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.

26/146 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 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.

26/152 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.

26/162 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**

26/165 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.

26/170 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