

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 17th MARCH 2025 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, Norman Jones, Bob James, Gwyneth Bullock, Lionel Prouvé, and Alex Lewis.

Others: Four members of the public.

Jane Parry – Headteacher – Sealand Primary School.

Officer: Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

24/268 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

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

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

24/269 IN-HOUSE TRAINING

A significant number of Council members engaged in a comprehensive session focused on diversity and inclusion to deepen their understanding and enhance their knowledge in these critical areas.

24/270 SEALAND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDENS

The Council received several NRW flood management documents that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) circulated to various members of the flood warden team for review until the requested marketing material is delivered.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

24/271 RECYCLING AND WASTE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

Chris Cunningham, Recycling, Compliance, and Data Officer, reported to the Council that a team would be assigned to present detailed updates on the new three-week bin collection system to local community groups. The Council recognised this as valuable; consequently, the Council recommended that attending a Council meeting would be beneficial.

The Flintshire County Council, Streetscene, and Transportation Team outlined the key updates, including the new three-weekly bin collection system from the 28th day of April 2025, with collections on Wednesday and Thursday in the Garden City area and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the areas of Sealand:

Garden Waste: The garden waste collection will remain unchanged and continue fortnightly between March and November.

- Domestic Waste Collections: Domestic waste collections will transition to a three-weekly schedule instead of every two weeks.
- Nappy and absorbent hygiene products, as well as clinical waste, will remain unchanged and continue to be collected weekly.
- Recycling Collections: Recycling collections will continue to be collected weekly.

- Saturday Collections: Saturday collections will be discontinued and redistributed from Monday to Friday.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

24/272 NOTICE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (Section 87 (2))

VACANCY FOR ONE COUNCILLOR – CASUAL VACANCY – MR. BOB JAMES

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) advised the Council that the notice was issued on January 21st, 2025, with a submission date to the Clerk of February 10th, 2025. One application had been received within the required time period—Mr. Bob James meets the requirements for Co—Option.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interest Form were completed correctly by the newly elected Councillor and duly signed by the Clerk.

RESOLVED – that the newly elected Councillor Mr. Bob James be welcomed back onto the Council.

24/272 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

RESOLVED - that it should be noted that one declaration of interest during the meeting was made: -

Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 24/278 (c).

24/273 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

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

24/274 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 17th FEBRUARY 2025

Barbara Hinds (Chair) informed the Council about the recently held monthly meeting, which the Chair and Clerk attended. Regrettably, the Vice Chair was unable to participate in the meeting; however, all pertinent correspondences were duly forwarded, and the matters were subsequently addressed in their absence. The principal focus of the discussion during the session was the organisation of the upcoming training session. Several considerations were explored to ensure the effective planning and execution of this event, which aims to provide substantial benefits to all parties involved.

Furthermore, Barbara Hinds (Chair) informed the Council that a meeting had been held with herself, Ashley Griffiths (Clerk), and Dylan Williams (Street Lighting Team Leader) to review the current state of the lighting assets. A comprehensive report detailing the findings and any subsequent recommendations will be submitted for review to the Council.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/275 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on February 17th, 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

24/276 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 year is £800.00. Payments are being made under expenditure powers—Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1). At the September 16, 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 Chair's Fund be approved for each of the following local community causes:

- Eye2Eye- £50.00
- Sealand Happy Group- £50.00
- Sealand County Primary School- £50.00
- 50 Plus Action Group- £50.00
- St Bartholomew's Church Council - £50.00

RESOLVED – that £50.00 goes to each of the listed causes.

Spent so far - £800.00.

24/277 POLICE ISSUES

a) Community Speed Watch

There was no report.

b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292

There was no report.

24/278 MATTERS REFERRED TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

a) A-frame barriers

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

Several residents have raised safety concerns since the barriers along Ferry Lane were removed by the Ferry Lane Residents Association. There have been increasing reports of cyclists not paying due care and attention when cycling in areas where vehicles make turns.

PCSO Aled Hughes reported to the Council on March 13th, 2025, that the removed barriers are not currently being monitored.

RESOLVED – that Ian Bushell (Streetscene Maintenance Manager, South and Structures) will be asked again for the installation of signage to improve safety, and PCSO Aled Hughes will be asked to investigate why the barriers are not monitored (CC: North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin)

b) Sealand Ditches

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

Neil Parry (Project Engineer, Flintshire County Council) reported to the Council on March 17, 2025, that Dandy's had removed the impediments; however, he sought further explanation regarding the piped drainage system to assist effectively.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry will be asked for a report on the piped drainage system.

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

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council on March 17, 2025, that he had visited the site and met with NRW regarding the impediments within the main river watercourse. He reported that the water levels are currently low and requested that NRW survey the area.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry will be asked for the NRW report once the survey has been completed.

iii) Banks Farm

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council on March 17, 2025, that he had conducted an inspection of the watercourse at one of the landowners' sites and observed that one section had been cleared of all impediments. He will continue to monitor the site during his subsequent visit.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry be requested to provide a further update on the impediments.

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

Glyn Jones, Flintshire County Council (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment, and Economy), reported to the Council on March 12, 2025 that Flintshire County Council have attempted to address the situation via correspondence with both the developer and their appointed planning agent, as it is incumbent upon the Council to seek to secure resolution through discussion. Further correspondence will be reported in due course.

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

RESOLVED— that Glyn Jones be asked to provide a timeline for the progress of the ongoing legal issues.

d) Sealand Road – A548 – Extend Street Lighting

Lee Shone, Streetscene Officer (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on November 18, 2024, that he has compiled a shortlist of funding areas within the ward for extended street lighting in collaboration with the Welsh Government. 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 Lee Shone be requested to provide an update on the shortlist.

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

Mike Taylor, Senior Coastal Ranger (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council on March 17, 2025, that round 2 of the UK SPS Fund is scheduled to commence imminently. He will conduct a thorough review of the funds allocated for the benches in question and explore a possible 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 regarding the funding.

RESOLVED – that Mike Taylor be requested to provide a further update on UK SPS funding.

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

Councillor Christine Jones reported to the Council that Alex Philips (Housing Officer) is scheduled to undertake a thorough inspection of the trees situated on Sealand Manor and Orchard Way.

RESOLVED—Alex Philips (Housing Officer) be requested to provide a comprehensive report regarding the tree inspection and the removal of the tree stump on Orchard Way.

g) Foxes Lane – Underpass - Water leakage and Graffiti

Wayne Jones, (Streetscene Officer), informed the Council on January 14th that he would investigate this issue further. However, he conveyed that during his last inspection, groundwater was present due to the very high-water table resulting from current conditions.

RESOLVED—that Ken Skates (Cabinet Secretary for Transport) be asked for a further update on the site inspection and that Wayne Jones be informed regarding the water issue.

h) Garden City - HGV Issues

Councillor Christine Jones updated the Council regarding safety measures in Garden City, informing the Council that more prominent signage has been ordered in response to concerns raised surrounding HGV vehicles and the size of the temporary signage.

RESOLVED— that Ian Bushell (Streetscene Maintenance Manager for South and Structures) be asked to amend the signage on the Garden City Industrial Estate.

i) Ferry Lane Footbridge

Robin Nursaw (Streetscene Maintenance Management Team) informed the Council on February 24, 2025, that a specialist consultant will be appointed in the near future to provide a detailed report on the ongoing issues with the footbridge and will forward the structural report in due course.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted

j) Green Lane – Fly tipping

Derrick Charlton (Rights of Way Officer) reported to the Council on March 4th, 2025, that he had informed Adrian (Footpath Inspector) to carry out an inspection at his earliest convenience and advise accordingly.

RESOLVED— that the Council will contact Derrick Charlton (Rights of Way Officer) for a further update.

k) Drainage systems – Sealand

Barbara Hinds (Chair) reported to the Council that the drainage gullies on St Bartholomew's Court have been cleared of accumulated sediments.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

I) Pavements - Sealand

Barbara Hinds (Chair) informed the Council that many pavements around Sealand have overgrown branches and moss covering the pathway, which can be dangerous during winter.

RESOLVED— that the Council will contact Wayne Jones, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene Officer).

24/279 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 33 of the current street lights are working.

The Clerk and Chairperson met Dylan Williams to discuss the street lighting assets and await guidance on the lighting portfolio.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

24/280 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 £1300.00.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/281 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PA Number	Application details	Location
ADV/0001 43/25	<p>5 NO. 'MEILLER GROUP' - 6, 000X2, 900MM SIGN BLACK/YELLOW EXTRUDED ALUMINIUM FLEXFACE SIGNCASE UV PRINTED PVC FLEXFACE SKIN FOR ILLUMINATION DAY/NIGHT FINISHED TO THE PRINTED SKIN. WHITE LED ARRAY ILLUMINATION SECURED TO EXISTING CLADDING.</p> <p>1 NO. 'MEILLER-BOWELD' - 15, 500X2, 900MM WHITE/BLACK SIGN EXTRUDED ALUMINIUM FLEXFACE SIGNCASE UV PRINTED PVC FLEXFACE SKIN FOR ILLUMINATION DAY/NIGHT FINISHED TO THE PRINTED SKIN. WHITE LED ARRAY ILLUMINATION SECURED TO EXISTING CLADDING.</p>	Unit 2, First Avenue, Drive A, Deeside 63, Zone 2, Deeside Industrial Park, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2NU

FUL/0010 51/24	PROPOSED CREATION OF 2 NO PADEL COURTS INCLUDING FLOODLIGHTING.	Foregolf Chester Ltd, Deeside Lane, Sealand, Chester, CH1 6BP
FUL/0001 96/25	VARIATION OF CONDITION NO. 24 - TEMPORARY RELAXATION OF HOURS OF OPERATION TO ENABLE COMPLETION OF AFFORDABLE HOMES.	Phase 1A (Clwyd Alyn), Former Corus site, Garden City, Deeside

RESOLVED – that –

- i) No objections be raised in respect of the above planning application - ADV/000143/25.
- ii) Observations be raised in respect of planning application FUL/001051/24 regarding concerns about the lighting effects on the highway.
- iii) Objections be raised in respect of planning application - FUL/000196/25 regarding concerns about the potential adverse impact on the local community.

24/282 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 £16.50 - re £8.50 per month with an additional charge of 8 cheques x £1.00 = £8.00.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers
Direct Debit Payment	NEST	Pension	£49.95			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003681	Information Commissioners Office	GDPR/Data Protection renewal	£52.00			Local Govt Act 1972 (S111)
003682	Jo-Lora Ltd	Website Maintenance 2 months (Replacement of June 2024, Cheque No 003632)	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)

003683	Ashley Griffiths	Reimbursement of stationary	£32.75			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003684	Ashley Griffiths	March 2025, Salary, allowance, etc	£969.47			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003685	EYE2EYE	Payment from Chairs Fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003686	Sealand Happy Group	Payment from Chairs Fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003687	Sealand County Primary School	Payment from Chairs Fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003688	50Plus Action Group	Payment from Chairs Fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003689	St Bartholomew's Church Council	Payment from Chairs Fund 2024/25	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003690	Flintshire County Council	2024/25 Play Areas Match funding Sealand Manor	£4000.00			Local Govt (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 19
Total Spend			£5,738.17	£64.00		

24/283 INCOME

Lloyds Bank	Interest payment 10/03/2025	£46.61
Total Income		£46.61

RESOLVED – that the income received be noted.

24/284 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence to report on.

24/285 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS(WALES) ACT 2021 - ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

From April 2022, community and town councils are required to prepare and publish a report detailing the council's priorities, activities, and achievements. The first report, covering the financial period from April 2021 to March 2022, was published in April 2022.

The Clerk referred to the circulated draft Annual Report for 2024/25

RESOLVED: - that the Annual Report 2024/25 be approved and added to the Council's website.

24/286 FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

Brian Ward (Friends of Sealand) informed the Council that the annual Bart Art exhibition was a success.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

24/287 PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk advised on information received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, which had been emailed to all members of the Council on March 24, 2025. The Panel has decided to make partial changes. The sum for Members of community and town councils will be paid £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home.

Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively, councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables. (Determination 46 of 2023). These figures have not changed since the 2024/25 financial year.

All other Determinations set out in the 2022 /2023 Annual Report of the Panel remain valid. Refer to Minute 21/268 - PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR, and it was then resolved that in relation to the 2022/23 financial year, the determinations required concerning payments to members are noted and that the Council will not introduce an attendance allowance for members.

Regarding payments to members for the 2025/26 financial year, these will need to be listed, sent to the Panel, and displayed on the council's website and council noticeboards. This is due to be actioned in April 2025.

RESOLVED: that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Should a member of Council decide to request a payment of £156.00, then payment would be held back until March 2026.
- iii) Council should affect a payment of £52.00 for office consumables rather than pay on a reimbursement basis. Should a member of the Council decide to request a payment of £52.00, then payment would be held back until March 2026.
- iv) that, in relation to the previous determinations as required concerning payments to members, be again noted, as per Minute 21/268.

24/288 WELSH ROAD SKATE FACILITY

Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) advised the Council on March 10, 2025, that the graphics for the mini scooter and trike area will be installed soon when weather conditions are best suited for the hydration process, ensuring proper hardening and attaining the desirable strength and durability required.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

24/289 WELSH ROAD PLAY AREA

Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) advised the Council on March 10, 2025, that the Communications Board, awarded to Sealand Community Council by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, will be affixed to the fence in the Welsh Road play area shortly.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

24/290 SEALAND MANOR PLAY AREA

Richard Robert (Play Design Officer) informed the Council on March 10, 2025, that the new replacement tyre swing at Sealand Manor play area has been installed. He will contact the Council in due course with a report on the lifespan of the play equipment across all parks.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

24/291 PLAY SCHEMES – 2025

At the November 2023 Council meeting, it was agreed that the Council would fund both play scheme sites for a period of six weeks and enter into a three-year commitment.

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) received notification that the completed forms for the 2025 play schemes had been received.

RESOLVED—that the report be noted.

24/292 CURRENT SAVINGS STRATEGY

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported to the Council that the previous Clerk had thoroughly analysed how the Council holds its reserves and deduced that the current method of having all monetary assets with one banking group was satisfactory and in line with savings expectations.

Furthermore, the Clerk analysed the markets, presented the best available savings accounts, and reported to the Council on the options available. The Council explored the options available for transitioning to e-banking, followed a democratic approach in evaluating these options, and agreed on the need to implement steps towards modernising the financial services used.

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will investigate the options for a transition.

24/293 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 distributed to Council members 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 Wainwright Accountants have amended the payroll and issued mandates for all outstanding backpay to the retired clerk and current clerk.

24/294 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 003690. Note that outstanding cheque numbers not banked by organisations: -

- (No: 003678) from February 2025, totalling £384.00
- (No: 003679) from February 2025, totalling £262.80

Totalling £646.80

Sealand Community Council - Summary Accounts					
2024/25 Financial Year					
Income			Actual	Anticipated	Difference
	Precept		£64,000.00	£64,000.00	£0.00
	Bank Interest and Refund of Fees		£622.14	£500.00	£122.14
	VAT Refund Flintshire County Council		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	VAT Refund HMRC		£1,050.52	£2,000.00	-£949.48
	Total		£65,672.66	£66,500.00	-£827.34
Expenditure			Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
	Bank Charges		£140.25	£150.00	£9.75
	Chairman's Fund		£800.00	£800.00	£0.00
	Staffing Costs		£17,423.86	£15,375.00	-£2,048.86
	General Admin etc		£2,406.91	£4,500.00	£2,093.09
	Insurances		£625.99	£650.00	£24.01
	Play Schemes and New Play Equipment		£11,663.20	£18,665.00	£7,001.80
	Street Furniture Repairs		£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
	Street Lighting		£20,324.20	£26,200.00	£5,875.80
	Council Web Site		£2,532.00	£2,400.00	-£132.00
	S137 - Grants		£1,650.00	£3,035.00	£1,385.00
	Total		£57,566.41	£71,975.00	£14,408.59
Current Summary	Balance 1st April 2024 inc £25,000 contingency fund		£55,951.88		
	Total Expenditure		£57,566.41		
	Total Income		£65,672.66		
	Balance		£8,106.25		
	Balance as at 17 March 2025		£ 64,058.13		
	VAT Costs for 2024/25 Financial Year		£976.18		
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		

24/295 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.

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) informed the Council that Dyfrig Henson (Audit Wales) contacted the Council on the 30th day of January to ask for further information to be sent to the audit office due to the previously uploaded documents to the Objective Connect portal having become inaccessible to him because the information was not extracted. Dyfrig Henson is working on the file, so all previously sent information has been reuploaded to the portal.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

24/296 ONE VOICE WALES DIGITAL MATURITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED DIGITAL OPERATIONS

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) informed the Council that he had completed the One Voice Wales programme of Digital Maturity Assessments for councils and had received the conclusion, which included several recommendations that were not mandatory. Furthermore, he informed the Council that he had one quote for a hosting package and would advise the Council shortly on another service provider, as well as utilising the current provider with an option to take control over the website.

RESOLVED—Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will present the Council with several hosting packages at the next meeting.

24/297 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Several Councillors raised Concerns about the pre-application consultation of the Sealand Manor Solar Farm and BESS.

RESOLVED—that the Council will contact Renewable Connections for further information on the proposed site.

24/298 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Four public members raised concerns about the pre-application consultation event regarding the Sealand Manor Solar Farm and BESS.

RESOLVED—that several Councillors would attend the consultation event.

24/299 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 28th April 2025.

24/300 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 24/278(c).

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm and closed at 8:13 pm.

..... Signed 28th April 2025

Barbara Hinds, Chair of the Council