

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**DECISIONS SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 17th APRIL 2023 AT ST.****BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, OLD SEALAND ROAD, SEALAND, DEESIDE. CH5 2LQ**

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

Peter Richmond - Clerk and Financial Officer.

One Member of the public

Wayne Jones from StreetScene.

22/281 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PA Number	Application details	Location
000274/23	Change of use of part garden to site 1 no holiday pod – formation of car park – landscaping and associated works.	The Stables, WILLOW FARM, Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LQ
000293/23	Erection of covered structure to provide shelter to existing eternal golf driving range	Hollyhock Bungalow, Deeside Lane, Sealand

RESOLVED – that -

i) no objections be raised in respect of PA - 000293/23.

ii) objections be raised in respect of PA - 000274/23 on the grounds that the development is situated on the flood plain and potentially could have detrimental impact on drainage.

22/282 REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S INSURANCE AND CHARGES

The Clerk as previously reported contacted SLCC North Wales and One Voice Wales to gain details of insurers that they recommend

Charges and insurance have been received regarding the 12 months period from 1st June 2023 from the Council's current insurers Zurich Municipal, Gallagher and BNIB.

The Clerk outlined the charges as received and the cover provided. The insurance cover charges are –
Zurich Municipal – £642.45
Gallagher – £1,325.09
BNIB - £1,059.07.

RESOLVED – that -

i) the report be noted.

ii) Council should continue its insurance cover with Zurich Municipal with a charge of £642.45 for the period 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024 – expenditure power being Local Govt Act 1972 (S111)

22/283 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 period is £11.25 re £7.00 per month with an additional charge of 5 cheques x £0.85 = £4.25 = Total £11.25

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003561	Wrexham – Bidston Rail Users Association	Annual Subscription	£30.00			Miscellaneous Powers LGA 1972 (\$111)
003562	Jolora Ltd	Web Site Maintenance - 2 months	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (\$142)
003563	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Charge	£642.45			Local Govt Act 1972 (\$111)
003564	Wainwright Accountants	Annual Payroll Charge	£180.00	£30.00	932721925	Local Govt Act 1972 (\$111))
003565	P. Richmond	April 2023 Salary etc	£768.34			Local Govt Act 1972 (\$112)
003566	HMRC	Income Tax - £461.20 and Emp NI - £54.62	£515.82			Local Govt Act 1972 (\$112)
003567	P. Richmond	Refund Stationery	£12.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (\$112)
Total Spend			£2,532.61	£94.00		

22/287 CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED 2023 INFORMATION BOOKLET

Councillor Brian Ward advised on his work to date and that he will submit a draft copy to the May 2023 meeting of Council. He proposed that the Council should be meet 15 minutes ahead of the May meeting

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

22/291 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk advised on the email dated 30th March 2023 and attachment received from the Council's appointed internal auditor – JDH Business Services Ltd. A copy of the said email was circulated to all members of Council on 30th March 2023.

The Clerk outlined the requirement to council for the internal audit and referred to the audit form (that has been emailed to members of council for information) he is required to include various working papers and documentation when presenting for audit. Failure to do so may result in a delay in completing council's internal audit and additional audit costs. The internal audit commences on Thursday 21st April 2022 with a return of all documents on Thursday 28th April 2022.

The Clerk advised that he had submitted the signed letter of engagement to JDH Business Services Ltd on 13th April 2023.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

22/292 ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2022/23

The Clerk advised on recent email communication dated 29th March 2023 received from **Deryck Evans** - Audit Manager – Audit Development and Guidance Audit Wales and copied to all members of Council. We are continuing to clear the 2021-22 audits as quickly as we can. Once we have issued the audit opinions, we pass a schedule of completed audits to our finance team, who will then issue invoices.

We are not yet in a position to issue the audit notices for the 2022-23 audits. Given the issues we have had with resourcing in the last year or two and an ongoing backlog of older audits that we are still clearing, we have decided not to issue the notices until we have confirmed the date from which our audit team will be in place. The community and town council audit programme are being slotted into our wider work programme. We will write to you again as soon as the timing is confirmed.

In the meantime, we recommend that Councils prepare and approve the annual returns as soon as you are able to. We will provide the dates for the exercise of electors' rights under the 2004 Act with the audit notice.

The format of the annual return is much like previous years. Some additional narrative has been included in the Accounting Statement related to staff costs and the Trust Funds disclosures have been consolidated into one item in the annual governance statement.

The Clerk outlined the accounts for Council in the Local Council for Wales Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Annual governance statement – Part 1

We acknowledge as the members of the Council our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 as outlined by the Clerk.

Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the 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. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2022-23 was £8.82 per elector.

In 2022-23, the Council made payments totalling £1,550 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

The Clerk advised that the report / Annual Return will again be presented to Council following completion of the internal audit. Following certification by the Responsible Financial Officer the Council is required to approve the Annual Governance Statement Part 2

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

22/295 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 15th MAY 2023

**22/296 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT -
DECLARATION OF INTEREST - NONE**

The meeting opened at 6pm and closed at 7.55pm

..... Signed 15th May 2023