

## **SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 15th DECEMBER 2025 AT SEALAND COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD, GARDEN CITY, CH5 2HH**

PRESENT: Councillors: David Wisinger (Chair), Alex Lewis (Vice-Chair), Christine Jones (County Councillor, Brian Ward, Bob James, Mary Southall, Lionel Prouvé, Jean Fairbrother, Gwyneth Bullock, Shelley Webber, Linda Thomas & Norman Jones.

OTHERS: Robin Davies – Headteacher – Sealand County Primary School.

OFFICER: Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

#### **25/188 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor: Barbara Hinds

RESOLVED – that the apology be received and accepted.

#### **25/189 IN-HOUSE TRAINING**

The Council will deliver a scheduled in-house training session in the first quarter of 2026.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

#### **25/190 SEALAND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDENS**

It was noted that the hybrid meeting would be deferred for discussion to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

#### **25/191 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 number 25/197 (b) and Cllr Brian Ward in minute number 25/200 - PA Number: FUL/001026/25.

#### **25/192 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

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

#### **25/193 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

David Wisinger (Chairman) reported to the Council that he attended a Clock Tower meeting with the Auction House and was advised that they are willing to provide multiple benches for installation along the riverbank. Additionally, the Council have been giving an invitation to attend a scheduled tour of the newly refurbished facilities.

David Wisinger (Chairman) and Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) also discussed with Richard Roberts (Play Design Officer) the next items requiring replacement in the play areas, as well as potential additional equipment to be introduced.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

#### **25/194 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

## **25/195 CHAIR'S FUND 2025/26**

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reminded the Council that the agreed spend for the Chair's Fund for the 2025/26 financial year is £800.00. Payments are being made under expenditure powers—Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1).

The Chairman proposed that a payment of £50.00 from the Chair's fund be approved for each of the following: Sealand Happy Group, Eye 2 Eye Social Group, 50 Plus Action Group (Flintshire), St Bartholomew's Church, Sealand County Primary School and Waverton Handbell Ringers (Who will be attending the Christmas Celebration event at St. Bartholomew's Church).

RESOLVED – that £50.00 from the Chair's Fund be approved for each of the following:

Sealand Happy Group

Eye 2 Eye Social Group

50 Plus Action Group (Flintshire)

St Bartholomew's Church

Sealand County Primary School

Waverton Handbell Ringers will be attending the Christmas Celebration event at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Spend so far - £ 300.00

## **25/196 POLICE ISSUES**

### **a) Community Speed Watch**

It was reported that the scheduled speed watch would take place in partnership with PCSO Aled Hughes, the week commencing 12/01/2026.

### **b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292**

Councillor Norman Jones and Councillor Gwyneth Bullock raised concerns that e-bikes are operating in contravention of the law in Garden City.

RESOLVED – that PCSO Aled Hughes be asked to investigate the matter.

## **25/197 MATTERS REFERRED TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **a) Sealand Ditches**

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

Neil Parry (Project Engineer, Flintshire County Council) reported to the Council on December 2, 2025, that all previously identified impediments have been addressed. It was noted that NRW had been informed of the landowner's intention to follow the FRAP process and submit an application to NRW for the full pipe drainage crossing. Due to the complexity of the process and the time required, this work remains ongoing; therefore, no further updates are available at this stage. NRW will be contacted for an update.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry will be asked for an update on the application to NRW.

**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 December 2, 2025, that the site levels towards Saughall are progressing well. He also discussed the impediments within the main river watercourse with NRW and is awaiting a site survey from NRW. He noted that it is a joint partnership with the Environment Agency due to the border with England. Consequently, this results in a longer process.

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 December 2, 2025, that he had inspected the watercourse at one of the landowners' sites and observed that the sections had been cleared of all impediments. A site visit is scheduled for January 2026.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**iv) Sealand Avenue**

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council on December 2, 2025, that NRW had accessed the site and is in the process of desilting the area.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), be asked for an update from NRW once the site has been desilted.

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

Matthew Parry-Davies, Flintshire County Council (Service Manager, Planning, Environment, and Economy), reported to the Council on November 14, 2025, that the developer has agreed to proceed with the road upgrade. As no contractor has been engaged to date, StreetScene has expressed its willingness to provide a quotation for the proposed works.

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

RESOLVED – that Susan Cordiner and Matthew Parry-Davies be asked to provide further clarification on when the resurfacing works will be completed and if it will be inspected and signed off by Flintshire County Council.

**c) Sealand Road – A548 – Extend Street Lighting**

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

The Council noted that, notwithstanding efforts to secure external funding for new benches, it was necessary to proceed with the procurement of a replacement unit of one of the benches.

A resolution was duly proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously to procure a replacement bench.

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) contact Mike Taylor (Coastal Ranger) regarding the proposed bench due to the possibility of a local organisation funding the replacement benches.

### **Problem with Trees- Orchard Way and North Green at Sealand Manor**

Alex Philips (Housing Officer) reported to the Council on December 15, 2025, that the trees on Orchard Way are on the inspection list and that a request to remove leaves from the footpath has been actioned. Additionally, there are no further updates on North Green due to the trees being on private land; Streetscene has been informed of the concerns.

RESOLVED—Alex Philips (Housing Officer) be requested to provide a progress update on the tree process with Streetscene, including the removal of the tree stump on Orchard Way.

#### **e) Foxes Lane – Underpass - Water leakage and Graffiti**

Wayne Jones, Streetscene Officer (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council that the pumping station is operational and an ACCO drain was installed several years ago to discharge water from the footway to the road.

RESOLVED—that Wayne Jones be asked again to inspect the underpass with a view to potential jet washing of the area.

#### **f) Ferry Lane Footbridge**

Katie Wilby, Streetscene and Transportation (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on November 28, 2025, that during 2020-21 the bridge was looked at and no funding was available, and at that time the bridge was registered on the Active Travel Network Map and could have been assessed for potential financing via the Welsh Government's active travel grant but was not due to the significant cost of replacing the structure. Furthermore, due to substantial changes to funding and the administration of transport infrastructure grant schemes in Wales, these schemes are no longer available for active travel. Flintshire County Council prioritises maintenance based on safety, inspection, and condition surveys, so it does not have the budget for the issue raised.

RESOLVED— that Katie Wilby be contacted to organise a site visit to discuss any alternative methods to stop the noise.

#### **g) Welsh Road play area (biodiversity)**

Harry Owen, Flintshire County Council (Nature Recovery Project Officer), reported to the Council on December 8, 2025, that the works are nearing completion.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

#### **h) Bus Stop Repairs (Sealand)**

Wayne Jones, Streetscene Officer (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on December 2, 2025, that he was awaiting an update.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

### **25/198 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING**

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

Jake Smith, Flintshire County Council (Street Lighting Technical Officer), reported to the Council on December 2, 2025, that after reviewing the columns for upgrade, the Council will only replace whole roads or sections of lights next to each other, as opposed to individual streetlighting; therefore, the Council will only upgrade Villa Road.

It was also noted that the Clerk and Chairperson undertook a site visit in 2025, during which the selected lighting columns were inspected and agreed with Dylan Williams (Street Lighting Team Leader).

Thirty-two of the current street lighting stock are working, with one requiring maintenance.

RESOLVED – that Jake Smith be contacted for a meeting regarding the proposed lighting stock upgrade.

#### **25/199 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 roll. 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 spending in 2025/26 is Section 137 grants of £3,035.00.

Spending in 2025/26 so far is £1,500.00.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

#### **25/200 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

PA Number	Application details	Location
FUL/000618/25	PROPOSAL: Erection of 1no. retail unit (Class A1) with associated access and servicing arrangements, means of enclosure to create external display area and holding area, vehicle and cycling parking, trolley corals, landscaping, substation, plant and plant enclosure, and associated works.	RAF Sealand South Camp, Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2RD.
FUL/001026/25	PROPOSAL: Proposed two-storey modern extension to provide additional living space to accommodate the specific needs of the applicant's family, including enhanced facilities for their disabled son and elderly mother. The extension will incorporate an open-plan living area, a new utility/boiler room, shower room, office space and two additional bedrooms.	50 Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2RJ.
FUL/000958/25	PROPOSAL: Installation of three external ASHP Plants, three WSHPS and one chiller unit.	Land at Green Lane East, Sealand, Flintshire, CH5 2NA.

*Cllr Brian Ward declared an interest regarding PA Number: FUL/001026/25.*

RESOLVED -that –:

- i. Observations be reaffirmed in respect of the above planning application – FUL/000618/25 regarding public transportation, and the review of the traffic management plan due to changes being made.

- ii. No objections be raised in respect of the above planning applications – FUL/001026/25 and – FUL/000958/25.

## **25/201 REMEMBRANCE ITEMS**

The Council considered the acquisition of additional items to commemorate those who served in wartime. After due consideration and discussion, it was formally resolved that:

- i) Twenty additional poppies will be purchased for display on lampposts.
- ii) A memorial to honour the unreconciled woman who served during the war will be commissioned to be erected alongside the existing Unknown Tommy statue in St Bartholomew's church.

A resolution was duly proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously to purchase the remembrance items.

**THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the Council adopts the following resolution.

**RESOLVED** – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will liaise with the Royal British Legion, as the registered charity specialising in the provision of remembrance items.

## **25/202 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED**: - that-

- i) The under-mentioned accounts be approved for payment.
- ii) It is noted that the Lloyds Bank charge for the most recent period (28/11/2025) is £10.50 - re £8.50 per month with an additional charge of 2 cheques x £1.00 = £2.00.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	VAT Code	Expenditure Powers
Direct debit	NEST	Pension	£49.95			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003728	SLCC Enterprise Ltd	Clerks training	£144.00	£24.00	891752783	
003729	Jo-lora Ltd	Website Hosting package	£228.00	£38.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003730	Jo-lora Ltd	Website Maintenance	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003731	SLCC	Subscription renewal from 01/01/2026	£200.00			Miscellaneous Powers LGA 1972 (S111)
003732	Sealand Happy Group	Payment from Chairs' fund 2025/26	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)

003733	Eye 2 Eye	Payment from Chairs' fund 2025/26	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003734	50 Plus Action Group	Payment from Chairs' fund 2025/26	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003735	St Bartholomew's church	Payment from Chairs' fund 2025/26	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003736	Sealand Primary School	Payment from Chairs' fund 2025/26	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003737	Waverton handbell ringers	Payment from Chairs' fund 2025/26	£50.00			Ancillary Power Local Govt Act 1972 (S1)
003738	Ashley Griffiths	December Salary, Allowance & Ink refund	£1,020.42			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
Total spend			<b>£2,326.37</b>	<b>£126.00</b>		

### **25/203 INCOME**

Lloyds Bank	Interest Payment 09/12/2025	£29.43
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£29.43</b>

RESOLVED – that the income received be noted.

### **25/204 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no additional correspondence to report on.

### **25/205 FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

Brian Ward (Friends of Sealand) informed the Council that the Church will hold the Christmas service on 17th December 2025 at 7:30 pm, and a Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

### **25/206 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEARS**

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) outlined the expenditure and income for the 2025/26 financial year up to cheque number 003738.

**Sealand Community Council - Summary Accounts**  
**2025/26 Financial Year**

		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Anticipated</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Income</b>	Precept	£42,666.67	£64,000.00	-£21,333.33
	Bank Interest and Refund of Fees	£370.45	£525.10	-£154.65
	VAT Refund Flintshire County Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	VAT Refund HMRC	£976.18	£1,000.00	-£23.82
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£44,013.30</b>	<b>£65,525.10</b>	<b>-£21,511.80</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	Bank Charges	£107.00	£150.00	£43.00
	Chairman's Fund	£300.00	£800.00	£500.00
	Staffing Costs	£12,314.92	£14,592.65	£2,277.73
	General Admin inc	£2,300.33	£4,266.64	£1,966.31
	Insurances	£492.27	£650.00	£157.73
	Play Schemes and New Play Equipment	£15,538.40	£16,813.00	£1,274.60
	Street Furniture Repairs	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
	Street Lighting	£4,783.27	£28,750.00	£23,966.73
	Election Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Council Web Site	£2,172.00	£2,400.00	£228.00
<b>Current Summary</b>	S137 - Grants	£1,500.00	£3,035.00	£1,535.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£39,508.19</b>	<b>£71,657.29</b>	<b>£32,149.10</b>
	Balance 1st April 2025 inc £25,000 contingency fund	<b>£64,041.63</b>		
	Total Expenditure	£39,508.19		
	Total Income	£44,013.30		
<b>End of Year Prediction</b>	Balance	£4,505.11		
	<b>Balance as at 15th December 2025</b>	<b>£ 68,546.74</b>		
	<b>VAT Costs for 2025/26 Financial Year</b>	<b>£1,325.81</b>		
	Balance as at 1st April 2025	£64,041.63		
	Total Anticipated Expenditure	£71,657.29		
	Total Anticipated Income	£65,525.10		
	Balance Expenditure compared with income at 31st March 2025	-£6,132.19		
	<b>Anticipated Closing Balance as at 31 March 2026</b>	<b>£ 57,909.44</b>		

## **25/207 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk advised the Council that JDH Business Services Limited reported on 7 May 2025 that the Council's systems of internal controls are in place, adequate for the intended purpose, and effective, subject to the issue reported in the action plan.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **25/208 EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk gave an overview of the requirement to Council for the external audit noting that the documents can be sent to the Cardiff office via recorded delivery or By secure data transfer via Objective Connect with a deadline of the 30th June 2025 and mandated the Council to publish an audit notice by the 16th of June on all notice boards and Council website for a minimum of 14 calendar days, after the forementioned period it is the requirement of Council to allow the electors 20 working days of inspection from the 1st July to the 28th of July between the hours of 10:00 and 17:00 from Monday to Friday in line with Section 30 of the Public Audit Wales Act 2004 gives the rights of the elector to inspect the Council's accounts.

The clerk received the audit notice for 2025, which pertains to the audit of accounts, and informed the Council that the relevant documents have been sent via email to the auditors for submission to the Local Council for Wales in the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2025.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

## **25/209 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, the Clerk presented a comprehensive report outlining a range of website hosting and content management system options, including the current provider and alternative packages. The report included a comparative analysis of features, costs, ease of use, and feedback from other Councils.

Following a thorough discussion and consideration of the options, members recognised the advantages of the Clerk's preferred choice, particularly in terms of value for money, user-friendliness, and positive experiences reported by comparable councils and voted unanimously to change providers.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Council adopts the following resolution.

RESOLVED— that the Council shall proceed with the setup and migration of a new website with an external hosting provider, and that the resolution be adopted.

## **25/210 PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk has recirculated a form for completion concerning the 2025/26 financial year to the Councillors who were unable to attend the April meeting. These Councillors completed and signed the form, bringing the total number of completed forms to 13.

RESOLVED—that the report be noted.

## **25/211 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Gwyneth Bullock noted that she received a letter from Mark Tami MP stating that Flintshire County Council has the mandate to make any changes to the buses, and that TFW are working with Flintshire County Council to develop proposals for the Flintshire and Wrexham investment zone to secure funding for 2026.

Cllr Brian Ward raised concerns about the presence of moles on the football pitches in Sealand.

RESOLVED— that Wayne Jones be contacted regarding the moles on the football pitches.

## **25/212 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

### **25/213 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.

### **25/214 FINANCIAL REPORT— 2025/26 and 2027/28**

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 roll. The Welsh Government advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2025/26 was £11.10 per elector.

The Welsh Government has advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2026/27 is £11.60 per elector. Flintshire County Council confirmed the electorate as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2025 was 2812. So, per elector produces a total of £32,619.20.

The allocated spend for 2025/26 for Section 137 grants is £3,035.00. Section 137 payments so far in the 2025/26 financial year are grant payments to Sealand Happy Group for £150.00, Sealand County Primary School for £1000.00, the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal for £200.00, and 50 Plus Action Group 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 - RESOLVED – that it be agreed that the Clerk should move to scale point 24 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

Council also agreed, under minute 21/80, that the home allowance payment will be £312.00, with effect from 1 April 2022, noting that the internal auditor advised on 22 April 2021 that this amount is

non-taxable.

The Local Government Association informed One Voice Wales that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached an agreement on rates of pay for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, and that the Council had implemented it.

Based on 16 hours worked under the contract, the 2025/26 salary on a 24-point scale of £34,314 will be £14,801.28. Plus, the home working allowance is £312, totalling £15,113.28.

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 and at its meeting on 16 December 2024 – minute ref 24/195.

- 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 – £ 0.45 per mile.
- g) The estimated income for the current 2025/26 financial year is £65,355.52, and the estimated expenditure is £71,657.29. The opening balance at 1 April 2025 was £64,041.63, including a £25,000 contingency fund.

The estimated opening balance at 1 April 2026 is £76,044.81, assuming all planned expenditure occurs, which may not be the case.

- h) the precept for the 2025/26 financial year is £64,000.00

RESOLVED- that the following funds be allocated.

Annual Subscriptions	£975.00
Audit Fees	£775.00
Bank Charges	£165.00
Chair's Fund	£800.00
Chain of Office - Engraving	£20.00
Clerk's salary and allowance.	£15,113.28
Conferences - attendance	£200.00
Council's Website inc VAT	£2,400
Clerks Pension	£256.92
Data Protection Registration	£52.00
Defibrillator – Energy – Garden City	£90.00
Free Resource Fund – Grants	£3035.00
Insurances	£665.00
Joint-funded project play areas	£15,000
NI Employer's contribution	£1,469.64

Playleader Scheme	£9,129.00
Postage / Mileage	£300.00
Printer, computer repairs, etc., and printer ink	£200.00
Stationery	£150.00
Street Furniture Repairs – Seats / Notice Boards	£7,400
Street Lighting – Energy - £5,000, Repairs & Maintenance £3800	£8,800
Councillors and Clerks Training Costs	£500.00
Remembrance exhibit	£200.00
Seasonal amenity provisions	£4000.00
<b>Full Total</b>	<b>£71,695.84</b>

### **25/215 PRECEPT 2026/27**

The Clerk advised that the Council has an indicated estimated expenditure of £71,695.84 for the 2026/27 financial year. Estimated income excluding precept for the 2026/27 financial year is £1,500.00, which includes HMRC VAT refund and bank interest.

The estimated opening balance on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 is £76,044.81. To achieve an estimated balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027 of £50,000, a precept of £59,848.97 is required.

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, 2026.

Current year's precept – 2025/26- £64,000

The current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties is £1,564.80

The current Band D charge is £40.90.

After debate and consideration, it was agreed to set a precept of £64,000.

Following the resolution, the Clerk advised that, in his view, the precept figure is too high, given planned expenditure from the 2025/26 financial year that did not proceed, resulting in a surplus and an increased balance carried forward.

Council members noted the Clerk's comments; however, no proposal to amend or reduce the agreed precept was made, seconded or voted upon.

The Council therefore resolved to maintain the precept at £64,000 as agreed.

The precept for 2026/27 - £64,000

Tax Base for 2026/27 of equivalent Band D properties is £ 1,777.48

The band D charge for 2026/27 will be £36.00

The decrease in the Band D charge amount is £4.90

The percentage decrease in the 2026/27 Band D charge compared to the 2025/26 Band D charge is 11.98%

RESOLVED: - that –

- I. the precept for the 2026/27 financial year be agreed upon at £64,000.

#### **25/216 COUNCIL RESERVES 2026/27**

The Clerk presented information relating to the Council's policy on Financial Reserves that recommends an amount to be held in reserves for contingency purposes, which should be proportionately 6-9 months of gross expenditure – estimated expenditure for 2026/27 is £71,695.84 – 6 months is equivalent to £35,847.92

I advise that of the estimated carry forward of £76,044.81 at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, in accordance with the Council's decision, £34,000 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 2026/27 financial year. The Council's Policy on Reserves will need to be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: - that in accordance with the Council's decision, the Contingency Reserve be increased from £25,000 to £34,000. The Council considered this level to be prudent and proportionate in relation to anticipated expenditure, cash flow requirements, and the need to maintain financial resilience against unforeseen costs.

It was further noted that the Council's Policy on Reserves will be reviewed and updated accordingly as part of the budget-setting process.

#### **25/217 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026.**

**25/218 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT, DECLARATION OF INTEREST**— Two Council members declared interests to the Council.

Councillor Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 25/197 (b) and Councillor Brian Ward in minute number 25/200 – (PA Number: FUL/001026/25).

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

..... Signed 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Chairperson of the Council