

## SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### DECISION SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 20th APRIL 2026 AT SEALAND COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD, GARDEN CITY, CH5 2HH

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

OTHERS: Three members of the public

Robin Davies – Headmaster – Sealand County Primary School

OFFICER: Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

#### **25/304 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Linda Thomas, Barbara Hinds, Lionel Prouvé & Norman Jones.

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

#### **25/314 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.

Spending in 2025/26 was £1,850.00 - 50 Plus Action Group - £150.00, Sealand County Primary School - £1000.00, Earl Haig Poppy Appeal - £200.00, Sealand Happy Group - £150.00, Eye 2 Eye - £150.00, Marie Curie - £50.00 and Sealand Spartans Football Club - £150.00.

The allocated spending in 2026/27 is Section 137 grants of £3,035.00.

Grant Application submitted by Sealand Spartans Football Club.

Members noted that the application was incomplete and did not comply with the Council's published grant application requirements and supporting documentation criteria.

Following consideration, it was resolved that the application be declined at this stage on the grounds that insufficient information had been provided to enable the Council to properly assess the request in accordance with its grant awarding procedures and governance obligations.

It was further resolved that the Clerk contact the Secretary of the organisation to provide guidance on the Council's grant application process, including the documentation and information required should a future application be submitted for consideration.

The Council confirmed that this decision was made in accordance with its adopted grant policy and financial governance procedures.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

## **25/315 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

PA Number	Application details	Location
FUL/000130/26	Full application for site alterations to include new external plant equipment and associated compounds and elevation alterations.	Plot A, The Airfields, Northern Gateway, Welsh Road, Deeside, CH5 2RD.
FUL/000205/26	The application seeks to amend conditions attached to reserved matters approval RES/000658/22 as amended by NMA/000287/24.	Northern Gateway (Phase 3), former Corus, Garden City Site, Welsh Road, CH5 1PY.
FUL/000168/26	Respective planning permission is sought for the provision of a substation building, associated substation, and cable routing.	Wilsons Auctions, Century Way, Garden City, CH5 2GG.
FUL/000294/26	Proposed extension to commercial unit to recreate new independent office with commercial cladding, alteration of parking arrangements and installation of PV panels.	Beech House, Sixth Avenue, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LB.

RESOLVED -that –:

No observations be raised in respect of the above applications - FUL/000130/26, FUL/000205/26, FUL/000168/26 and FUL/000294/26.

## **25/317 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: - that-

- i) The under-mentioned accounts be approved for payment.
- ii) It is noted that the Lloyds Bank charges for the most recent period (30/03/2026) are £9.75 - re £8.50 per month for two accounts with an additional charge of 2 cheques x £0.50 = £1.00, and an additional manual transaction fee of £0.25.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	VAT Code	Expenditure Powers
Direct debit	NEST	Pension	£49.95			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003766	Wainwrights Accountants	Payroll reporting/pension auto enrolment	£420.00	£70.00	932721925	Local Govt Act 1972 (S111)
003767	Jolora Ltd	Website Maintenance 2 months	£384.00	£64.00	294456859	Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003768	One Voice Wales	Annual Subscription 2026/27	£791.00			Miscellaneous Powers LGA 1972 (S111)
003769	Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£600.08			Local Govt Act 1972 (S111)

003770	HMRC	PAYE – Income Tax and National Insurance, January, February & March	£1,174.22			Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)
003771	Ashley Griffiths	April 2026, Salary, allowance & Refund (Files/Stamps)	£1,009.06			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003772	Flintshire County Council	Monthly street lighting inspections for January, February and March 2026	£252.65	£42.11	636613732	Highways Act 1972 (301)
Total spend			<b>£4,680.96</b>	<b>£176.11</b>		

### **25/319 CORRESPONDENCE**

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) circulated correspondence received from EMCOR UK regarding a proposed 3MW Solar PV Renewable Energy Scheme on land at MoD Sealand, Green Lane East, Deeside, CH5 2LS. Members noted that pre-application consultation is being undertaken prior to submission of a planning application to Flintshire County Council. Details of the proposal and consultation documents are available via the project website. The correspondence was received for discussion/information only.

Correspondence was received from GWELLA advising that the Summer Fit, Fed and Read community programme will be running again this year. Members considered whether the Council would support the programme and requested further details before making a decision.

The Council considered the Civility and Respect Pledge introduced by One Voice Wales. Members agreed to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge, and it was resolved that the Council formally adopt it and add it to the Council's website.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk arrange for the Civility and Respect Pledge to be formally adopted and added to the Council's website.

### **25/321 DEESIDE BUSINESS FORUM**

Councillor Bob James introduced the matter and informed Members of his suggestion that the Council seek membership of the Deeside Business Forum in order to strengthen and enhance the Council's presence and engagement within the local community. Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) provided further information regarding the Forum, including its purpose and role in supporting engagement between local organisations, businesses and community stakeholders. Members considered the potential benefits of membership and discussed the proposal in detail.

Councillor Bob Jones formally proposed that the Council join the Deeside Business Forum. The proposal was duly seconded and, upon being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED- That the Council become a member of the Deeside Business Forum in order to enhance the Council's community presence and engagement; that it be noted that no associated costs or

financial commitments would be incurred by the Council in respect of membership; that the Clerk be authorised to formally liaise with the Forum and make the necessary arrangements for membership; and that Councillor Bob James be appointed as the Council's representative to attend Forum meetings, together with such other Councillors and the Clerk as may be appropriate from time to time.

**25/326 INTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk outlined the requirements for the internal audit to the members of Council to inform them about how the audit is conducted. The form must include various working papers and documentation; failure to do so may delay completion of the council's internal audit and incur additional audit costs. Subsequently, this could delay the External Audit.

The Clerk advised Council that he would be submitting the Audit checklist form and annual return, with uploading various documents to the online portal for JDH Business Services Ltd, and handing over additional documents for the internal audit on April 23, 2026, at Pontblyddyn Cricket Club.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

**25/327 EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk gave an overview of the requirement to Council for the external audit, noting that the Audit packs must be submitted to Audit Wales email address, by post to the Cardiff office only or via Objective Connect where required, with a deadline of the 7th July 2026 and mandated the Council to publish an audit notice on all notice boards and the Council website. The Council requires that electors be given 20 working days of inspection from the 6<sup>th</sup> July to the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Section 30 of the Public Audit Wales Act 2004 gives the right of the elector to inspect the Council's accounts.

The clerk received the audit notice 2026 for the audit of accounts and noted to the council that he will send the relevant documents to the auditors in the near future, after he has received the internal audit back and outlined the accounts for Council in the Local Council for Wales Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Annual governance statement – Part 1 We acknowledge, as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 as outlined by the Clerk.

**Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972**

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2025-26 was £11.10 per elector.

In 2025-26, the Council made payments totalling £1,850.00 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

The Clerk advised that the report/Annual Return will again be presented to the Council following completion of the internal audit. Following certification by the Responsible Financial Officer, the Council is required to approve the Annual Governance Statement Part 2.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

**25/332 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**25/333 PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk has circulated a form for completion concerning the 2026/27 financial year to the Councillors present at the meeting, 8 of whom completed and signed the form advising that they declined the payments.

This leaves 5 Councillors to complete and sign the form.

RESOLVED—that the report be noted.

**25/334 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026.**

**25/335 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 25/312 (b).

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm and closed at 8:31 pm.

..... Signed 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026, Chairperson of the Council