**SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2026 AT SEALAND COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD, GARDEN CITY, CH5 2HH**

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

OTHERS:

One member of the public.

OFFICER: Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

**26/136 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors:

Norman Jones, Jean Fairbrother, Lionel Prouvé & Linda Thomas.

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

**26/137 IN-HOUSE TRAINING**

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**26/138 SEALAND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN AND FLOOD WARDENS**

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported that a local company approached Councillor Bob James to provide 14 RIB boats and pilots for events requiring boat support. The Clerk had subsequently contacted Gwenno of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to clarify the appropriate protocol for such an arrangement and was awaiting a response. The Deputy Flood Warden had also requested further details regarding the planned NRW Flood Warden meeting.

RESOLVED – that Gwenno Talfryn (NRW) be contacted regarding the next flood warden meeting.

**26/139 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION**

RESOLVED - that it should be noted that four declarations of interest were made during the meeting.

- Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 26/143 (b)
- Councillors Alex Lewis, Christine Jones, and David Wisinger declared an interest regarding the grant payment to Sealand C.P. School, minute number 26/145.

**26/140 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

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

**26/141 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026**

Alex Lewis (Chair) reported that he had a meeting with the Clerk between the September meeting and the current meeting, after being unable to attend the September meeting. The meeting discussed the Council's policies and the engraving of the Chain of Office.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**26/142 CHAIR'S FUND 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).

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**26/143 POLICE ISSUES**

**a) Community Speed Watch**

A Speed Watch session will be coordinated in the coming weeks, and the collected data will be submitted to the relevant departments for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**b) PCSO Aled Hughes – 3292**

PCSO Aled Hughes reported to the Council on October 15, 2026, that he is monitoring the situation regarding electric bikes as and when possible and confirmed that Connah's Quay Police Station is not closing down, but a new station is likely to be built in place of the existing station at some point in the future.

RESOLVED – that the PCSO Aled Hughes be asked for an update on the electric bikes in the area.

**26/144 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 October 16, 2026, that the full pipe drainage crossing and desilting will commence in spring 2027, now that consent for the FRAP process has been completed.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), contacted the Council on October 15, 2026, to say that, following his last visit, he had identified a watercourse for desilting by the end of October, and that he would note any obstructions.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry be asked for an update.

**iii) Green Lane**

Tom Woodall reported to the Council on October 10, 2026, that the fly-tipping along Green Lane East had been investigated and confirmed as being on private land, with responsibility resting with the relevant landowners. Four locations were identified on Railway Paths land, with further fly-tipping near Saughall on unregistered verges. Arrangements were being made to install removable bollards at either end of the lane to prevent unauthorised vehicle access, protect the bridleway and reduce further fly-tipping.

RESOLVED – that Tom Woodall & Stuart Jones be asked for a further update on these matters.

**iv) Steel Works Road**

Neil Parry, Project Engineer (Flintshire County Council), reported on October 15, 2026, that the matter would be followed up with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). He confirmed that the temporary trench box was functioning effectively and was not impeding water flow. A further site visit would be undertaken in the coming weeks.

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry be asked for an update on the permanent solution.

**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 September 22, 2026, that a few queries have been raised and that they will notify us in due course.

*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.

**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 - North Green, Sealand Manor**

Alex Philips (Housing Officer) informed the Council on October 19, 2026 that he will contact the Capital Works Manager again and ask his team to complete an urgent inspection of the footpath after the Council raised the issue of the trip hazard.

RESOLVED— that Alex Philips (Housing Officer) provides an update on this matter based on the trip hazard.

**Foxes Lane – Underpass**

Wayne Jones, Streetscene Officer (Flintshire County Council), reported to the Council on June 15, 2026, that the pump station is operational and has been serviced. He further reported that checks had been undertaken during both high and low tide conditions and noted that water levels will rise due to the existing water table; therefore, there is limited action that can be taken during periods of high tide.

Wayne Jones also reported that the committee has monitored graffiti and removed any offensive terminology.

RESOLVED—that, given the longstanding and unresolved water leakage at Foxes Lane underpass, which has been recorded in Council minutes for an extended period since its construction, the Welsh Government be contacted to request that the matter be investigated and guidance provided on achieving a lasting solution. That Wayne Jones reviews the underpass lighting and Sustrans to inspect the fencing and signage from the cycle path.

**e) Ferry Lane Footbridge**

**f) Bus Stop Repairs (Sealand)**

Lee Shone, Transport Strategy Manager (Flintshire County Council), informed the Council on September 9, 2026, that work tickets have been raised to clean and repair the shelters, subject to available budget provision.

RESOLVED— that Lee Shone and Wayne Jones be contacted to request a further update regarding the hazardous bus shelters and the reinstatement of the bus shelter on West Green.

**g) Surface deposits from burrowing activity**

Rupert Frank (Flintshire County Council) informed the Council on June 15, 2026 that the companies contracted to complete the work have let the Council down and are currently seeking a new company to carry out the work.

RESOLVED – that Rupert Frank be contacted again about removing the moles.

**26/145 <u>COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTING</u>**

Jake Smith (Flintshire County Council) reported to the Council on 15 September 2026 that the three upgrades are in progress. Further information is required to identify the lighting columns, as Flintshire County Council's numbering system differs from Sealand Community Council's.

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) attended the site to confirm the stock cross-referencing.

Fifteen of the current lighting stock are in working order out of 33 due to an issue on Ferry Lane.

RESOLVED – that Jake Smith will be asked to replace the SCC stock numbers on all lampposts and have the 18 lights on Ferry Lane checked.

**26/146 <u>SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – PAYMENT OF GRANTS</u>**

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 2026/27 is £11.60 per elector. The electoral roll from Flintshire County Council was 2812 in December 2025. So, per elector, this produces a total of £32,619.20.

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

Several grant requests had been received.

Sealand County Primary School submitted a grant request; an up–to–date copy of the bank statement was provided.

A grant request had been received from Cerebral Palsy Cymru.

A grant request was received from Sealand Spartans Football Club – an up–to–date copy of the bank statement has been provided.

RESOLVED –

I. The report be noted

II. In accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971, the Council should award a grant of £1000.00 to Sealand County Primary School, which is in the best interests of the area and inhabitants.

III. In accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971, the Council should award a grant of £50.00 to Cerebral Palsy Cymru, to support and improve the quality of life of children with cerebral palsy and help families access specialist support that provides a direct benefit to the area and inhabitants.

IV. In accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971, the Council should award a grant of £150.00 to Sealand Spartans Football Club, to provide direct benefit to the area and inhabitants.

V. In accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971, the Council should award a grant of £200.00 to the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal, which is in the best interests of the area and inhabitants.

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

Spending in 2026/27 so far is £1400.00.

**26/147 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

| PA Number | Application details | Location |
|---|---|---|
| FUL/000833/26 | Installation of an air source heat pump. | 12 Leopard Moth Road, Sealand, CH5 2FX. |
| FUL/000558/26 | Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of new dormer bungalow and garage. | 20 Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2RJ. |

RESOLVED -that –:

No observations be raised in respect of the above applications - FUL/000833/26 and FUL/000558/26.

**26/148 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2026**

RESOLVED—that the minutes of the Council meeting held on September, 21, 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**26/149 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 unrecognised women 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) reported that the order for the memorial item had been placed on 4 October 2026 and that a cheque was awaiting signature before being forwarded to (RBVE). Following a stock

check with Cllr Bob James, eight additional poppies had been purchased for display on lampposts, as the remaining poppies were in good condition and did not require replacement.

The Clerk further reported that Darrel Jones, Operational North & Street Lighting Manager (Flintshire County Council), had consented to the installation of poppies on lampposts. FCC had stipulated that weekly checks must be undertaken and that, following the designated display period, all items, including cable ties, must be removed.

RESOLVED – that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will forward the cheques to the appropriate organisations.

**26/150 <u>ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT</u>**

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 (30/09/2026) are £7.25 - re £4.25 per month for the account maintenance fee, with an additional charge of 6 cheques x £0.50 = £3.00.

| Cheque No | Payable to | Details | Amount | VAT | VAT Code | Expenditure Powers |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Direct debit | Nest | Pension (October) | £49.95 | | | Local Govt Act 1972 (S112) |
| 003786 | Royal British Veterans Enterprise | Unknown Woman in War Statue | £200.00 | £33.33 | 916326234 | Section 137 (1) of the Local Govt Act 1972 |
| 003787 | Jolora Ltd | Website Maintenance 2 months | £384.00 | £64.00 | 294456859 | Local Govt Act 1972 (S142) |
| 003788 | HMRC | PAYE – Income Tax and National Insurance, October, November, December | £1151.90 | | | Local Govt Act 1972 (S112) |
| 003789 | Ashley Griffiths | October Salary & Allowance & backdated pay | £1653.56 | | | Local Govt Act 1972 (S112) |
| 003790 | Earl Haig Poppy Appeal | Grant Payment | £200.00 | | | Section 137 of the Local Govt Act 1971 |
| 003791 | Sealand County Primary School | Grant Payment | £1000.00 | | | Section 137 of the Local Govt Act 1971 |
| 003792 | Cerebral Palsy Cymru | Grant Payment | £50.00 | | | Section 137 of the Local Govt Act 1971 |

 Chair's Signature:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 003793 | Sealand Spartans Football Club | Grant Payment | £150.00 | | | Section 137 of the Local Govt Act 1971 |
| Total spend | | | **£4,839.41** | **£97.33** | | |

**26/151 INCOME**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lloyds Bank | Interest Payment 09/10/2026 | £37.02 |
| **Total Income** | | **£37.02** |

RESOLVED – that the income received be noted.

**26/152 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BANK RECONCILIATION – 30th SEPTEMBER 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 - £9,082.17 - Account – No 7326098 - £90,988.94. Total - £100,071.11.

| **Unpaid – Cheque number** | **Payable to** | **Amount - £** |
|---|---|---|
| 003782 | Flintshire County Council (Street light inspection, April,May,June) | £252.65 |
| 003783 | Jolora Ltd | £384.00 |
| **Total** | | **£636.65** |

Total bank accounts - £100,071.11 less unpaid cheques of £636.65 as outlined above, leaves a net balance of £99,434.46. This amount cross-references with the summary of the income and expenditure report as at 30th September 2026.

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**26/153 FIT, FED AND READ PROGRAMME**

Josh McEwan (Active Community Coordinator) reported to the Council on September 23, 2026, that the Fit, Fed & Read programme will continue in 2027 and will be in touch at the end of the year to discuss the programme further.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**26/154 CORRESPONDENCE**

**POLLING STATION PROVISION**

The Council received correspondence from Lyn Phillips, Team Leader, Democratic Services (Flintshire County Council), on 15 October 2026, about providing polling stations in Sealand and identifying suitable alternative venues. This followed a request from Councillor Bob James for information on the number of polling stations in relation to the local population.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk will contact Flintshire County Council to provide further information on the provision of polling stations in Sealand.

**A494 RIVER DEE BRIDGE SCHEME – CONSTRUCTION PHASES**

Ian Bushell informed the Council that the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) was delivering the A494 River Dee Bridge Scheme, with Mott MacDonald acting as the appointed consultant. He advised that NMWTRA and Mott MacDonald would be best placed to respond to Councillor Bob James's queries seeking clarification on the construction phases of the new bridge.

RESOLVED – that any further queries regarding the construction phases of the A494 River Dee Bridge Scheme be directed to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) and Mott MacDonald.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION NOMINATION**

The Council received a letter nominating an individual member of Sealand Happy Group for a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their contribution to the community. After discussion, Members agreed that the group's collective dedication, collaboration and outstanding services to the community warranted recognition as a whole, rather than an individual award. The Council therefore agreed to award a Certificate of Appreciation to Sealand Happy Group in recognition of its collective contribution.

RESOLVED – that Sealand Happy Group be awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its collective dedication, collaboration and outstanding services to the community, and that representatives of the group be invited to receive the certificate at the December Festival Celebrations.

**26/155 SEALAND PLAYAREAS**

Richard Roberts advised the Council on October 6, 2026 that the match-funded improvement works at Kingsley Road Play Area had been completed. The works included installing a new pathway providing access to a centrally located picnic table, providing two additional seats, and installing safer surfacing adjacent to the three new pedestrian gates. In addition, the panels at the top of the embankment on the tube slide had been removed to reduce potential safety risks.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**26/156 SCHOOL CORRESPONDENCE**

**26/157 DEESIDE BUSINESS FORUM**

Councillor Bob James reported that the forum's next meeting will be held in November 2026.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

**26/158 FRIENDS OF SEALAND CHURCHES**

Councillor Brian Ward, on behalf of the Friends of Sealand, informed the Council that St Bartholomew's Church had unveiled the Sealand Tapestry, which was now on display on the church altar. He further advised that the Remembrance Service was scheduled for 8 November 2026.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

**26/159 REVIEW OF DRAFT COMMUNITY CHARTER BETWEEN FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

The Council considered the draft Community Charter and discussed its contents. The Council agreed that the Clerk would submit its observations and proposed amendments for consideration before the Charter is finalised.

RESOLVED- that the Clerk submit the Council's observations.

**26/160 SEASONAL AMENITY PROVISIONS**

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported that enquiries had been made with other town and community councils in Flintshire regarding their arrangements for purchasing Christmas trees. The Clerk requested quotations for Christmas trees at the two churches in Sealand and would investigate the associated costs of illuminating one of the trees. The Clerk had also contacted Sealand County Primary School to establish its requirements for a Christmas display.

RESOLVED- that the Council notes the Clerk's report and that further information and quotations will be obtained for consideration at a future meeting.

**26/161 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Clerk, Ashley Griffiths, advised that the Council is required to review its policies and procedures annually as per standard governance procedures; a number of the policies are subject to annual review. The following policies were presented:

- Biodiversity Policy Report Section 6 Duty/Notice
- Information Asset Register
- Annual Investment Strategy
- Internal Controls Policy
- Annual Risk Assessment
- Complaints Procedure Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Multi Location Meetings Policy
- Grants Policy
- Press and Social Media Policy
- Contract of employment

The Clerk circulated the policies to all Council members. Copies of all other documents can be found on the Council's website

RESOLVED-that-

a) The report be noted.

b) Consideration of the Clerk's Annual Risk Assessment Report be accepted as the formal risk assessment for the 2027/28 financial year.

c) The key risks relate to the Council's assets, bank accounts, internal controls, and insurance cover for statutory and other purposes.

d) The arrangements highlighted in the Risk Assessment detail are that the council takes all the appropriate steps to minimise risks in conjunction with the council's internal financial controls and that the Risk Assessment 2027/28 be noted.

e) JDH Business Services be reappointed as the council's internal auditor.

f) Biodiversity Policy Report Section 6 Duty/Notice, Information Asset Register, Annual Investment Strategy, Internal Controls Policy, Annual Risk Assessment, Complaints Procedure Policy, Data Protection Policy, Multi Location Meetings Policy, Grants Policy, Press and Social Media Policy and Contract of employment, be approved.

**26/162 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) outlined the expenditure and income for the 2026/27 financial year up to cheque number 003793.

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

| | | Actual | Anticipated | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | Precept | £42,666.66 | £64,000.00 | -£21,333.34 |
| | Bank Interest and Refund of Fees | £226.55 | £500.00 | -£273.45 |
| | VAT Refund Flintshire County Council | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| | VAT Refund HMRC | £2,113.44 | £1,831.44 | £282.00 |
| | **Total** | **£45,006.65** | **£66,331.44** | **-£21,324.79** |

| | | Actual | Agreed Spend | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure** | Bank Charges | £43.50 | £165.00 | £121.50 |
| | Chairman's Fund | £0.00 | £800.00 | £800.00 |
| | Staffing Costs | £11,115.65 | £16,839.84 | £5,724.19 |
| | General Admin inc | £1,933.34 | £3,262.00 | £1,328.66 |
| | Insurances | £600.08 | £665.00 | £64.92 |
| | Play Schemes and New Play Equipment | £1,000.00 | £24,129.00 | £23,129.00 |
| | Street Furniture Repairs | £0.00 | £7,600.00 | £7,600.00 |
| | Street Lighting | £1,125.76 | £8,800.00 | £7,674.24 |
| | Seasonal amenity provisions | £200.00 | £4,000.00 | £3,800.00 |
| | Council Web Site | £2,596.80 | £2,400.00 | -£196.80 |
| | S137 - Grants | £1,400.00 | £3,035.00 | £1,635.00 |
| | **Total** | **£20,015.13** | **£71,695.84** | **£51,680.71** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Current Summa** | Balance 1st April 2026 inc £34,000 contingency fund | **£69,640.55** |
| | Total Expenditure | £20,015.13 |
| | Total Income | £45,006.65 |
| | Balance | £24,991.52 |
| | **Balance as at 19 October 2026** | **£ 94,632.07** |
| | **VAT Costs for 2026/27 Financial Year** | **£794.56** |

**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** |

**26/163 <u>SOCIAL MEDIA – PROPOSED COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE</u>**

The Council considered Councillor Bob James's proposals to introduce a social media presence for Sealand Community Council, including its intended purpose and operation. Following discussion, Members unanimously agreed to establish a Council Facebook page to operate as an interactive noticeboard for information and public announcements only. Members agreed to progress the proposal, with implementation to be reviewed within six months.

RESOLVED – that the Council unanimously agrees to proceed with developing a Facebook page for information purposes only, with progress to be reviewed within six months.

**26/164 INTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk advised the Council that JDH Business Services Limited reported on 6 May 2026 that the Council's systems of internal controls are in place, adequate for the intended purposes, and effective, subject to issue 1 in the internal audit report. Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) reported to the Council that issue 1 had been dealt with.

A copy of the report was added to the Council's website.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

**26/165 EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk gave an overview of the requirement to the Council for the external audit, noting that the Audit packs must be submitted to the Audit Wales email address, by post to the Cardiff office only or via Objective Connect where required, with a deadline of 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 would send the relevant documents to the auditors in the near future, after he has received the internal audit back and outlined the accounts for the Council in the Local Council for Wales Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The clerk noted that an interim copy of the Annual Return had been added to the Council's website, with the final version to be added upon completion of the Audit. The Audit Notice 2026 had been added to the website and notice boards, with an announcement dated 2nd June 2026, regarding electors' rights to inspect the accounts and all documents for the year ending 31st March 2026, from 6th July to 31st July 2026.

**Publication of audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026**

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2026, Sealand Community Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 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. The Auditor General has not yet issued an audit opinion.

Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) informed the Council that the audit of accounts for Sealand Community Council for the year ending 31 March 2026 has been concluded, and the annual return is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area of Sealand Community Council upon application. Members of the Council noted the external auditor general's Report and Auditor Opinion.

Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31

March 2026 of **Sealand Community Council**. My audit has been conducted on

behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of

the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor

General for Wales.

**Audit opinion: Unqualified**

On the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give

cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this

Annual Return.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted, thanks go to the clerk for all his hard work with the Audit and the Audit report be published in accordance with statutory requirements.

**26/166 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 to an external hosting provider, and that the resolution be adopted.

**26/167 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Christine Jones reported that a site visit had been arranged to assess the height of the trees along Sealand Avenue and requested funding to reduce them.

Councillor Barbara reported significant littering along Sealand Road, particularly in the vicinity of the two damaged bus shelters, and requested that the provision of litter bins be considered.

Councillor Mary Southall requested that the Flintshire County Council consider reinstating the bus shelter on Sealand Manor, which was removed several years ago and has not been replaced.

RESOLVED—that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) report the above matters to the relevant departments.

**26/168 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A resident informed the Council that the street lights along Ferry Lane are still off after a car knocked one of the street lights down.

RESOLVED—that Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) report the above matter to StreetScene.

**26/169 HYNET**

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited reported to the Council on October 19, 2026 that a further phase of works was scheduled to commence between Sealand Road and the River Dee as part of the construction of the main onshore pipeline. The works would require the temporary closure of Deeside Lane to facilitate excavation and installation of the pipeline beneath the road. The closure was scheduled to commence during the week beginning 26 October 2026, with the road expected to reopen in early 2027.

The Council was further advised that construction of the pipeline beneath the River Dee would require continuous 24-hour operations to ensure the safety of the tunnel and construction teams. These works were also scheduled to commence on 26 October 2026, with completion anticipated in early 2027.

RESOLVED—that the report be noted.

**26/170 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 16th NOVEMBER 2026.**

**26/171 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT, DECLARATION OF INTEREST—** Three Council members declared an interest to the Council.

- Cllr Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 26/143 (b)
- Councillors Alex Lewis, Christine Jones, and David Wisinger declared an interest regarding the grant payment to Sealand C.P. School, minute number 26/145.

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm and closed at 8:45 pm.

……. Signed 16th November 2026, Chairman of the Council