

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 21st October 2024 AT SEALAND COUNTY
PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD, GARDEN CITY. CH5 2HH

PRESENT: Councillors: Barbara Hinds (Chair), Christine Jones (County Councillor), David Wisinger (Vice-Chair), Brian Ward, Lionel Prouve, Mary Southall, Norman Jones, Alex Lewis, and Gwyneth Bullock.

One member of the public.

Jane Parry – Headteacher- Sealand Primary School.

Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

24/118 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Linda Thomas, Shelley Webber, and Jean Fairbrother.

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

24/119 NOTICE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (Section 87 (2))

VACANCY FOR ONE COUNCILLOR

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) advised that Flintshire County Council had informed him that no request for an election had been received within fourteen days of the original Notice date, and it is for the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option. Council is required to give public notice of co-option in accordance with Section 116 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

The Council agreed to readvertise the public notice of co-option for the week commencing the 23rd day of September, which will be advertised until the 13th day of October per the recommendation of the Democratic Services department of Flintshire County Council. This will be emailed to Council members, attached to the notice boards, and added to the Council's website.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk notified the Council that no applications were received for the current vacancy, and Flintshire County Council had informed the Clerk that a co-option notice can be readvertised and will be distributed in due course.

24/120 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

RESOLVED— that it should be noted that one declaration of interest during the meeting, Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 24/126 (c).

24/121 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) had not received a request to hold a hybrid meeting.

24/122 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 16th September 2024

Barbara Hinds (Chair) informed the Council that she attended the International Old Peoples Day conference in Connah Quay in an official capacity and noted the event was very well attended. The chair hosted the monthly meeting between the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk. It affirmed that the meetings have now become the norm for Sealand Community Council to discuss any matter before the Council meetings, which the Vice-Chair and Clerk reiterated is very worthwhile.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/123 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16th September 2024

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on September 16th, 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

24/124 CHAIR'S FUND 2024/25

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reminded the Council that the agreed spend for the Chair's Fund for the 2024/25 financial years is £800.00. Payments are being made under expenditure powers—Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1). At the September, 16th 2024 meeting Minute Number 24/97, it was agreed that the Chair's Fund should cover the refreshments at St Bartholomews Church for the Remembrance Service on Sunday, November 10th at 10:30 AM and the Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 PM.

Spent so far - £50.00 to 50 Plus Action Group (Flintshire).

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/125 POLICE ISSUES

a) Community Speed Watch

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) asked the Council if any members would like to participate in the Speed Watch and conveyed that the team is currently on hold until another member can be found to make it safe to attend sites.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292

PCSO Aled Hughes reported to the Council on September 20th that he would monitor the locations brought to his attention in Sealand.

RESOLVED – that the PCSO Aled Hughes should be informed about the ongoing drug issues and electric bikes in Garden City.

24/126 MATTERS REFERRED TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

a) A-frame barrier amendment proposals

Christine Jones (County Councillor) reported that the proposals are ongoing and have various concerns. RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Sealand Ditches

i) The Main River watercourse is adjacent to Dandy's.

Neil Parry, Flintshire County Council (Project Engineer), reported to the Council on July 4th, 2024, that Dandy's had removed the impediments.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

ii) The main river watercourse is located in England and crosses beneath Seahill Road.

Neil Parry, Flintshire County Council (Project Engineer), informed the Council on July 4th, 2024, that the Environment Agency is writing to the landowners about removing impediments from within the main river watercourse.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry be asked for a further update on the Environment Agency dialogue with the landowners.

iii) Banks Farm

Neil Parry, Flintshire County Council (Project Engineer), stated on July 4th, 2024, that he visited the site but could only inspect some of the watercourses due to the time of year. He will revisit the site in the Autumn when the vegetation dies back and will liaise with the Streetscene department if there is any highway flooding or specific issues.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

Glyn Jones, Flintshire County Council (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment, and Economy), reported on June 27, 2024, that he had received a response from the agent and been advised that the agent is not instructed in this matter any further; therefore, Glyn Jones has assured the Council that he will now be taking this matter directly to the developer. Furthermore, Mark Tami (MP for Alyn and Deeside) informed the Council on August 16, 2024, that Glyn Jones, Flintshire County Council (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment and Economy), had told him he was following up on the matter directly with the developer.

Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest regarding the condition of the side access to the Spar Shop.

RESOLVED— that the Clerk will organise a site visit with Mark Tami, Jack Sargent, the Clerk, Chair, and Vice-Chair to discuss the conditions that have not been addressed and convey questions from each Councillor.

d) Sealand Road – A548 – Extend Street Lighting

Lee Shone, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer), reported to the Council on May 21st, 2024, that he would check what information can be shared from the police report and relay this information back to the Council.

RESOLVED – that Lee Shone, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer), be asked for a further update on whether the stretch of road meets the criteria for extended street lighting, and the Council will CC towncouncil@flintshire.gov.uk

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

Mike Taylor, Flintshire County Council (Senior Coastal Ranger), has previously advised that the repair cost is £200.00 per bench. The funding source is being investigated, possibly in collaboration with Wilson Auctions. The Council has agreed that the seat formerly situated between the two road bridges should replace one of the four existing seats, as mentioned above. Wayne Jones, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer), has advised that he is waiting on Mike Taylor's regarding the funding.

RESOLVED – that Mike Taylor, Flintshire County Council (Senior Coastal Ranger), be asked for a further progress report on funding measures.

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

Chris Povey, Flintshire County Council (Housing Officer), reported on June 24th, 2024, that he observed overgrown trees on North Green, Sealand Manor. They do not appear to be an immediate risk or obstruction, although visible roots broke up the tarmac, creating a trip hazard on the pathway. These have been raised with the capital works team for inspection and to address the issue. The Council had been informed that the proposed scheme walk on the 12th of July 2024 had been postponed until the 19th of July 2024.

RESOLVED – that Dawn Kent, Flintshire County Council (Housing Manager), be asked for an update on the ongoing problems.

g) Foxes Lane – Underpass - Water leakage and Graffiti

Wayne Jones, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer), informed the Council on June 24th, 2024, that he would ask the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) to inspect the underpass again.

RESOLVED—that Ken Skates (Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport) should be asked about the continued issues regarding the underpass.

24/127 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

Jamie Bennett, Flintshire County Council (Highways and Trunk Road Operational Manager), advised Council on the 10th May 2024 that the following eight lights to be replaced in the 2024/25 financial year will cost £2,250 per column due to the increased commuted sum of £850 from the previous fee of £750. Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) advised Council that the increase in the commuted fee has added £800 to the upgrade's overall cost, taking the overall fee to £18,000 from £17,200.

The Council agreed to the increased expenditure and, therefore, sanctioned the replacement of 8 lights. These will be the six remaining lights at Riverside Park and two at Cedar Close, then leaving 33 to be replaced and adopted. Twelve years ago, the Council had 169 lights. All current 33 lights are working.

Claire Carter, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene and transportation), informed Council on October 21st, 2024, that the 8-column replacements had been completed.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/128 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 has advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/25 is £10.81 per elector. The electoral roll from Flintshire County Council was 2538 in December 2022. So, per elector produces a total of £28,062.76.

The Allocated spend in 2024/25 is Section 137 grants of £3,035.00 and for school milk £0.00.

Spending in 2024/25 so far is £300.00.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/129 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PA Number	Application details	Location
FUL/0007 24/24	EXTEND THE TEMPORARY BUILDING APPROVAL (APPLICATION REF 060637) FOR AN ADDITIONAL 5 YEARS.	Plot B2, Parc Ddiwydiannol Glannau Dyfrdwy, Fourth Avenue, Sealand Deeside, CH5 2NR.

RESOLVED – that no objections should be raised with respect to the above planning application.

24/130 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 £8.70 - re £7.00 per month with an additional charge of 2 cheques x £0.85 = £1.70

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
003647	HMRC	Paye- Income tax and national insurance July, August, September	£926.94			Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003648	Jo-Lora Ltd	Web Site Maintenance	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003649	Flintshire County Council	Monthly street light	£313.90	£52.32	636613732	Highways Act 1972 (301)

Chair's Signature:

		inspection for 41 columns, August - September 2024				
003650	SLCC Enterprise LTD	Clerk training (ILCA)	£144.00	£24.00	891752783	Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003651	Ashley Griffiths	October 2024 Salary etc	£939.84			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003652	Flintshire County Council	Supply and installation of 2 Lanterns and 2 photocells (Station Cottages)	£568.80	94.80	636613732	Highways Act 1980 (301)
003653	Audit Wales Office	2021-2022 Audit fees	£200.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (S111)
003654	Flintshire County Council	Street lighting replacement of 8 street lights replacements and adoption – VAT is not	£18000			Highways Act 1980 (301)

		charged for upgrades/adoption options.				
003655	Flintshire County Council	Council Contribution - Playscheme 2024 6 weeks full days	£7663.20			Local Govt Act (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976 (S19)
Total Spend			£29,140.68	£235.12		

24/131 INCOME

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment 09/10/2024	£56.82
Total Income		£56.82

RESOLVED – that the income received be noted.

24/132 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence to report on.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/133 FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

Brian Ward (Friends of Sealand) informed the Council that the church now offers Food Monday through to Wednesday all day.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

24/134 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. On the 30th of April 2024, Richard Roberts advised the Council that Flintshire County Council had allocated £105,000 for its 2024/25 budget for the match-funding of improvement works to children's play areas and informed the Council if they wanted to proceed with the agreed program.

Richard Roberts advised the Council on September 16, 2024, that an order for graphics for a mini scooter and trike area has been put on hold until the Council decides which option to pursue.

RESOLVED— that Richard Roberts, AURA (Play Design Officer), should be informed that the Council shall proceed with the graphics ordered.

24/135 PLAY SCHEMES - 2024

Darren Morris (Lead Officer for play development) informed the Council on October 21, 2024, that the attendance figures for Sealand Manor were 530 and Garden City 457. It further clarified that Sealand Manor benefited from a visit from the Activities Team that delivered a waterslide. Both sites benefited from parent interaction.

RESOLVED—that Darren Morris be asked for further information on additional items for next year and any allocations for food to be provided.

24/136 SEALAND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDENS

The Flood Warden team members will meet soon to discuss how they can work as effectively as possible within the team with additional members.

RESOLVED – that Gwenno Talfryn should be asked to attend a flood warden meeting at her earliest convenience.

24/137 CURRENT SAVINGS STRATEGY

Clerk Ashley Griffiths reported to the Council that the previous Clerk thoroughly analysed how the Council holds its reserves and deduced that the current way of having all monetary assets with one banking group was satisfactory and in line with savings expectations. Furthermore, the Clerk informed the Council that he awaits further information on this matter.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/138 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL- BANK RECONCILIATION – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The Clerk advised that In line with council’s Financial Regulations and audit requirements the Clerk 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 2024.

Account - no 0388217 – £17,942.34 - Account - no – 7326098 - £70,036.22 Total - £87,978.56

Unpaid - Cheque number	Payable to	Amount - £
003632	JoLora Ltd	384.00
003639	One Voice Wales	677.00
003640	Flintshire County Council	313.90
003641	JoLora Ltd	384.00
003646	Flintshire County Council	237.00
Total		1,995.90

Total bank accounts –£87,978.56 less unpaid cheques of £1,995.90 leaves a nett balance of £85,982.66 This amount cross references with the summary of income and expenditure report as at

30th September 2024. Please see the attached summary income and expenditure report and bank statements. The Vice-Chair signed two hard copies of the bank reconciliation statements.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

24/139 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS –2024/25 FINANCIAL YEARS

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) outlined the expenditure and income for the 2024/25 financial year up to cheque number 003655. Note that an outstanding cheque (No: 003632) from June has not been banked by the organisation that received it, totaling £384.00.

Sealand Community Council - Summary Accounts
2024/25 Financial Year

		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income	Precept	£42,666.67	£64,000.00	-£21,333.33
	Bank Interest and Refund of Fees	£383.54	£500.00	-£116.46
	VAT Refund Flintshire County Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	VAT Refund HMRC	£1,050.52	£2,000.00	-£949.48
	Total	£44,100.73	£66,500.00	-£22,399.27

		Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Expenditure	Bank Charges	£71.10	£150.00	£78.90
	Chairman's Fund	£50.00	£800.00	£750.00
	Staffing Costs	£11,202.06	£15,375.00	£4,172.94
	General Admin etc	£2,004.86	£4,500.00	£2,495.14
	Insurances	£625.99	£650.00	£24.01
	Play Schemes and New Play Equipment	£7,663.20	£18,665.00	£11,001.80
	Street Furniture Repairs	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
	Street Lighting	£19,747.50	£26,200.00	£6,452.50
	Council Web Site	£1,536.00	£2,400.00	£864.00
	S137 - Grants	£300.00	£3,035.00	£2,735.00
	Total	£43,200.71	£71,975.00	£28,774.29

Current Summary	Balance 1st April 2024 inc £25,000 contingency fund	£55,951.88
	Total Expenditure	£43,200.71
	Total Income	£44,100.73
	Balance	£900.02
	Balance as at 21 October 2024	£ 56,851.90
	VAT Costs for 2024/25 Financial Year	£714.06

End of Year Prediction

Balance as at 1st April 2024	£55,951.88
Total Anticipated Expenditure	£71,975.00
Total Anticipated Income	£66,500.00
Balance Expenditure compared with income at 31st March 2024	-£5,475.00
Anticipated Closing Balance as at 31 March 2025	£ 50,476.88

Chair's Signature:

24/140 EXTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR AND NOTICE OF AUDIT

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) conveyed the council's external audit requirement, noting that the documents will be partly delivered to South Wales via recorded delivery and that the remainder will be uploaded to the objective portal. He also mentioned the public notice and details of the public inspection arrangements for the 2023/24 financial year, specifically that they are on the Council website and notice boards. Inspection runs from the 1st of July to 26 July between 10:00 and 17:00 on Monday to Friday in line with Section 30 of the Public Audit Wales Act 2004, which gives the elector the right to inspect the Council's accounts.

The Clerk advised that the completed Annual Return and most of the requested information were uploaded to the objective portal on July 10th, 2024, and 2 documents were posted via special delivery to Audit Wales on July 18th, 2024.

Publication of audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2024, Sealand Community Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 together with any certificate, opinion, or report issued, given, or made by the Auditor General. The accounting statements in the form of an annual return have been published on the Council's website. However, the accounts are published before the conclusion of the audit.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/141 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

One Member of the Public raised concerns about incidents on Ferry Lane.

24/142 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

24/143 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 18th November 2024.

24/144 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT
DECLARATION OF INTEREST— One Council member declared an interest to the Council. Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 24/126 (c).

The meeting opened at 6 pm and closed at 8:15 pm.

..... Signed 18th November 2024

Barbara Hinds, Chair of the Council