

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2024 AT SEALAND COUNTY
PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD, GARDEN CITY. CH5 2HH**

PRESENT: Councillors: Ashley Griffiths (Chair), Gwyneth Bullock, Barbara Hinds (Vice Chair), Chris Jones (County Councillor), Lionel Prouve, Mary Southall, Linda Thomas, Shelley Webber, and David Wisinger.

Robin Davies – Acting Headteacher- Sealand Primary School
Peter Richmond - Clerk and Financial Officer.

23/178 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from – Councillors, Jean Fairbrother, Norman Jones, Alex Lewis and Brian Ward.

23/179 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

RESOLVED – that it be noted that no declarations were made to Council at the beginning of the meeting in respect of the agenda.

23/180 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

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

23/181 CHAIR’S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 11th DECEMBER 2023

There was no report.

**23/182 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 11th
DECEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of Council held on 11th December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

23/183 CHAIR’S FUND 2023/24

The Clerk reminded Council that the agreed spend for the Chair’s Fund for the 2023/24 financial year is £800.00. Payments being made under expenditure powers - Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1)

Spent so far – £100 to Dee-Sign BSL Choir and £240.00 St. Bartholomew’s Church Council - £240.00 – Total £340.00.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/184

POLICE ISSUES

a) Community Speed Watch

The Chair asked if other members of Council wanted to help with future speed watches.

b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292

PCSO Aled Hughes advised that he is unable to attend the meeting. Aled advised that the Police are monitoring reports about boy racers in the evenings in the vicinity of the Rive Dee. Aled is meeting with County Councillor Chris Jones for a walkabout in Garden city on Friday 19th January 2024.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/185

MATTERS REFERRED TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

a) Ferry Lane Footbridge

i) Project to improve the footbridge to reduce the noise nuisance

There was no report.

ii) A frame barrier amendment proposals

The County Councillor has previously advised the A frame proposals will be considered by the County's Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Dandy's Top Soil – Sealand Road

On 12th December 2023 Matthew Linford – Planning Enforcement Officer advised that he understands that all the previous unauthorised development on site has either been removed or regularised through planning applications / lawful development certificates. Matthew will however go out and look at the site and confirm this. The County Councillor advised that she will contact Matthew to request an update.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Sealand Ditches

Neil Parry advised on 8th December 2023 that he has spoken with Stuart Banks about the watercourse adjacent to Cottage Garage and that he will be meeting him on site week beginning 11th December 2023. Neil has been asked to update Council on this.

Neil has inspected the watercourse to the rear of Deeside Crescent. This watercourse does need to be desilted and Neil will be e-mailing the Riparian Owner to ask them to undertake this work. Neil will advise when this work has hopefully been undertaken.

Saughall Parish Council (SPC) have asked about a possible joint meeting regarding flooding on Seahill

Road. SPC have been advised that Council has been informed that all the drainage ditches in this area of Sealand have recently been checked and cleaned. SPC will try to find out from the land owners on their side of the border whether the ditches have also been checked and cleaned. SPC have advised that there are no ditches on the England side.

The Clerk asked Neil Parry on 5th December 2023 whether he is aware of any drainage ditches that are across the border in England and are impacting on the flooding issues in this area and whether he would agree that the flooding issue on Seahill Road is caused by the drainage ditches not being able to drain away excess rainfall. Re Seahill Road it is assumed that the surface water drains to the above ditches. SPC have been advised of this. Neil has been asked to update Council on this.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

d) Concern about condition of side access – Spar Shop, Welsh Road

Glyn Jones has advised that the report of the site meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 will shortly be provided. A further reminder for the report was sent to Glyn on 5th January 2024. The County Councillor advised that she will contact Glyn to request an update.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

e) Damaged fencing – Cycle Bridge – A494

A further reminder was sent to NMWTRA on 5th January 2024 and they responded immediately advising that they will refer to the appropriate team. Wayne Jones advised on 5th January 2024 that he has again passed this to NMWTRA as FCC cannot repair the fence as it is not their asset.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

f) Sealand Road – A548 – Extend Street Lighting

Darell Jones asked on 27th September 2023 whether Council requests for a lighting assessment to be undertaken in accordance with the BS and FCC policy. This was confirmed to Darell on the same date.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

g) River Dee Embankment – Coastal Path and Cycleway – Bluebridge to the Railway Bridge

Mike Taylor has previously advised that the repair cost is £200.00 per bench. Source for the funding is being investigated. Council has agreed that the seat formerly situated between the two road bridges should replace one of the existing 4 seats as above. Wayne has advised that he is waiting on Mike re-funding.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

h) Foxes Lane – Pot Holes – Need to carry out repairs

Wayne Jones advised on 5th January 2024 that Foxes Lane is on a long list for road resurfacing and is with the technical team who assess the road every year between them and the financial budget and certain criteria's defines which roads are chosen for resurfacing. It was reported that emergency pot hole repairs have recently been carried out.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

i) Problem with Trees- Orchard Way and North Green at Sealand Manor

Chris Povey – Housing Officer had a walkaround scheduled for 20th October 2023 which was cancelled and will be rearranged during which he will specifically check the areas as mentioned and address any concerns accordingly. A request for a progress report has been sent to Chris.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

j) StreetScene attendance at Council Meetings

Wayne Jones advised on 5th January 2024 that we have been instructed not to attend any more council meetings in the evening due to financial pressures. Members of Council can either email or phone Wayne or contact the call centre on 01352 701234.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

k) Foxes Lane – Underpass - Water leakage and Graffiti

RESOLVED – that the above be referred to Wayne Jones - StreetScene

l) Blocked grids – Old Sealand Road

RESOLVED – that the above be referred to Wayne Jones - StreetScene

23/186 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

Jamie Bennett has been asked to advise on the next 8 lights that should be replaced in the 2024/25 financial year. These will be the 6 remaining lights at Riverside Park and 2 at Cedar Close. Then leaving 33 to be replaced and adopted. 12 years ago, the Council had 169 lights.

All current 41 lights are working.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/187 SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – PAYMENT OF GRANTS

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 Welsh Government have advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2023/24 is £9.93 per elector. The electoral role from Flintshire County Council was 2538 at December 2022. So, per elector produces a total of £25,202.34.

Allocated spend in 2023/24 is Section 137 grants of £4,000 and for school milk £0.00. The Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/25 is £10.81 per elector. The electoral role from Flintshire County Council at September 2023 was 2565. So, per elector produces a total of £27,727.65.

Spend in 2023/24 so far is £1,900.00 - Sealand Primary School £1,500, Earl Haig Poppy Appeal £250.00 and St. Bartholomew's Church - £150.00.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/188 PROVISION OF NOTICE BOARDS – PRAXIS AND POCHINS

Both Pochins and Praxis are in the process of arranging for the two notice boards to be installed. Once installed the two notice boards will be added to Council's asset register and the Council's insurer will be asked to add to Council's insurance inventory

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/189 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PA Number	Application details	Location
001082/23	Advert roundabout sponsorship signs	Roundabout No. 32, Sealand Road, Sealand, Flintshire, CH5 2RH

RESOLVED – that no objections be raised in respect of PA – 001082/23

23/190 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 £10.40 re £7.00 per month with an additional charge of 4 cheques x £0.85 = £3.40. The next month will be £11.25 - re £7.00 per month with an additional charge of 5 cheques x £0.85 = £4.25

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003608	St. Bartholomew's Church Council	Payment from the Chair's Fund	£240.00			Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1).
003609	P. Richmond	January 2024 Salary etc	£1,187.04			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003610	HMRC	January 2024 Income Tax - £738.80 and Emp NI - £150.30	£889.10			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003611	Flintshire County Council	2023/24 Play Areas Match Funding - Welsh Road	£1,100.00			Local Govt (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 19

Total Spend			£2,316.14			
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23/191 **INCOME**

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£57.14
Flintshire County Council	Precept – 3 rd and final payment	£20,666.67
Total Income		£20,723.81

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

23/192 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no additional correspondence to report on.

23/193 **FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH**

There was no report.

23/194 **WELSH ROAD SKATE FACILITY**

At the Annual Finance Meeting held on 11th December 2023 Council resolved to allocate £11,000 to jointly fund the skate ramps outlined by Richard Roberts – AURA - Play Design Officer in the 2024/25 financial year. Richard Roberts has been advised of Council’s decision. Richard responded on 12th December 2023 for the project to go ahead is subject to the County Council continuing the match-funding scheme in 2024/25 the County Council normally finalises its budget in mid-February so Aura’s funding for 2024/25 should be confirmed shortly after and subject to the maximum limit for match-funding contributions which may change in 2024/25.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/195 **PLAY SCHEMES - 2024**

Darren Morris – Lead Officer for Play Development advised on 12th December 2023 that his marketing will be done online via their website and social media platforms internally. They will also produce a digital pack for this Council and for the schools, this pack will consist of, digital graphics such as posters, Facebook banners etc. They will supply the text (wording) to be used on this Council’s website. They will also produce a short advert film for schools to show in their assemblies.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/196

**SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BANK RECONCILIATION –
31st DECEMBER 2023**

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 2023.

Account - no 0388217 – £9,794.65 - Account - no – 7326098 - £53,892.71 Total - £63,687.36

Unpaid - Cheque number	Payable to	Amount - £
003599	Dee Sign Choir	100.00
003605	Audit Wales	200.00
Total		300.00

Total bank accounts – £63,687.36 less unpaid cheques of £300.00 as outlined by the Clerk leaves a nett balance of £63,387.36. This amount cross references with the summary of income and expenditure report as at 31st December 2023 as circulated by the Clerk. The bank reconciliation statement including copies of the appropriate bank statements were circulated to all members of Council by email on 8th January 2024. The Vice Chair signed two hard copies of the bank reconciliation statements.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

23/197

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS –2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2023/24 financial year up to cheque number 003611.

2023/24 Financial Year	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income			
Precept	£62,000.00	£62,000.00	£0.00
Refund VAT Flintshire County Council	£578.66	£0.00	£578.66
VAT Refund HMRC	£5,374.47	£500.00	£4,874.47
Bank Interest and Refund of Fees	£374.55	£30.00	£344.55
Total	£68,327.68	£62,530.00	£5,797.68
Expenditure	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges	£99.55	£150.00	£50.45
Chairman's Fund	£340.00	£800.00	£460.00
Staffing Costs	£12,873.58	£14,848.00	£1,974.42
General Admin inc St Barts rental costs	£1,935.04	£4,395.00	£2,459.96
Insurances	£642.45	£650.00	£7.55
Play Schemes and New Play Equipment	£7,477.60	£11,378.00	£3,900.40
Street Furniture Repairs	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
Street Lighting	£22,045.20 (inc VAT £449.20)	£25,800.00 (exc VAT)	£3,754.80
Council Web Site	£2,148.00 (inc VAT of £358.00) net £1790.00	£2,400.00 (inc VAT)	£252.00
S137 - Grants	£1,900.00	£4,000.00	£2,100.00
Total	£49,461.42	£64,621.00	£15,159.58

Current Summary	Balance as at 1 st April 2023 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£41,104.96
	Total expenditure	£49,461.42
	Total income	£68,327.68
	Balance	£18,866.26
End of Year Prediction	Overall balance as at 15th January 2024	£59,971.22
	VAT Costs for 2023/24 financial year	£894.80
	Balance as at 1 st April 2023 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£41,104.96
	Total anticipated expenditure	£64,621.00
	Total anticipated income	£62,530.00
	Anticipated balance for the year	-£2,091.00
	Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31st March 2024	£ 39,013.96

23/198 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The County Councillor referred to the fact that youths are not attending the Sealand Youth Club. Leaflets will be distrusted to attempt to encourage renewed attendance.

23/199 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was no report

23/200 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 19th FEBRUARY 2024.

**23/201 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT -
DECLARATION OF INTEREST - NONE**

The meeting opened at 6pm and closed at 7.20pm

..... Signed 19th February 2024.