

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 27th FEBRUARY 2024 AT SEALAND COUNTY
PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD, GARDEN CITY. CH5 2HH**

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

Robin Davies – Acting Headteacher- Sealand Primary School
4 members of the public.
Peter Richmond - Clerk

23/202 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Alex Lewis.

23/203 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.

23/204 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

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

A member of the public raised his concerns about the state of the road surface along Foxes Lane. Four years ago, it was understood that Foxes Lane was included in a project to do a full renewal of the road surface but since the situation has got worse with only pot holes being filled.

It was reported that Wayne Jones StreetScene has recently advised 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.

23/205 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 15th JANUARY 2024

The Chair has agreed to the council meeting being moved from 19th to 27th February 2024 as requested by the Clerk.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/206 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 15th January 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

23/207 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. 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 on 11th February 2024 on an update regarding off-road motor bikes that are being ridden around at times with no number plates. They have been seen to be ridden along or near the pathway that runs along the River Dee towards the Clock Tower. Police are monitoring the situation and if required an operation will be put in-place. There have not been any further incidents for around a week now. Aled has also been checking the area of Green Lane West where there have been issues with boy racers congregating etc but he has not seen anything recently. Aled has not seen anything lately.

The County Councillor advised that she had recently done a walkabout with the Police.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/208 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 advised the A frame proposals have been approved by the County's Scrutiny Committee and the A frames will shortly be installed. Local residents have been advised.

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 still awaits a

progress report from Matthew. This will again be requested

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Sealand Ditches

Neil Parry advised on 20th February 2024 that NRW weed cut the Main River Watercourse system as far as the English boundary from the River Dee. So, he does not consider that there should be any obstructions on this watercourse which would cause flows to be impeded.

Neil has approached the Environment Agency who do have Permissive Powers to maintain the Main River Watercourse from the Welsh Boundary, through The Fisheries as far as Seahill Road and beyond in an Easterly direction. The Environment Agency advised that they do not consider that any properties are at risk of internal flooding and consequently funding cannot be prioritised on this Main River Watercourse. There are sections of Main River in the Fisheries that have been culverted with pipework of insufficient diameter which in Neil's opinion will impede flows. Neil is in no doubt that the flooding of Seahill Road which does drain into the local Main River Watercourses is caused by inadequate maintenance / impedance of these Watercourses. He has raised concerns about the potential of serious accidents being caused by aquaplaning vehicles on Seahill Road to no avail. Neil will arrange to meet with colleagues from Chester and Cheshire West Council on site to discuss.

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 had 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. Neil has been asked to update Council on this.

REOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

Glyn Jones had 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 and 5th February 2024. The County Councillor advised that she had contacted Glyn to request an update.

RESOLVED – that Glyn Jones be advised that Council finds his delay in reporting on the meeting held on 2nd November 2023 very annoying and disappointing and requests an immediate reply. Andy Farrow to be copied into the email

e) Damaged fencing – Cycle Bridge – A494

NMWTRA have now started to repair / replace the damaged fencing.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

f) Sealand Road – A548 – Extend Street Lighting

There was no report.

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

There was no report.

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

RESOLVED – that Chris Povey – Housing Officer be asked to provide an update regarding the reported tree issues.

j) Foxes Lane – Underpass - Water leakage and Graffiti

This has been referred to Wayne Jones – StreetScene.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/209 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.

23/210 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 December 2023 was 2596. So, per elector produces a total of £28,062.76.

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.

Allocation for 2024/25 is £3,035.00

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/211 PROVISION OF NOTICE BOARDS – PRAXIS AND POCHINS

Both Pochins and Praxis have installed the two notice boards.

The two notice boards have been added to the Council's asset registers and the Council's insurer has been advised accordingly.

Councillor Linda Thomas has the key for the Praxis notice board and Councillor Ashley Griffiths is awaiting to receive the key for the Pochins notice board.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/212 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PA Number	Application details	Location
001044/23	Demolition of existing concrete prefabricated garage and replace with new garage.	52 Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside , CH5 2RJ
00957/23	Erection of a temporary clubhouse to replace the existing 40ft x 10ft container and portaloos.	Saughall Colts JFC, Seahill Playing Fields, Seahill Road, Chester, CH1 6BJ

RESOLVED – that no objections be raised in respect of the above planning applications.

23/213 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. The next month will be £17.20 - re £7.00 per month with an additional charge of 12 cheques x £0.85 = £10.20

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003612	P. Richmond	February 2024 Salary etc	£812.16			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003614	HMRC	February 2024 Income Tax - £489.20 and Emp NI - £64.19	£555.39			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003614	Jolora Ltd	Web Site Maintenance - 2 months	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)

003615	Flintshire County Council	Street Lights – Maintenance and Repairs	£550.90	£91.82	636613732	Highways Act 1980 (301
Total Spend			£2,316.14	£155.82		

23/214 INCOME

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment	£43.03
Total Income		£43.03

RESOLVED – that the income be noted.

23/215 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence to report on.

23/216 FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

Council was advised on events about to take place – Table Tops Sale on 2nd March 2024 and Bart Art 9th to 11th March 2024.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

23/217 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.

23/218 PLAY SCHEMES - 2024

There was no report.

23/219 COUNCIL’S PHYSICAL ASSET REGISTER JANUARY 2024

The Clerk referred to the following documents that were recently emailed to members of Council Asset Register – January 2024 and Asset Register Summary April 2016 to January 2024 and the current Street Lighting Inventory. The Clerk advised that the purchase price applies to council purchases only so the two new notice boards purchased by Pochins and Praxis are not included but are included in the insurance cover. The same applies to the three public seats purchased in 1997 and installed by Powergen.

Assets	Value – Purchase Price	Insurance Cover
Chairs of Office	£6,059.90	£9,934.03
Notice Boards	£2,451.52	£11,070.69
Public Seats	£2,085.00	£9,786.47
Street Lighting	£51,250.00	£51,250.00
Dummy Digital Recorder Cameras	£1,070.00	£2,546.16
Defibrillator and Cage	£1,184.00	£1,599.12
PR1000 Hand Held Radar Gun	£192.00	£237.31
Total	£64,292.42	£86,423.78

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) it be noted that copies of the Council Asset Register – January 2024, Asset Register Summary April 2016 to January 2024 and the January 2024 Street Lighting Inventory have been added to the Council's web site.

23/220 CLERK'S RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT

The Clerk referred to the notification of his resignation and retirement dated 21st January 2024 as emailed to all members of Council – the last date of employment will be 30th April 2024.

A copy of the job description was circulated to all members of the Council on 1st February 2024 together with the job advert.

The Chair approved the advertisement on 21st January 2024 which has been added to the Council's web site and notice boards. A copy has also been circulated to SLCC North Wales and has been circulated to Clerks in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham who are members of SLCC. A copy has been provided to One Voice Wales for circulation. Council's payroll provider has been advised.

To apply for the role applicants need to send a covering letter, detailing suitability for the role, relevant experience, and local knowledge with a CV by email to ashleygriffiths57@btinternet.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is 28th February 2024. Interviews will be held at Sealand Primary School on Monday 11th March 2024 – 6pm to 8pm.

The Chair advised that he will be applying for the post.

RESOLVED – that the interview panel should consist of Councillors Gwyneth Bullock, Barbara Hinds, Norman Jones, Lionel Prouve, David Wisinger and for the Vice Chair to prepare questions for the interview.

23/221 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS –2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined the expenditure and income for the 2023/24 financial year up to cheque number 003615.

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	£417.58	£30.00	£387.58
Total	£68,370.71	£62,530.00	£5840.71
Expenditure	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges	£110.80	£150.00	£39.20
Chairman's Fund	£340.00	£800.00	£460.00
Staffing Costs	£14,160.94	£14,848.00	£687.06
General Admin inc St Barts rental costs	£2,013.23	£4,395.00	£2,381.77
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	£22,596.10 (inc VAT £541.02)	£25,800.00 (exc VAT)	£3,754.80
Council Web Site	£2,532.00 (inc VAT of £422.00 net £2,110.00)	£2,400.00 (inc VAT)	£252.00
S137 - Grants	£1,900.00	£4,000.00	£2,100.00
Total	£51,773.12	£64,621.00	12,847.88

Current Summary	Balance as at 1 st April 2023 including £25,000 contingency fund.	£41,104.96
	Total expenditure	£51,773.12
	Total income	£68,370.71
	Balance	£16,597.59
End of Year Prediction	Overall balance as at 27th February 2024	£57,702.55
	VAT Costs for 2023/24 financial year	£1,050.62
	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

The Clerk referred to emails as received from the Chief Governance Officer and circulated to all members of Council regarding nominations for the Standards Committee Town and Community Council Representative.

RESOLVED – that the 1st preference is Councillor Ross Griffiths there was no second preference.

Gwenno Talfryn- Advisor 1 (Warning and Informing) - Flood Risk and Water Management at NRW emailed Council on 12th February 2024 – a copy of the email was then circulated to all members of Council. Attached was the most recent version of the Sealand Community Flood plan and a few pieces of literature which may help explain a little bit more about what a Community Flood Plan can look like (as well as a bit of information on an event in March which may be of interest). Paper copies have been provided.

The community is ultimately in charge of the plan and can therefore decide what they are happy doing, and what they are not happy doing, and we will try to support you in making a plan that suits your needs.

Gwenno has put a few things that can be done as part of the plan into bullet points below, but each community is different, and you will have a better idea on what suits Sealand and yourselves.

Some tasks that can be carried out by all Flood Wardens are:

- Encouraging residents to register to receive Flood Warning messages
- Engaging and raising awareness of the risk of flooding in the community
- Promoting self-help to increase resilience
- Distributing flood related literature
- Distributing information to the community
- Communicating with relevant organisations
- Reporting flood risk issues
- Report any observations after flooding events

A Senior Flood Warden is the person NRW (or other responding organisations) will use as a point of contact. This is not the same for every community, but we can generally contact them for the following reasons

- Checking if the plan needs updating
- Informing them of changes to how warnings will be received (e.g. if the flood warning area is updated and the properties receiving warnings change)
- Informing them of expected poor conditions (e.g. Storm Eunice)
- Requesting information following flooding

The Senior Flood Warden has a direct phone number to the Flood Incident Duty Officer at NRW and can contact them if, for example

- There is urgent flooding information that needs to be conveyed
- To gather information on predicted conditions to spread this information amongst the community

If you decide it would be beneficial for Gwenno or one of her colleagues to attend a council meeting and answer question in person please advise. Additionally, if you want something more hands-on,

NRW have a Flood Volunteer event March 21st 2024 in Llandudno Junction (the event is around 10am to 3pm). This will be attended by Flood Wardens from all over North Wales as well as various responding organisations, and can be a good chance to get an understanding of what happens during flooding events and how a plan can help. Refreshments will be provided and travel costs can be reimbursed. One of the morning activities will involve working through a fictional flood scenario together, to understand which organisations take action and when, as well as what communities and individuals can do to prepare for flooding. NRW have created a fictional place that is facing the specific challenge of rapid flooding, caused by weather that has been difficult to forecast locally. The deadline for registrations is March 1st 2024.

RESOLVED – that –

- a) the report be noted.
- b) Councillor Shelley Webber will be the Sealand Flood Warden for Sealand and will liaise with NRW to develop the Sealand Community Flood Plan she will also attend the NRW event on 21st March 2024. She will advise Gwenno Talfryn- Advisor 1 (Warning and Informing) - Flood Risk and Water Management at NRW accordingly.
- c) Councillors should advise the Sealand Flood Warden whether they wish to be a Flood Warden.

23/224 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Excellent work undertaken in clearing the Sealand Road footway.

23/225 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was no report

23/226 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 18th MARCH 2024.

**23/227 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT -
DECLARATION OF INTEREST - NONE**

The meeting opened at 6pm and closed at 7.40pm.

Councillor Jean Fairbrother left the meeting at 7.10pm

..... Signed 18th March 2024

Chair of the Council