

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 13th DECEMBER 2021 at ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, OLD SEALAND ROAD, SEALAND, DEESIDE. CH5 2LQ

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

Peter Richmond: Clerk and Financial Officer.

Paul Edwards: StreetScene.

21/181 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC – OPEN FORUM

No issues had been submitted to the Clerk before the meeting.

The Clerk had not received a request to hold a hybrid meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/182 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Gwyneth Bullock and Bob James.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/183 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted at the beginning of the meeting.

21/184 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 15th NOVEMBER 2021

The Chair advised that there were no actions or reports.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/185 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 15th November 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

21/186 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 fund refreshments at both the Remembrance Sunday Service on 14th November 2021 and the Celebration of Christmas on Thursday 16th December 2021. There will also be costs for a choir to attend.

The charge for the Remembrance Sunday Service Refreshments was £75.00 and the Clerk's assumes £200.00 approx. for the Celebration of Christmas on Thursday 16th December 2021. It is expected that attendance will be in the order of 80.

The Council had agreed that the Chair's Fund would make a payment to the Celebration of Christmas choir – the payment would go to the Chester and District Committee for Deaf People VIP

The Chair proposed a payment of £100.

RESOLVED – that –

i) the proposed payment from the Chair's Fund of £100 to Chester and District Committee for Deaf People VIP be endorsed.

ii) it be noted that of the £800 allocation approx. £375.00 had been expended.

21/187 POLICE ISSUES

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

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

There was no report.

c) Orchard Way – Concern about doors being knocked late at night

Sean O'Donnell, Capital Works Team Manager had advised the County Councillor that he had organised an inspection of the porch lights that have been installed at the sheltered properties, which the tenants can utilise during the dark hours etc. Security lights have been installed to the rear of these properties but they are concerned about placing any on the frontages as there are other properties directly opposite. Also, the installation of PIR Lights to the front could be a nuisance for those residents especially as there is a main footpath that runs adjacent. They believe the existing porch lights, if used correctly, will be more beneficial for our tenants.

They have also scheduled for the inspection and servicing of all front doors to ensure they are working as they should. Please note that these doors would have been installed following their specifications which meet secure by design standards. Dawn Kent (Housing Manager) has also asked

her team to progress with further ASB assessments and will be asking the Housing Officer to contact tenants and to update them directly.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/188 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

a) Underpass - Foxes Lane

It was reported that some flooding has recently occurred which Paul Edwards was aware of.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Ferry Lane Footbridge – Noise Nuisance

There was no report.

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

Mandy Lewis advised on 20th October 2021 that she will check the position with Eden Planning and ask them to provide an update. An update has recently been requested from Andrew Farrow.

RESOLVED – that report be noted.

d) Deeside Lane - Motorcross Activities

On 19th November 2021 Marian Davies, Team Manager- Housing and Pollution Control provided an update of the current position in relation to the complaints about Motorcross activities undertaken on Wood Farm, Sealand.

Following evidence gathered at the properties of local residents, the Council made the decision to serve an Abatement Notice on the land owner (of Wood Farm, Deeside Lane, Sealand, Chester, Flintshire CH1 6BP) to abate the nuisance and prohibit the use of motocross bikes on the land from which the nuisance arises on 27th October 2021. The investigation of compliance will continue. Complainants whose log sheet information was used to record activity have been updated also and have been informed to continue to record any activity or record of nuisance.

They have notified colleagues in Development Management of these developments who will issue a separate update to complainants in due course.

It was reported that activities have stopped.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

e) Car Park – Welsh Road (Griffiths Pharmacy)

Paul Edwards advised that a design is being prepared.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

f) Dandy's Top Soil – Sealand Road

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

RESOLVED – that Andrew Farrow be asked to provide a progress report.

g) Sealand Ditches

The Clerk advised that he had been informed by Neil Parry on 7th December 2021 that -

1) Outlet under Sealand Road (opposite Old Sealand Road to Deeside Lane). Wayne Jones advised on 9th December 2021 that the work on this outlet has been completed.

2) Neil is visiting 6 Deeside Crescent with a contractor on 8th December 2021 to get a quote for desilting a section of watercourse – Neil advised that he is unable to identify the landowner.

3) A tree in the watercourse at Birchenfields Farm has been removed by Mr Cottle and the watercourse in the locality has been cleaned out.

4) There have been issues at the Texaco Garage. Some have been resolved but he has been unable to locate a pipe beneath Sealand Road. Paul Edwards advised that StreetScene are investigating this.

5) Dandy's - The complaint at this location was pertinent to a Main River watercourse which is the responsibility of NRW. Neil believes that this complaint has been referred to NRW to resolve.

6) Station Cottages / Seahill Road. There are two Main Rivers involved at this location Saughall Station Drain which is maintained by NRW which then discharges into the Pentre Drain East which is maintained by the Environment Agency. The E.A have undertaken an inspection at Station Cottages and do not consider them to be at risk of flooding. Consequently, they have declined to expend resources de-silting Garden City Drain East. NRW are not prepared to sanction expenditure on their Main River until the E.A. desilt their watercourse downstream which seems logical to Neil.

7) Councillor Mike Walker did identify several historical issues adjacent to the A494 but the Council have no powers to do anything now.

8) Neil is arranging to meet with Councillor Mary Southall's concerning land to the east of Sealand Manor – Infilling of Drainage Ditches

It was reported on 7th December 2021 that during the previous week the ditch that runs from the Leprechaun Hotel to the Garden City Industrial Estate was cleaned for part of its length only. The section which runs behind houses in Sandy Lane and the Recreation Field has not been done. Today the water is about 1.5M deep and not flowing. This was referred to Neil Parry on 7th December 2021 for comments.

Note - Neil advised on 14th December 2021 that he has spoken with NRW about recent maintenance of Manor Drain, Garden City. The Manor Drain has certain sections whereby machine access is difficult. NRW have cleaned out a section by one method and fully intend to return in the near future

to complete the operation albeit by a totally different method of working. Neil has asked NRW to update me when their works have been completed and will notify Council thereafter.

RESOLVED – that report be noted.

h) 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 was asked to provide a progress report.

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

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

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

j) 10 West Green - Sealand Manor

RESOLVED – that James Wright-Davies 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 or more vehicles on the site and be requested to have the matter investigated as a matter of urgency.

21/189 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 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.

21/190 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.

The Welsh Government have advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2022/23 has been increased by 4.8% (Retail Price Index) from £8.41 to £8.82 per elector. The most recent electoral role from Flintshire County Council at December 2021 indicates a total of 2393. The amount per elector of £8.82 produces a total of £21,106.26.

Assuming no change to the number of electors of 2152 the speed limit has increased to £18,980.64.

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 and a grant payment £250.00 to the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal Fund 2021

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

21/191 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

PA Number	Application details	Location
063721	Erection of a Paper Processing Mill to produce and manufacture tissue paper (B2, B8 use class) with ancillary B1a office space; associated servicing and infrastructure including car parking, HGV parking and vehicle and pedestrian circulation; noise mitigation features; earthworks to create development platforms; creation of drainage features including a new outfall to the River Dee; water treatment plant; and landscaping	The Airfields (Airfields Delta), Welsh Road, Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire

RESOLVED – that no objections be raised with regard to the outlined planning application 063721.

21/192 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: - that

- i) the under mentioned accounts be approved for payment.
- ii) it be noted that the Lloyds Bank charges for the most recent periods are £7.00 per month with an additional charge of £0.85 per cheque is £10.40 – 4 cheques x £0.85 = £3.40 and £16.35 - £7.00 11 cheques x £0.85 = £9.35

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003467	St Bartholomew's Church	Hire sessions – November and December 2021/ additional electricity charge October- Total £82.00 Remembrance Sunday Service Refreshments - £75.00	£157.00			£82.00 Local Govt Act 1972 (S150) £75.00 Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S11).
003468	Jolora Ltd	Standard Hosting Package and Domain name renewal	£228.00	£38.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003469	Flintshire County Council	Invoice TX096377 November Lighting Maintenance and Invoice TX 096409 Repairs at Riverside Park	£344.25			Highways Act 1980 (301)
003470	Cheque Destroyed					
003471	HMRC	December r 2021 Income Tax PR £379.20 and Employers NI £29.14	£408.34			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003472	P. Richmond	Salary etc. December 2021	£714.77			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003473	Chester and District Committee for Deaf People VIP	Payment from the Chair's Fund	£100.00			Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S11).
003474	Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	£171.00			Miscellaneous Powers LGA 1972 (S111)
Total Spend			£2,123.36	£38.00		

21/193 INCOME

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£0.29
Total		£

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

21/194 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.

21/195 FRIENDS OF SEALAND – FIGTREE PROJECT – ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

There was no report.

21/196 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS(WALES) ACT 2021

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.

The Clerk advised that he produced a decisions summary of the October 2021 meeting a copy has been added to the web site and circulated to members of Council. This will now be continued for all future meetings

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.

The Clerk previously advised that he had produced an early draft of the Council’s 2021/22 Annual Report which had been circulated to members of Council.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

21/197 ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred pending further information from Audit Wales.

21/198 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2021/22 financial year up to cheque number 003472.

2021/22 Financial Year	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income			
General Admin Inc. Precept	£38,000.00	£57,000.00	-£19,000.00
Bank Interest and Refund of Fees	£9.26	£5.00	£4.26
Refund Flintshire County Council	£287.71	£0.00	£287.72
VAT Refund	£799.60	£800.00	-£0.40
Milk Claims	£0.00	£200.00	-£200.00
Total	£39,096.58	£58,005.00	£18,908.42
Expenditure	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges	£106.35	£60.00	-£46.35
Chair's Fund	£75.00	£800.00	£725.00
Staffing Costs	£9,041.61	£11,396.00	£2,354.39
Admin Costs inc audit charges	£2,652.04	£2,640.00	-£12.04
Council Web Site	£1,956.00	£2,400.00	£444.00
Insurances	£669.51	£770.00	£100.49
LGA Act 2000(S2) / Speed Gun- Section 137	£242.34	£75.00	-£167.34
Play Schemes and New Equipment	£5,715.60	£10,500.00	£4,784.40
Highways / Street Furniture Repairs	£0.00	£1,600.00	£1,600.00
Street Lighting	£26,967.80	£26,950.00	-£17.80
Grants – Section 137	£250.00	£2,200.00	£1,950.00
School Milk – Section 137	£0.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Total	£47,676.25	£61,391.00	£13,714.75

Current Summary	Balance as at 1 st April 2021 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£45,903.78
	Total expenditure	£47,676.25
	Total income	£39,096.58
	Balance	-£8,579.67
	Overall balance as 13 th December 2021	£37,324.11
End of Year Prediction	VAT Costs for 2021/22 financial year	£428.48
	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

21/199 POCHINS DEVELOPMENT / CORUS SITE

There was no report

21/200 AIRFIELDS DEVELOPMENT SITE

On 16th November 2021 Sam Bullough, Development Manager, Partnerships North, Countryside Properties emailed Council a copy of which was circulated to members of Council.

“The FRA shows that the site is in a flood risk area and clearly states what actions are needed to be taken in order to avoid any potential flooding – which have been done. My colleagues and I explained at great length and on numerous occasions to a local councillor Brian Ward during the flooding that the site is extremely sandy which is the best land drain available and that our properties are positively drained away from the site boundaries and towards the main roads throughout the site. The mitigation measures secured under the planning permission and implemented on site ensure that there is no greater risk from flooding to the existing properties adjoining the site than pre-development. In fact, and while there is no requirement for our development to address existing flooding problems off site, the positive drainage away from the site boundaries in to a formal drainage system is likely to be beneficial to the adjacent properties. This was also confirmed to and acknowledged by Ruari Barry (a Flood & Coastal Risk Management Project Engineer for FCC) on 6th May 2021 during the site visit. It has been acknowledged that the pump station wasn’t working that day, which was through no fault of Countryside’s work and is likely to have been the source of the flooding. The biblical level of rainfall caused all areas throughout the country to flood, and unfortunately this happened when the UU pump station was not working for Hawthorn View. Countryside have constructed the development in line with the approved mitigation measures and there is no further obligation for Countryside to address existing offsite flooding issues.”

RESOLVED – that the reports be noted

21/201 MANURE SPREADING AND OBNOXIOUS SMELLS - BANK FARM, SEALAND.

Following the November 2021 meeting the issue was reported to NRW.

On 16th November 2021 an email was received from Martyn Kirby, Pollution Control Officer, Public Protection, Flintshire County Council asking would it possible for Council to provide details of the local residents that the odour is currently affecting, including addresses and contact details.

For the pollution control section to investigate a statutory odour nuisance, we have to know details of individual complainants, so as we can assess the impact the odour is having on their property.

Peter Siddorn advised that there is no problem with odours from the manure spreading at the moment. The whole point of my request to the Sealand Community Council on Monday 15th November was to pre-empt any future problem by asking that future permits to spread this obnoxious material be refused.

Martyn Kirby advised on 23rd November 2021 that he can only investigate a statutory nuisance odour complaint. A statutory nuisance is something that materially effects the use or enjoyment of someone’s property.

If he gathers evidence that an odour is affecting the use or enjoyment of somebody's property, he can take action to get that nuisance abated. Obviously, for this to happen the odour will need to be present at the time of the monitoring. Unfortunately, he is unable to any action for what may or may not happen in the future. He advised that should the odour return that the person being adversely affected should contact the pollution control section so that we can undertake monitoring for them.

In relation to any permits given for the manure spreading, Martyn understands that the actual manure spreading itself does not require a permit from NRW but that they do issue a permit for the lime for which the manure is mixed with. Any action to renew this permit or not is a decision to be taken by NRW.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

21/202 SEALAND FLOOD WARDENS

On 3rd December 2021 Gwenno Talfryn, Advisor 1 (Warning and Informing) Natural Resources Wales advised that she has been in discussion with Councillor Norman Jones regarding the continuation of the flood warden role and the future of the Community Flood Plan. She confirmed that as far as Natural Resources Wales are concerned that the Flood Wardens role is still active and they are happy to support the Flood Wardens in developing and maintaining their plan according to their needs. A few years ago, we did ask the Flood Wardens to return their ID badges to us which has led to some confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of flood wardens and for this I apologise.

Councillor Norman Jones and Gwenno will have a meeting in the new year to discuss the best way to progress with the plan and she will keep Council updated with any relevant developments, including sending a copy of the new plan once it is finished. She has been made aware that three flood wardens no longer wish to continue with their role, although there may be others who would be willing to volunteer in their place. This will be finalised alongside other aspects of the plan during our discussions.

The Clerk asked Gwenno to provide a list of members of Council that he has recorded as Sealand Flood Wardens. The list was circulated to members of Council on 6th December 2021

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

21/203 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mobile Library – Sealand Manor (County Councillor will action)

Mud on Sealand Road (Paul Edwards will action)

Flooding at Green Lane West Underpass (Paul Edwards advised that the blockage has been cleared)

20mph Safer Schools Routes - Garden City (Clerk will ask for an update)

21/204 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised.

21/205

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC TO BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

RESOLVED: - that in view of the special nature of the business to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public is excluded.

21/206

FINANCIAL REPORT – 2021/22 and 2022/23

The Clerk advised on the Financial Report as circulated: -

- a) that a precept is an order to the charging authority – Flintshire County Council to pay a requested sum to the precept authority – Sealand Community Council and that the schedule of payment from Flintshire County Council will be 3 equal instalments – on the last working days of April, August and December.
- b) 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 £8.82 and this applies to the 2022/23 financial year. The most recent electoral role from Flintshire County Council at December 2021 indicates a total of 2393. The amount per elector of £8.82 produces a total of £21,106.26.

Allocated spend in 2021/22 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 £8.82 for 2022/23.

Section 137 payments so far in the 2021/22 financial year are for the Speed Gun under the powers of Well Being - £242.24 and a grant payment to the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal for £250.00.

- c) on details of anticipated income and expenditure for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years – as circulated.
- d) the Clerk is contracted for a working week of 16 hours. Payment is net with the Council deducting income tax at 40% on the full income and making payment to the HMRC. The Council also pays the employers National Insurance contribution to HMRC.
- e) refer to Minute 21/80 – meeting 19th July 2021.

RESOLVED – that it be agreed that the Clerk should move to scale point 24 with effect from 1st April 2022 and then point 25 at 1st April 2023 and point 26 at 1st April 2024. Based on contracted 16 hours worked the salary for 2022/23 will be £12,398 and it be agreed that with

effect from 1st April 2022 that the home allowance payment is £312. Noting that the internal auditor advised on 22nd April 2021 that this amount is non-taxable.

- f) that IT expenses will be reimbursed by the Council.
- g) non-IT expenses incurred in carrying out his duties are also reimbursed. The expenditure being incurred on behalf of the Council as part of its administration and running cost, i.e. stamps and travelling expenses. NJC rate for Casual Users / HMRC approved mileage rate being paid for car mileage within Sealand and as required mileage to venues outside Sealand – £0.45p per mile.
- h) the estimated income for the current 2021/22 financial year is £58,094 and estimated expenditure is £59,537. The opening balance at 1 April 2021 was £45,904. The estimated opening balance at 1 April 2022 is £44,461 assuming all planned expenditure takes place which may not be the case.

RESOLVED: - that the following funds be allocated: -

Annual Subscriptions	£750
Audit Fees	£600
Bank Charges	£135
Chair's Fund	£800
Chain of Office - Engraving	£10
Clerk's salary and allowance	£12,710
Conferences - attendance	£200
Council's Web Site	£2,304
Data Protection Registration	£35
Defibrillator – Energy	£75
Election Costs *	£4,500
Free Resource Fund (S137) – Grants	£3,000
Free Resource Fund (S137)– School Milk	£1,500
Hire Costs – St Barts	£400
Insurances	£700
Joint funded project play areas	£5,000
NI Employers contribution	£480
Playleader Scheme	£5,800
Postage / Mileage	£1,000
Printer, Computers repairs etc. and printer cartridges	£500
Stationery	£100
Street Furniture Repairs – Seats / Notice Boards	£400
Street Lighting – Repairs, Maintenance and Replacement / Adoption of 7 lights at Riverside Park * the number of new lights could be increased depending on the 2022 election costs	£21,700
Full Total	£62,699

The Clerk advised that the Council has an indicated estimated expenditure of £62,699 for the 2022/23 financial year. Estimated income excluding precept for the 2022/23 financial year is £506. Estimated opening balance at 1st April 2022 is £44,461. To achieve an estimated balance at 1st April 2023 of £44,000 a precept of £61,732 is required.

With the increasing number of properties in Sealand the Tax Base of equivalent B and D properties has increased from 1,221.57 in 2021/22 to 1,367.40 in 2022/23. The 2021/22 current Sealand B and D charge is £46.66. The figures below illustrate the positive impact the increase from 1,221.57 to 1,367.40 will have on the Sealand Precept

	Precept £57,000	Precept £60,000	Precept £62,000
B and D Charge	£41.68	£43.88	£45.34
Decrease	£4.98	£2.78	£1.32
Decrease %	10.67%	5.96%	2.87%

After a full discussion it was agreed to set a precept of £60,000.

The Clerk advised that the County Council require the completion of a precept mandate form to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk outlined the form based on the decision to raise a Precept of £60,000.

Current year's precept – 2021/22 - £57,000

Current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties is £1,227.57

The current Band D charge is £46.66

The precept for 2022/23 - £60,000

Tax Base for 2022/23 of equivalent Band D properties is £1,367.40

The band D charge for 2022/23 will be £43.88

The decrease in the Band D charge amount is £2.78

The percentage decrease in the 2022/23 Band D charge compared to the 2021/22 Band D charge is 5.96%

RESOLVED: - that the –

- i) precept for the 2022/23 financial year be set at £60,000 and for Flintshire County Council to be advised accordingly and for the Clerk and Chair to sign the required precept mandate.
- ii) Clerk be thanked for his usual excellent and informative and very clear financial report.

The Council's policy on Financial Reserves recommends an amount to be held in reserves for contingency purposes should be proportionately 6-9 months of gross expenditure – estimated expenditure for 2022/23 is £62,699 – 6 months is equivalent to £31,350. I advise that of the estimated carry forward of £44,461 at 1st April 2022 an amount of £25,000 should be held as a Contingency Reserve to assist cash flow in the event of unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds being required to cover council expenditure

until the first precept payment is made by Flintshire County Council during the 2022/23 financial year. The Council's Policy on Reserves will need to be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED – that of the estimated carry forward of £44,461 at 1st April 2022 an amount of £25,000 will be held as a Contingency Reserve to assist cash flow in the event of unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds being required to cover council expenditure until the first precept payment is made by Flintshire County Council during the 2022/23 financial year. The Council's Policy on Reserves will be amended accordingly.

21/209 COVID – LATERAL FLOW TESTS – COUNCIL MEETINGS

RESOLVED – that -

i) all members of Council and the Clerk should take a Covid Lateral Flow Test no less than 24 hours before future Council Meetings to determine whether they attend the meeting at St. Bartholomew's Church. In the event of non-attendance, a phone conference hybrid meeting will be held.

ii) this arrangement be kept under review.

21/210 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 17th JANUARY 2022– Starting at 6pm at St. Bartholomew's Church

21/211 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 8pm

..... Signed 17th January 2022

