 7th July Mandy Lewis, Development Manager confirmed that their consultants have undertaken investigations. She will now ask the officers to provide a progress report on the matter. Following the September 2021 meeting Mandy Lewis be asked to provide a progress report and be advised that the number of heavy vehicles accessing the site is on the increase. the report be noted.

RESOLVED – that Mandy Lewis be asked to provide a progress report.

g) Active Travel Improvements – Saltney to Sealand

The Clerk referenced the project led by Jayne Rodgers, Transport Strategy Officer, Flintshire County Council. In response to Council's request for the retention of the barriers on the River Dee footbridge Jayne advised that as detailed in her recent response she has a duty to review these as part of the development of the project for the legislative reasons outlined. We will be commissioning an independent, evidence-based consultation and review that will seek to include any and all stakeholders in the process. The process will commence with the placing of a monitoring device at the interchange location where the Dee River Path intersects with the Ferry Lane bridge so that we can ascertain the current usage numbers and types.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

h) Sealand Ditches

Following the September 2021 meeting Stephen Jones, Andy Roberts and Neil Parry were advised that at the February 2021 meeting of Council County Councillor Chris Jones advised that she had met with Ruari Barry and Neil Parry from the County Council together with Councillors Mike Walker and Dave Wisinger on 27th January 2021. A report of the meeting outlining the discussions and agreed actions was requested by Council and has not been received. Council has raised its concerns in not having sight of any plans or commitment or timelines that will set out all the remedial

drainage works required at Sealand in order to minimise the risk of short- and long-term flooding. As a matter of urgency Council requests a reply.

RESOLVED – Neil Parry be asked again for a progress report with the email being copied to Andy Roberts.

i) Matched Funding Scheme – 2021/22 – Play Equipment – Welsh Road Recreation Field

The new swings are scheduled to be installed in the next two weeks. The additional £6,600.00 from the Section 106 is now available to add further play facilities to the Welsh Road Play Area. The Clerk advised the County Councillor will shortly be meeting with Richard.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

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

Clara Owen, Neighbourhood Housing Officer advised on 19th July 2021 that Capital Works and said that the scheme has been earmarked for this financial year. They cannot give a date yet so it could be anytime between September 2021 and March 2022. Following the September 2021 meeting James Davies-Wright be asked to provide a progress report.

RESOLVED – that James Davies- Wright be asked to provide a progress report.

k) Chelsea Lime Tree - Old Sealand Road – Tree Preservation Order

Stuart Body has been asked if he will be carrying out further checks on this particular tree. A reminder was sent on 15th July 2021.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**l) Children's Play Areas - Need to improve signage – No Dogs
Welsh Road Recreation Field / Kingsley Road Paly Area**

Paul Edwards confirmed that a program of works has been agreed regarding the ongoing issues. Paul will update once he has dates regarding works commencing.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

On 13th October 2021 Police Constable 2884 Scott Noble advised that he visited the Amazon Depot last month to discuss the issues wagons are causing at the new depot. Scott was advised that the staff there are not really in a position to assist as the drivers come from all over the country and it is them that are causing the issues. The road layout and signage are poor. Scott has asked the County Council whether there are any plans in place for road layout, signage for the depot.

The County Councillor advised that she will request a Traffic Management Survey to be carried out.

RESOLVED – the that the report be noted.

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

Katie Wilby - Chief Officer (StreetScene and Transportation) advised on 22nd June 2021 that she will ask Anthony Stanford, Transport Manager to provide an update. A reminder was sent on 15th July 2021.

RESOLVED – that Katie Wilby be asked to provide a progress report.

o) Land to the east of Sealand Manor – Infilling of Drainage Ditches

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry be asked to provide a progress report.

p) 10 West Green - Sealand Manor

RESOLVED – that Neil Cockerton be reminded that the owner occupier of the said property has removed the grass from the area in front of the property and is now parking two vehicles on the site and requested to have the matter investigated as a matter of urgency.

q) Parking of Vehicles on Foxes Lane near to Welsh Road

Kevin Crumplin - CPE and Environmental Enforcement Supervisor advised on 22nd September 2021 that in respect of Foxes Lane this area has been monitored for a number of years by enforcement.

Officers have reported that vehicles have been moved prior to being logged on the handset when people are returning from the food shop / car sales when they are seen in the area and it appears nothing has reached the point of being issued with a PCN, due to the 5/10-minute observation period required to issue on the contraventions in place.

Monitoring of this area will continue as normal when officers are in the area.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/133 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

All of the Council's 69 street lights are working. The lighting stock reduces to 59 on 1st April 2022 with the replacement and adoption of 10 columns in 2021/22. The planned 10 lights for replacement in the 2022/23 financial year at Riverside Park will be determined by the County Council on the basis of current condition.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/134 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 £8.41 and this applies to the 2021/22 financial year. The most recent electoral role from Flintshire County Council at December 2020 indicates a total of 2152 (Sealand East 874 and Sealand West 1278). The amount per elector of £8.41 produces a total of £18,098.32

Allocated spend in 2021/2 is Section 137 grants of £2,200 and for school milk £2,000.

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 £8.41 for 2021/22.

Section 137 payments so far in the 2021/22 financial year are for the Speed Gun under the powers of Well Being - £242.24.

RESOLVED - the –

- i) report be noted.
- ii) in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971 that the Council should award a grant of £250.00 to the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal Fund 2021 which is in the best interests of the area and its inhabitants.

21/135 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

PA Number	Application details	Location
063516	Anxillary Welfare facilities to Main factory with 7 new windows & 1 new personnel door.	Henrob Ltd, Second Avenue, Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NX
063518	Additional First Floor Office Space with additional/enlarged windows to Front Elevation	Parkway One, Parkway, Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2LD

RESOLVED – that no objections be raised with regard to all the outlined planning applications.

21/136 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The internal auditor on 22nd April 2021 advised that the amount on the Clerk's PAYE can be reduced by £312 pa in respect of the HMRC home working tax allowance. The 2021/22 PAYE amount has therefore been reduced from £11,690 to £11,378.

RESOLVED: - that

- i) the under mentioned accounts be approved for payment.

- ii) it be noted that the Lloyds Bank charges for the most recent period are £7.00 per month with an additional charge of £0.85 per cheque is £8.70 – 2 cheques x £0.85 = £1.70

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003449	St. Bartholome w's Church Council	Rental Charge meeting in September and October 2021	£72.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (S150)
003450	Flintshire County Council	Street Lights Maintenance September 2021 and repairs to lights at Deeside Lane and Ferry Lane.	£541.75			Highways Act 1980 (301)
003451	P. Richmond	Salary etc. October 2021	£703.68			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003452	HMRC	October 2021 Income Tax PR £379.60 and Employers NI £29.14	£408.74			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003453	P. Richmond	Refund Power Cable for Desktop PC and postage	£33.87			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003454	Flintshire County Council	Street Lights Maintenance repairs to light at Hawthorn View	£197.50			Highways Act 1980 (301)
003455	Jolora Ltd Cheque no 003444 to Jolora Ltd for £576.00 dated 21 st September 2021 was cancelled	50 % Retainer for half day website maintenance - August to October 2021	£288.00	£48.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003456	Cheque Destroyed					
003457	Jolora Ltd Cheque no 003444 to Jolora Ltd for £576.00 dated 21 st September	50 % Retainer for half day website maintenance - August to October 2021	£288.00	£48.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)

	2021 was cancelled					
003458	Earl Haig Poppy Appeal Fund 2021	Grant inc costs for 4 wreaths and 20 road side poppies.	£250.00			Local Govt Act 1971 (\$137)
Total Spend			£2,783.54	£96.00		

21/137 INCOME

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£0.38
Total		£0.38

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

21/138 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.

21/139 FRIENDS OF SEALAND – FIGTREE PROJECT – ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

Remembrance Sunday is on 14th November 2021 and the Celebration of Christmas is on Thursday 16th December 2021. Jennifer Watson said the Council will shortly receive confirmation of the details of the Christmas event.

Colin Sargeant has provided the 4 wreaths – Council, Royal British Legion, Merchant Navy and St. Bartholomew’s Church together with an additional 20 large roadside poppies. The poppies will be £5.00 each. Total cost £176.00.

Councillor Bob James will install the road side poppies on 7th November 2021 and will remove them on 21st November 2021.

At the Remembrance Sunday the Clerk will read the first reading and the Chair the second.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

21/140 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS(WALES) ACT 2021

The Act changes the electoral cycle of principal councils and community councils from four to five-year terms. This would bring local government elections into line with the five-year terms for the UK Parliament (as set in the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011) and for the Assembly in GoWA 2006.

The electronic publication of documents extends to include making available key information as soon as reasonably practicable, and within seven working days of the community council meeting taking place, and must include: the names of members who attended; apologies for absence; declarations of interest; any decisions taken and the outcome of any votes. This would not apply to any decisions taken in private, or where disclosure of the information would be contrary to any enactment.

NOTE –One Voice Wales have advised that this part of the act and is still being consulted on and will not come into force until May 2022. OVW has been asked if there is an update on this.

From April 2022 community and town councils will have a duty to prepare and publish a report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements. The first report must relate to the financial April 2021- March 2022 and be published as soon as reasonably practicable after April 2022.

NOTE –One Voice Wales have advised that they are seeking clarification on this issue. They have to give us more detail on this. Given the low cash/resource base of many Councils, they can't be looking to set the bar very high. I think we are looking at something quite modest rather than some big glossy production. OVW will keep pushing and let everybody know via emails and the bulletin as soon as we get some detail. OVW has been asked if there is an update on this.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

21/141 ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk advised that he had been informed on 27th September 2021 by Audit Wales that the audit work is currently underway in respect of those annual returns that have been submitted to Audit Wales. Councils may have already been contacted by members of the audit team with queries arising from the audit work. A number of unforeseen circumstances has resulted in some delays to the audit work. The email as provided sets out the steps Council may need to take in the event that Council does not receive an Audit Certificate before the end of September. If Council does not receive an Audit Certificate before the 30th September, Council should publish the required notice (in a prominent place in the community and on the Council's website). Council can then publish its annual return on its website as detailed in the notice. Council still awaits the Audit Certificate.

The Clerk advised that the required notice has been added to the web site and notice boards. A copy of the preliminary Annual Return had already been added to the web site.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/142 BANK RECONCILLATION – 30th SEPTEMBER 2021

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 2021 is –

Account - no – 0388217 - £32,757.74
Account - no – 7326098 - £40,567.72
Total - £73,325.46

Less unpaid cheques all dated 20th September 2021 –

003442 - £146.75

003444 - £576.00 – this cheque was cancelled for payment on 15th October 2021.

003445 - £146.75

003448 - £21,500

Total - £22,369.50

Total bank accounts – £73,325.46 less unpaid cheques of £22,369.50 leaves a closing balance of £50,955.96. This amount cross references with the summary of income and expenditure report as at 30th September circulated by the Clerk.

The Vice Chair authorised the reconciliation calculations as being a correct record.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

21/143 POCHINS DEVELOPMENT / CORUS SITE

Bob Nicholson - NPL Ltd advised on 22nd September 2021 in response to an email from the County Councillor that he's had a further discussion with the contractor who will again reinforce that construction traffic is not to use Farm Road. Bob will also be on site later that week and will again review with the contractor. Please be assured that we and our contractor are committed to ensure the operations of the site are undertaken in a safe and controlled manner, minimising any disruption to the public and local residents, in particular along Farm Road, which should not be used by construction traffic, whilst operating in a safe manner.

The County Councillor advised that some traffic is going to the Summers Clock Tower.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

21/144 AIRFIELDS DEVELOPMENT SITE

It was reported that some residents at Hawthorn View are still very concerned about the increased risk of flooding due to the Airfield site developments

RESOLVED – that the reports be noted

21/145 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2021/22 financial year up to cheque number 003458. This information was circulated by email before the meeting.

2021/22 Financial Year		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income				
General Admin Inc. Precept		£38,000.00	£57,000.00	-£19,000.00
Bank Interest		£8.61	£5.00	£3.61
VAT Refund		£799.60	£800.00	-£0.40
Milk Claims		£0.00	£200.00	-£200.00
Total		£38,808.21	£58,005.00	£19,196.79
Expenditure		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges		£79.60	£60.00	-£19.60
Chair's Fund		£0.00	£800.00	-£800.00
Staffing Costs		£7,035.03	£11,396.00	-£4,360.97
Admin Costs inc audit charges		£2,305.99	£2,640.00	-£334.01
Council Web Site		£1,152.00	£2,400.00	-£1,248.00
Insurances		£669.51	£770.00	£100.49
Defibrillator – LGA Act 2000(S2) / Speed Gun- Section 137		£242.34	£75.00	-£167.34
Play Schemes and New Equipment		£0.00	£10,500.00	-£10,500.00
Highways / Street Furniture Repairs		£0.00	£1,600.00	-£1,600.00
Street Lighting		£24,237.80	£26,950.00	-£2,712.20
Grants – Section 137		£0.00	£2,200.00	-£2,200.00
School Milk – Section 137		£0.00	£2,000.00	-£2,000.00
Total		£35,722.27	£61,391.00	£25,668.73
Current Summary	Balance as at 1 st April 2021 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£45,903.78		
	Total expenditure	£35,722.27		
	Total income	£38,808.21		
	Balance	£3,085.94		
	Overall balance as 18 th October 2021	£48,989.72		
End of Year Prediction	VAT Costs for 2021/22 financial year	£294.48		
	Balance as at 1 st April 2021 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£45,903.78		
	Total anticipated expenditure	£61,391.00		
	Total anticipated income	£58,005.00		
	Anticipated balance for the year	-£3,386.00		
Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31st March 2022		£ 42,517.78		

21/146 NOTICE OF A VACANCY

At the September 2021 meeting of Council, it proceeded to co-option. Council issued the required notice which has been placed on the Council's notice boards and its web site. The notice was issued with a date of 1st October 2021 with a submission dated to the Clerk of 21st October 2021. Should no applications be received by 22nd October 2021 a further notice will be issued with a closing date of 10th November 2021. The same date for 6 months deadline regarding the 2022 Council elections.

RESOLVED – that the reports be noted.

21/147 PROPSALS FOR NEW PAPER MILL FACILITY, PLOT C, AIRFIELDS, NOTHERN GATEWAY, DEESIDE

The Clerk referenced the email sent on 23rd September 2021 and the enclosures received from Christopher Peacock of Lexington Communications On behalf of Industrie Cartarie Tronchetti

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/148 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Need to review the arrangements for the Sealand Flood Wardens – Chair to obtain written details from the NRA.

21/149 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Request for an additional waste bin by the approach to the Ferry Lane Footbridge.

21/150 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 15th NOVEMBER 021– Starting at 6pm at St. Bartholomew's Church

21/151 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 7.50pm

..... Signed 15th November 2021