

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.

25/324 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.

25/334 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