

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

OTHERS: Two members of the public.

OFFICER: Ashley Griffiths – Clerk and Financial Officer.

25/237 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BANK RECONCILIATION – 31ST DECEMBER 2025

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 - £10,038.15 - Account – No 7326098 - £81,035.42. Total - £91,073.57

Unpaid – Cheque number	Payable to	Amount -
003728	SLCC	£144.00
003729	Jolora Ltd	£228.00
003730	Jolora Ltd	£384.00
003731	SLCC	£200.00
003733	Eye 2 Eye	£50.00
003734	50 Plus Action Group	£50.00
003735	St Bartholomew's church	£50.00
003736	Sealand County Primary School	£50.00
003737	Waverton Bell Ringers	£50.00
Total		£1,206

Total bank accounts - £91,073.57 less unpaid cheques of £1,206 as outlined above, leaves a net balance of £89,867.57. This amount cross-references with the summary of the income and expenditure report as at 31st December 2025.

The Vice-Chair was absent from the meeting; therefore, the Chairman of the Council signed two hard copies of the bank reconciliation statements.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

25/238 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 003744.

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	£404.34	£525.10	-£120.76
VAT Refund Flintshire County Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
VAT Refund HMRC	£976.18	£1,000.00	-£23.82
Total	£65,380.52	£65,525.10	-£144.58

	Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Expenditure			
Bank Charges	£119.50	£150.00	£30.50
Chairman's Fund	£500.00	£800.00	£300.00
Staffing Costs	£14,460.04	£14,592.65	£132.61
General Admin inc	£2,358.04	£4,266.64	£1,908.60
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
S137 - Grants	£1,500.00	£3,035.00	£1,535.00
Total	£41,923.52	£71,657.29	£29,733.77

Current Summary	Balance 1st April 2025 inc £25,000 contingency fund	£64,041.63
	Total Expenditure	£41,923.52
	Total Income	£65,380.52
	Balance	£23,457.00
	Balance as at 19 January 2026	£ 87,498.63
	VAT Costs for 2025/26 Financial Year	£1,325.81

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

25/239 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.

Publication of audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2025, Sealand Community Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 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 2025 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 recommendations.

Audit General Opinion: Unqualified. On this basis of my audit, in my opinion, no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return.

Other matters and recommendations

I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations, which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council.

- i) Response to assertion 9 in the annual governance statement
- ii) The Council is required to adopt and publish an amended compliance training plan
- iii) Website organisation of Finances and audit section

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and Ashley Griffiths (Clerk) will prepare actions to address the recommendations for approval at the next meeting and for future compliance going forward, and the Audit report be published in accordance with statutory requirements.

25/243 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 16th FEBRUARY 2026.

25/244 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT, DECLARATION OF INTEREST— One Council member declared an interest to the Council.

Councillor Christine Jones declared an interest in minute number 25/228 (b)

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm and closed at 7:35 pm.

..... Signed 16th February 2026, Chairperson of the Council