

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16th DECEMBER 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, Mary Southall, Gwyneth Bullock, Lionel Prouvé and Norman Jones.

Four members of the public.

Jane Parry – Headteacher – Sealand Primary School.

Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

24/172 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

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

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

24/173 IN-HOUSE TRAINING

Barbara Hinds (Chair) thanked all who attended last month's training and confirmed with Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) that another training session will be held in February 2025.

24/174 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 was emailed to Council members, attached to the notice boards, and added to the Council's website.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk liaised with Flintshire County Council regarding readvertising the co-option notice and had clarification on how to proceed with a further readvertisement.

24/175 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

RESOLVED - that it should be noted that two declarations of interest during the meeting were made:-

Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute numbers 24/181 (c) and 24/183.

Cllr David Wisinger declared an interest in minute number 24/183.

24/176 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) had not received a request to hold a hybrid meeting but proclaimed several residents would attend to discuss the ongoing issues with HGV vehicles damaging property and the lack of road signage informing HGV drivers on the correct route to their destinations.

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) should inform the local government of Flintshire, local developers and Amazon of the ongoing issues in Garden City.

24/177 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 18th NOVEMBER 2024

Barbara Hinds (Chair) informed the Council about the regular monthly meeting between the Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk. Unfortunately, the Vice Chair could not attend this time but was briefed on the agenda prior to the meeting for his input. This highlights the significance of these meetings for effective management.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/178 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on November 18th, 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

24/179 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 Bartholomew's 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.

The Chair proposed that a payment of £50.00 from the Chairs Fund be approved for each of the following groups: Sealand Happy Group, Eye 2 Eye Social Group, 50 Plus Action Group (Flintshire), Flint Ladies Choir (who will be attending the Christmas Celebration event at St. Barts), Sealand C.P School, and St. Bartholomew's Community Hub.

RESOLVED – that £50.00 from the Chairs Fund be approved for each of the following groups:

Sealand Happy Group.

Eye 2 Eye Social Group.

50 Plus Action Group. (Flintshire)

Sealand C.P School.

St. Bartholomew's Community Hub.

Flint Ladies Choir. (who will be attending the Christmas Celebration event at St. Bartholomew's Church)

Spent so far - £350.00.

24/180 POLICE ISSUES

a) Community Speed Watch

There was no report.

b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292

There was no report.

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will forward PCSO Aled Hughes, the Callender for all Council meetings, to allow him to attend another Council meeting at his earliest convenience and follow up on a previous email regarding damaged cars around Garden City caused by HGV vehicles.

24/181 MATTERS REFERRED TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

a) A-frame barrier amendment proposals

Christine Jones (County Councillor) reported to the Council that an amendment to remove the A-frame barriers has been passed, and a pilot project has started with police monitoring several areas after several barriers have been removed.

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 November 18th, 2024, that he would be attending several sites on November 21st, 2024, to reinvestigate the ongoing issues and will notify the Environment Agency to write to the landowners about removing impediments from within the main river watercourse.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry will be requested to report to the Council on his last site visit.

iii) Banks Farm

Neil Parry, Flintshire County Council (Project Engineer), informed the Council on November 18th, 2024, that he would inspect the watercourse at one of the landowners' sites on November 21st, 2024.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry should be asked for a report on the watercourse inspection.

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 December 12, 2024, that he has met with colleagues in the Council's Legal Department to discuss

the courses of action which may be available to progress this matter and will report to Council in due course.

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

RESOLVED— the Council will contact Glyn Jones (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment, and Economy) in January 2025 for further updates before the next Council meeting.

d) Sealand Road – A548 – Extend Street Lighting

Lee Shone, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer), reported to the Council on November 18th, 2024, that he has put together a shortlist for funding for areas within the ward to the Welsh Government for extended street lighting. He informed the Council that this particular area has been added to the shortlist and clarified that the criteria for such street lighting consider road traffic incidents.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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.

Mike Taylor, Flintshire County Council (Senior Coastal Ranger), reported to the Council on 23rd October that he has been diverted to dockside improvements and will return to this issue after Christmas.

RESOLVED – that Mike Taylor (Senior Coastal Ranger) will be asked for an update on funding arrangements.

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

Councillor Christine Jones addressed the Council regarding a fallen tree on Orchard Way and confirmed that Flintshire County Council has been notified about the incident. The Council is taking steps to address the issue, and Councillor Christine Jones will contact the housing officer to provide further updates on both sites.

RESOLVED— that Dawn Kent (Housing Manager) be asked for a further update from the housing officer regarding such matters.

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 Wayne Jones, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer), be asked again for a site meeting with the Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk to discuss the ongoing situation.

h) Garden City - HGV issues

Councillor Christine Jones updated the Council regarding safety measures on Farm Road, informing the Council that a temporary sign is being installed in response to concerns raised surrounding HGV vehicles. Furthermore, the temporary signage will be extended to provide immediate guidance to drivers, and more permanent signage will be discussed to ensure long-term safety is met.

RESOLVED— that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) should inform Flintshire County Council, local developers and Amazon of the ongoing issues in Garden City.

24/182 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

Dylan Williams (Street Lighting Team Leader) has been asked to advise the Council on replacing the selected lights in the 2025-26 financial year.

All the current 33 street lights are working.

RESOLVED – that a site meeting with Dylan Williams (Street Lighting Team Leader) should be organised to discuss the current street lighting in line with the Council's current street lighting strategy.

24/183 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.ing

Spending in 2024/25 so far is £300.00.

A grant request has been received from Sealand C.P. School for funds to aid educational trips as part of the school curriculum. Up-to-date copies of bank statements have been provided.

RESOLVED – that in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971 that, the Council should award a grant of £1000 to Sealand C.P School, which is in the best interests of the area and its inhabitants.

Councillors Christine Jones and David Wisinger declared an interest regarding the grant payment to Sealand C.P. School.

24/184 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PA Number	Application details	Location
COU/000 945/24	Change of use from office to mixed-use of office and veterinary research centre.	1 Newtech Square, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2NT.
COU/000 637/24	Change of use of premises from former Pet Supplies Outlet (Class A1), Veterinary Clinic (Class D1), cafe (Class A3) and Warehousing	UNIT 38, Drive B, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2NU.

	(Use Class B8) and associated car parking to B1, B2 and B8.	
FUL/0010 59/24	Relocation of vehicular access, new pedestrian access and associated gates and walls.	BRIDGE FARM, Green Lane East, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LH.
LBC/0009 93/24	Listed Building Application - Installation of Internal wall insulation, loft insulation, solar PV and Air Source heat pump.	Ferry Bank Farm, Foxes Lane, Garden City, CH5 2SH.
FUL/0006 15/24	Installation of a Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) kiosk to house an 11kV metered switchgear and Ring Main Unit, Meter kiosk, Transformers to be bounded by security fencing, associated hardstanding and bollard protection.	Land adjacent to Amazon, Unit A, Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2FZ.
FUL/0009 92/24	Application for Installation of internal wall insulation, loft insulation, solar PV and Air Source heat pump.	Ferry Bank Farm, Foxes Lane, Garden City, CH5 2SH.

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

24/185 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 £12.95 - re £7.00 per month with an additional charge of 7 cheques x £0.85 = £5.95.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
Direct Debit Payment	NEST	Pension	£46.90			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003661	Jo-Lora Ltd	Website standard Hosting package/dom ain name renewal	£228.00	£38.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)

Chair's Signature:

003662	Jo-Lora Ltd	Website Maintenance – 2 months	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003663	Ashley Griffiths	Stationary refund	£16.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003664	Ashley Griffiths	December 2024 Salary, etc.	£962.16			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003665	Sealand Happy Group	Payment from the chairs fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003666	Eye 2 Eye Social Group	Payment from the chairs fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003667	50 Plus Action Group (Flintshire)	Payment from the chairs fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003668	St. Bartholomew's Community Hub	Payment from the chairs fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003669	Sealand C.P School	Payment from the chairs fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)

Chair's Signature:

003670	Raised in Error					
003671	Sealand C.P School	Grant Payment	£1000.00			Section 137 of the Local Govt Act 1971
003672	Flint Ladies Choir	Payment from the chairs fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
Total Spend			£2,937.06	£102.00		

24/186 INCOME

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment 09/10/2024	£37.04
Total Income		£37.04

RESOLVED – that the income received be noted.

24/187 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence to report on.

24/188 FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

Brian Ward (Friends of Sealand) informed the Council of the Christmas Carol service on 18th December 2024.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

24/189 WELSH ROAD SKATE FACILITY

Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) advised the Council on October 22, 2024, that an order for graphics for a mini scooter and trike area has been placed and will be completed when the weather conditions are best suited for the hydration process and to ensure proper hardening, attaining desirable strength and durability is met.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

24/190 WELSH ROAD PLAY AREA

Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) advised the Council on November 18, 2024, that the Communications Board awarded to Sealand Community Council from Betsi Cadwaladr University

Health Board can be affixed onto the Welsh Road play area fence with a rough installation cost of approximately £180.00.

RESOLVED— that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will notify Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) of the Council's decision to fund the installation of the communication board for the benefit of the children in the community it serves.

24/191 SEALAND MANOR PLAY AREA

Richard Robert (Play Design Officer) informed the Council on November 18, 2024, that the tyre swing at Sealand Manor play area is over 26 years old, uneconomic to continue to maintain, and requires replacement. The proposal is to provide a new tyre swing utilising the existing play bark surface; the cost to install this is £2000, making the total £8,315.00. Match funding for Sealand Community Council would be £4000 from the 2024/25 financial year.

RESOLVED— that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will notify Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) of the Council's decision to match fund the replacement of the new tyre swing.

24/192 PLAY SCHEMES – 2025

At the November 2023 Council meeting, it was agreed that the Council would fund both play scheme sites for six weeks and enter into a three-year commitment. After obtaining data on children attending, the council decided to continue with the six-week commitment at both sites.

RESOLVED—that Darren Morris be notified of the Council's decision to carry on funding the 2025 play schemes and be asked for further information on any new equipment being used on the above sites and what marketing strategy is being implemented for 2025.

24/193 SEALAND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDENS

The Flood Warden team members will meet at 5:30 p.m. on January 20, 2025, to discuss how they can work as effectively as possible within the team and gain input from Gwenno Talfryn.

RESOLVED – that Gwenno Talfryn will be emailed a link to the Hybrid meeting.

24/194 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 looked at the best available savings accounts and reported to the Council the interest rates, adding that the notice periods and ramifications below: -

Co-Operative Bank

95-day notice penalty – withdrawal penalty deducted by the potential earnings

35-day notice penalty - withdrawal penalty deducted by the potential earnings

Unity trust bank

90-day notice penalty – no particular amount but deducted by the balance per the potential earnings

30-day notice - no particular amount but deducted by the balance per the potential earnings

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) liaise with the SLCC Clwyd branch Chairperson on further options.

24/195 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2024

The Local Government Association informed One Voice Wales that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and encourages employers to implement this pay award as soon as possible. Copies of the pay award details and salary scales were circulated to members of the Council on October 29, 2024.

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. Council also agreed under minute 21/80 that from effect from 1st April 2022, the home allowance payment is £312. Noting that the internal auditor advised on the 22nd April 2021 that this amount is non- taxable.

RESOLVED – that the Council agreed to implement the pay award and backdate the retired clerk in line with the NJC agreement. Wainwright Accountants should be notified of this amendment to the payroll.

24/196 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 003672. Note that an outstanding cheque (No: 003632) from June has not been banked by the organisation that received it, totalling £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	£474.58	£500.00	-£25.42
	VAT Refund Flintshire County Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	VAT Refund HMRC	£1,050.52	£2,000.00	-£949.48
	Total	£44,191.77	£66,500.00	-£22,308.23

		Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Expenditure	Bank Charges	£92.75	£150.00	£57.25
	Chairman's Fund	£200.00	£800.00	£600.00
	Staffing Costs	£13,123.54	£15,375.00	£2,251.46
	General Admin etc	£2,296.16	£4,500.00	£2,203.84
	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	£2,148.00	£2,400.00	£252.00
	S137 - Grants	£650.00	£3,035.00	£2,385.00
	Total	£46,547.14	£71,975.00	£25,427.86

Current Summary	Balance 1st April 2024 inc £25,000 contingency fund	£55,951.88
	Total Expenditure	£46,547.14
	Total Income	£44,191.77
	Balance	-£2,355.37
	Balance as at 16 December 2024	£ 53,596.51
	VAT Costs for 2024/25 Financial Year	£816.06

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:

24/197 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.

24/198 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

24/199 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Several residents attended the Council meeting to discuss the ongoing issues with HGV vehicles damaging property in the Garden City area. They noted the lack of road signage informing HGV drivers of unsuitable routes.

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) should inform the local government of Flintshire, local developers and Amazon of the ongoing issues in Garden City.

24/200 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC TO BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

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

24/201 FINANCIAL REPORT- 2024/25 AND 2025/26

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 precepting authority – Sealand Community Council, and that the schedule of payment from Flintshire County Council will be three equal instalments – on the last working days of April, August, and December.

- b) 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 advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/25 was £10.81 per elector.

Welsh Government has advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2025/26 is £11.10 per elector. Flintshire County Council confirmed the electorate as of the end of November 2024 was 2733. So, per elector produces a total of £30,336.30.

The allocated spend for 2024/25 for Section 137 grants is £3,035.00. Section 137 payments so far in the 2024/25 financial year are grant payments to Sealand Happy Group for £150.00, 50 Plus Action Group for £150.00, the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal for £200.00, and Eye 2 Eye Social Club for £150.00.

- c) The clerk is contracted for a 16-hour working week. Payment is net, with the Council deducting income tax at 20% on the full income and making payment to HMRC. The Council also pays the employer's National Insurance contribution to HMRC and the NEST Pension scheme, agreed under Minute 23/272. Wainwrights Accountants is undertaking payroll.
- d) 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.

Council also agreed under minute 21/80 that the home allowance payment will be £ 312 with effect from 1 April 2022, noting that the internal auditor advised on 22 April 2021 that this amount is non-taxable.

The NALC pay award 2023/24 has been advised on by the LGA via One Voice Wales and will be implemented on 1 April 2023. Copies of the pay award details and salary scales were circulated to members of the Council on 7 November 2023.

Based on the 16 hours worked in the contract, the salary for 2025/26, on a scale of 24, £33,024, will be £14,280.65. Plus, the home working allowance of £312 = £14,592.65.

The Council noted all the above at its meeting on 20 November 2023—minute ref 23/145 and the meeting held on 15 April 2024—minute ref 23/272.

- e) that IT expenses will be reimbursed by the Council.
- f) non-IT expenses incurred in carrying out his duties are also reimbursed. The expenditure is incurred on behalf of the Council as part of its administration and running costs, 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.
- g) The estimated income for the current 2024/25 financial year is £66,500.00, and the estimated expenditure is £68,125. The opening balance at 1 April 2024 was £55,951.88, including £25,000 contingency fund.

The estimated opening balance at 1 April 2025 is £57,594.94, assuming all planned expenditure occurs, which may not be the case.

h) the precept for the 2024/25 financial year is £64,000.00

RESOLVED – that the following funds be allocated.

Annual Subscriptions	£850.00
Audit Fees	£775.00
Bank Charges	£150.00
Chair's Fund	£800.00
Chain of Office - Engraving	£20.00
Clerk's salary and allowance.	£14,592.65
Conferences - attendance	£200.00
Council's Web Site inc VAT	£2,400
Clerks Pension	£241.20
Data Protection Registration	£40.00
Defibrillator – Energy – Garden City	£75.00
Free Resource Fund – Grants	£3035.00
Insurances	£650.00
Joint-funded project play areas	£8,000
NI Employers contribution	£715.44
Playleader Scheme	£8,813.00
Postage / Mileage	£500.00
Printer, Computers repairs, etc., and printer cartridges	£200.00
Stationery	£150.00
Street Furniture Repairs – Seats / Notice Boards	£200.00
Street Lighting – Energy - £5,000, Repairs & Maintenance £3500 and Replacement / Adoption of 9 lights and - £20,250. VAT charged for maintenance	£28,750
Councillors and Clerks Training Costs	£500.00
Full Total	£71,657.29

24/202 PRECEPT 2025/26

The Clerk advised that the Council has an indicated estimated expenditure of £71,657.29 for the 2025/26 financial year. Estimated income excluding precept for the 2025/26 financial year is £1,525.10, which includes HMRC VAT refund and bank interest. The estimated opening balance on 1st April 2025 is £57,594.94.

The Clerk advised that Flintshire County Council requires the completion of a precept mandate form, which must be signed by the chairperson and the Clerk and returned by January 28, 2025.

Chair's Signature:

Current year's precept – 2024/25- £64,000

The current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties is £1,554.24

The current Band D charge is £41.18

After debate and consideration, it was decided to agree on a precept of £64,000.

The precept for 2025/26 - £64,000

Tax Base for 2025/26 of equivalent Band D properties is £1,564.80

The band D charge for 2025/26 will be £40.90

The decrease in the Band D charge amount is £0.28

The percentage decrease in the 2025/26 Band D charge compared to the 2024/25 Band D charge is 0.67%

RESOLVED: - that –

- i) the precept for the 2025/26 financial year be agreed upon at £64,000.
- ii) the Clerk be thanked for his clear and concise explanation of the financial report.

24/203 COUNCIL RESERVES 2025/26

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 2025/26 is £71,657.29 – 6 months is equivalent to £35,828.65

RESOLVED – that of the estimated carry forward of £57,594.94 at 1st April 2025, £25,000 should be held as a Contingency Reserve to assist cash flow in the event of unforeseen occurrences. The remaining funds are required to cover council expenditures until Flintshire County Council makes the first precept payment during the 2025/26 financial year. The Council's Policy on Reserves will need to be amended accordingly

24/204 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 20th January 2025.

24/205 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

DECLARATION OF INTEREST— Two Council members declared an interest to the Council.

Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute numbers 24/181 (c) and 24/183.

Cllr David Wisinger declared an interest in minute number 24/183.

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm and closed at 8:50 pm.

..... Signed 20th January 2025

Barbara Hinds, Chair of the Council