

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 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.

25/305 IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The Council will deliver a scheduled in-house training session in June 2026.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

25/306 SEALAND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDENS

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported that the National Flood Forum has informed the Council that it does not provide sandbags for Flood Warden teams, nor does it offer individuals bags of sand. Funding is available for community groups.

Neil Parry (Project Engineer, Flintshire County Council) reported that, following his recently cancelled site visit, he would inspect the collapsed culvert in more detail and report the matter to the relevant authority for investigation and any necessary remedial action.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry and Wayne Jones be contacted regarding the culvert and the deputy flood warden regarding sandbag funding.

25/307 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

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

25/308 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

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

25/309 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 16th MARCH 2026

David Wisinger (Chairman) and Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) convened to conduct a detailed review of the Council's financial accounts for the year-end period and to ensure that all relevant financial records, supporting documentation, and governance papers were prepared and organised in readiness for the forthcoming internal audit.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

25/310 CHAIR'S FUND 2025/26 AND 2026/27

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reminded the Council that the agreed spend for the Chair's Fund for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial year is £800.00. Payments are being made under expenditure powers— Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1).

The full allocation for the 2025/26 was spent.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

25/311 POLICE ISSUES

a) Community Speed Watch

A Scheduled speed watch will commence in May and June.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292

PCSO Aled Hughes advised the Council that he is unable to attend the April meeting and will endeavour to attend the May meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

25/312 MATTERS REFERRED TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

I. 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 16, 2026, that the full pipe drainage crossing is progressing through the FRAP process. Owing to the complexity of the procedure and associated timescales, the matter remains ongoing with no further update available at present.

Neil Parry will contact Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to seek an update on the progress of the FRAP process once he and his contact return to work.

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

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

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on March 16, 2026, that an inspection at the fisheries site had been completed, confirming that the flow depth was approximately half the pipe diameter. It was further noted that Natural Resources Wales was scheduled to attend a site meeting to conduct a land survey; however, the meeting was postponed and rescheduled to 31 March 2026.

Unfortunately, Neil Parry is suffering from vertigo and could not attend, but did inform the Council that he wants to organise a joint border meeting on his return.

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 16, 2026, that, further to his most recent inspection of the watercourse at a landowner's site, during which the clearance of all impediments was observed, a further site visit would be undertaken at the end of the month in conjunction with visits to other areas in Sealand.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry will be asked for an update upon completion of his next inspection.

iv) West Green

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on March 16, 2026, that Street Scene had not identified the debris within the ditch. He advised that he would inspect the site during his next visit to the area and, if necessary, raise the matter again with Street Scene.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry will be asked for an update upon completion of his next inspection, and Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will photograph the area to send over to Neil Parry.

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

Katie Wilby, Streetscene and Transportation (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on April, 16, 2026, that the matter remains with the Council's Legal Department and the Developer to establish the next steps to resolve the issue.

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

RESOLVED— that Katie Wilby be asked for an update on the side access.

c) 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.

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

Alex Philips (Housing Officer) informed the Council on 20 April 2026 that he has contacted the Repairs team, who advised that the footpath has been inspected and a job has been raised to remove the roots and repair the path, and noted the tree stump on Orchard Way remains on the list of outstanding works.

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) notified the Council that correspondence had been issued to Stuart Body, Forestry Officer (Flintshire County Council), regarding concerns that the root systems of nearby trees are causing uplift and damage to the adjacent pathway.

RESOLVED—Alex Philips (Housing Officer) be requested to provide a progress update on the removal of the tree stump/roots on Orchard Way and Stuart Body, on the roots pushing up the pavements on both sites.

e) Foxes Lane – Underpass - Water leakage and Graffiti

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) informed the Council that contact had been made with the relevant parties regarding the reported graffiti and leakage issues; however, no response has been received yet.

RESOLVED—that Wayne Jones, John Griffiths and Ian Bushell be asked again to inspect the underpass with a view to the jet washing of the area and removal of the Graffiti with a copy to Neil Cockerton.

f) Ferry Lane Footbridge

Katie Wilby, Streetscene and Transportation (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on April 20, 2026, that she had confirmation that they are able to use the active travel element of the Regional Transport Fund for the feasibility/design work for the bridge this financial year 2026/2027, and Lee Shone and his team will be commencing procurement of this over the next few months.

RESOLVED— that the report be noted.

g) Bus Stop Repairs (Sealand)

Councillor Christine Jones informed the Council that the repairs are underway, although a hold-up with one of the machines has delayed the removal of the bus stops.

RESOLVED— that streetscene be asked for a further update.

h) Pot Holes

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported to the Council that Wayne Jones, Streetscene Officer (Flintshire County Council), had confirmed the completion of temporary pothole repairs. Councillor Christine Jones confirmed that Wayne Jones has put Welsh Road and Station Road on the resurfacing list.

RESOLVED – that Wayne Jones, Streetscene Officer (Flintshire County Council), be asked for an update on the remaining temporary pothole repairs.

i) Surface deposits from burrowing activity

John Griffiths, Coordinator, Area 7 (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council that a grounds supervisor had inspected the Welsh Road field for trapping.

RESOLVED – John Griffiths be asked for an update on the removal of the moles.

25/313 COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING

Darrel Jones (Operational North & Street Lighting Manager) reported to the Council on April 17, 2026, that he has informed Jake Smith that Dylan carries all Sealand installation works and that he should contact the Council to arrange what is required.

Thirty of the current lighting stock are in working order.

RESOLVED – that Darrel Jones and Jake Smith be contacted regarding the upgrade.

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.	Wilson's 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.

25/316 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.

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) informed the Council that he has liaised with the Royal British Legion, and the Council can order the memorial online and pay by cheque when required

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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,	£1,174.22			Local Govt Act 1972 (S142)

		January, February & March				
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			£4,680.96	£176.11		

25/318 INCOME

Lloyds Bank	Interest Payment 09/04/2026	£28.78
Total Income		£28.78

RESOLVED – that the income received be noted.

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.

25/320 PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk advised that, based on information received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, the Panel has not changed the sums for members of Council. 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 office consumables required to carry out their role, or 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.

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 2026/27 financial year, they must be listed, sent to the Panel, and displayed on the council's website and council noticeboards. This is due to be actioned in April 2026.

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 2027.
- 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 request a payment of £52.00, the payment would be held back until March 2027.
- IV. That, in relation to the previous determinations as required concerning payments to members, be again noted, as per Minute 21/268.

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.

25/322 FRIENDS OF SEALAND –ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

RESOLVED- that there was no report.

25/323 NOTICE BOARD INSTALLATION

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) presented a report at the February meeting on the condition of six notice boards across Sealand, outlining their locations, design, and current state of repair. Following consideration of the report, the Council resolved to replace three notice boards and to procure these from The Parish Noticeboard Company, with installation to be carried out by Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED- that the Clerk confirmed that The Parish Noticeboard Company had been instructed to proceed with the purchase of the replacement notice boards and Flintshire County Council as the installer. The Council ratified this decision at the meeting.

25/324 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2025/26 and 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEARS

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) outlined the expenditure and income for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial year up to cheque number 003772.

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

		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income	Precept	£64,000.00	£64,000.00	£0.00
	Bank Interest and Refund of Fees	£467.78	£525.10	−£57.32
	VAT Refund Flintshire County Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	VAT Refund HMRC	£976.18	£1,000.00	−£23.82
	Total	£65,443.96	£65,525.10	−£81.14

		Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Expenditure	Bank Charges	£157.25	£150.00	−£7.25
	Chairman's Fund	£800.00	£800.00	£0.00
	Staffing Costs	£16,713.24	£14,592.65	−£2,120.59
	General Admin inc	£2,522.89	£4,266.64	£1,743.75
	Insurances	£492.27	£650.00	£157.73
	Play Schemes and New Play Equipment	£16,833.40	£16,813.00	−£20.40
	Street Furniture Repairs	£3,586.94	£200.00	−£3,386.94
	Street Lighting	£14,333.05	£28,750.00	£14,416.95
	Election Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Council Web Site	£2,556.00	£2,400.00	−£156.00
	S137 - Grants	£1,850.00	£3,035.00	£1,185.00
Total	£59,845.04	£71,657.29	£11,812.25	

Current Summary	Balance 1st April 2025 inc £25,000 contingency fund	£64,041.63
	Total Expenditure	£59,845.04
	Total Income	£65,443.96
	Balance	£5,598.92
	Balance as at 31 March 2026	£ 69,640.55
	VAT Costs for 2025/26 Financial Year	£1,831.44

End of Year Prediction

	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
	Anticipated Closing Balance as at 31 March 2026	£ 57,909.44

**Sealand Community Council - Summary Accounts
2026/27 Financial Year**

		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income	Precept	£0.00	£64,000.00	-£64,000.00
	Bank Interest and Refund of Fees	£28.78	£500.00	-£471.22
	VAT Refund Flintshire County Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	VAT Refund HMRC	£0.00	£1,831.44	-£1,831.44
	Total	£28.78	£66,331.44	-£66,302.66

		Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Expenditure	Bank Charges	£0.00	£165.00	£165.00
	Chairman's Fund	£0.00	£800.00	£800.00
	Staffing Costs	£2,167.64	£16,839.84	£14,672.20
	General Admin inc	£1,276.59	£3,262.00	£1,985.41
	Insurances	£600.08	£665.00	£64.92
	Play Schemes and New Play Equipment	£0.00	£24,129.00	£24,129.00
	Street Furniture Repairs	£0.00	£7,600.00	£7,600.00
	Street Lighting	£252.65	£8,800.00	£8,547.35
	Seasonal amenity provisions	£0.00	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
	Council Web Site	£384.00	£2,400.00	£2,016.00
	S137 - Grants	£0.00	£3,035.00	£3,035.00
	Total	£4,680.96	£71,695.84	£67,014.88

Current Summary	Balance 1st April 2026 inc £34,000 contingency fund	£69,640.55
	Total Expenditure	£4,680.96
	Total Income	£28.78
	Balance	-£4,652.18
	Balance as at 20th APRIL 2026	£ 64,988.37
	VAT Costs for 2026/27 Financial Year	£176.11

End of Year Prediction

	Balance as at 1st April 2026	£69,640.55
	Total Anticipated Expenditure	£71,695.84
	Total Anticipated Income	£66,331.44
	Balance Expenditure compared with income at 31st March 2026	-£5,364.40
	Anticipated Closing Balance as at 31 March 2027	£ 64,276.15

25/325 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BANK RECONCILIATION – 31ST MARCH 2026

In line with the Council's Financial regulations and audit requirements, the Clerk submits details of the Council's overall bank balance in respect of – as at the 30th June, 30th September, 31st December and 31st March each year.

Account – No 0388217 - £7,160.12 - Account – No 7326098 - £66,132.75. Total - £73,292.87

Unpaid – Cheque number	Payable to	Amount - £
003736 (December)	Sealand County Primary School	£50.00
003754	Flintshire County Council (Energy cost April, May & June 2025)	£620.46
003755	Flintshire County Council (Energy cost July, August & September 2025)	£620.46
003756	Flintshire County Council (Energy cost October, November & December 2025)	£620.46
003758	Flintshire County Council (Notice board installation)	£1,540.94
003760	Sealand Happy Group	£50.00
003761	Sealand County Primary School	£50.00
003762	St Bartholomew's Church	£50.00
003763	50 Plus Action Group	£50.00
Total		£3,652.32

Total bank accounts - £73,292.87 less unpaid cheques of £3,652.32 as outlined above, leaves a net balance of £69,640.55. This amount cross-references with the summary of the income and expenditure report as at 31st March 2026.

The Vice Chair signed two hard copies of the bank reconciliation statements.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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 6th July to the 31st 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.

25/328 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.

25/329 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- **Councillor Brian Ward**, speaking on behalf of Spartans Football Club, raised a concern that the football pitch markings are not straight and are not to an acceptable standard for play.
- **Councillor Gwyneth Bullock** Concerns were also raised regarding electric bikes being ridden around the football field, as well as dogs being present on the playing surface. These activities were noted as potential safety hazards and a risk to the pitch condition.

RESOLVED—that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) follow up with GWELLA and contact Aled Hughes, PCSO.

25/330 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A number of residents noted that the increased traffic along the A494 is a growing cause for concern. Residents expressed that ongoing and proposed developments in the area are contributing to higher traffic volumes, resulting in increased noise levels and vehicle emissions.

Residents requested that consideration be given to the installation or rectification of acoustic fencing and associated screening measures to help mitigate noise disturbance and reduce the impact on nearby residential properties.

RESOLVED—that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported that a response had been received from the Welsh Government regarding concerns over traffic noise and emissions along the A494. The response outlined that mitigation measures are generally linked to highway maintenance programmes and may include low-noise surfacing, green infrastructure, and, where appropriate, reduced speed limits. Acoustic barriers would only be considered a last resort. No specific works are currently planned for the area, although the location will be considered as part of a wider national review and funding assessment.

The Clerk also reported that Katie Wilby, Streetscene and Transportation (Flintshire County Council), emailed on the 8th April 2026, following a joint submission by the Council and Cllr Christine Jones regarding the same issue. Katie advised that the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency had requested further information from the project team regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment, associated noise modelling, the active travel route, and building works.

25/331 HYNET – ROUTE

25/332 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16th MARCH 2026

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on March 16th, 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 – 18th 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 18th MAY 2026, Chairperson of the Council