

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18th MARCH 2013 AT THE SEALAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs S. Webber (Chairman), Mrs G Bullock, J. A. Dodd, Mrs C M Jones (County Councillor), A. Lewis, G. Shotton, W. Morris, Mrs B.M.A Southall, M. Walker, and D. E. Wisinger.

Peter Richmond - the Clerk and Financial Officer.

There was one member of the public at the meeting.

12/247

STREETSCENE

The Council received a report on the working of Street Scene by John Griffiths and Wayne Jones together with an update on Street Scenes current work / activities in Sealand.

The contact number for Wayne is – 07711 437958

RESOLVED – that John and Wayne be thanked for attending the meeting

12/248

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. G. Bullock and J.J. Griffiths.

Apologies were not received from Councillor N. Jones.

12/249

CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

RESOLVED – that it be noted that no declarations were made to Council at the beginning of the meeting.

12/250

MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised.

12/251

CHAIR'S ACTION SINCE 18th FEBRUARY 2013

The Chair advised that she had recently attended two site meetings concerning the underpass on Foxes Lane

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12/252 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON
18th FEBRUARY 2013**

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18th February 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

12/253 **FLOOD AWARENESS – SEALAND**

At a previous meeting of Council Councillor Norman Jones - Chief Flood Warden for Sealand gave an update on his work and advised that he will shortly be meeting with Huw Webb from the Environment Agency to work on the Sealand Flood Plan.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12/254 **COUNCIL'S CHAIN / BADGE OF OFFICE**

The Clerk reminded Council that at the previous meeting for Council it agreed to give further consideration on how additional links should be attached to the chain of office.

RESOLVED - that the Council should seek quotations to add additional links across the front of the chain and to obtain a complete new chain identical to the current chain.

12/255 **POLICE ISSUES**

The Clerk advised that unfortunately the police cannot be represented at the meeting - PCSO Gareth Price 2944. The following report has been received.

- PCSO has carried out a Bike Etching session and several bikes were done – further sessions will be provided in the summer holidays.
- Daily patrols are being done on the Cycle Path on the riverbank in relation to Drugs and bikes (can you urge anyone with information to please contact 101 asap)
- There has been a ‘massive’ decrease in crime and Anti-Social Behaviour for the month of February.
- PCSO attended the Garden City Youth Club recently and all seemed in order.

- Few issues at the SPAR but regular visits are being done and a few banning orders have been given out along with several tickets for a number or different issues.
- Several people have been signed up to OWL but still need a big push on that if you wouldn't mind.

The following are the outstanding issues from the December 2012 to February 2013 meetings.

- Cycleway – Blacon to Sealand - use of air rifles.
- Van is parked on Deeside Lane causing an obstruction.
- Parking outside Sealand CP School.
- Speeding Traffic on Kingsley Road
- Parking Foxes Lane near to junction with Welsh Road – not on double yellow lines.

RESOLVED - that -

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Sergeant Bethan Pritchard be advised that Council was most concerned when it was informed that PCSO's have to walk from Deeside Police Station to their beat areas which means that a significant amount of time is spent getting to and from Sealand. Council asked whether the PCSOs can be given cycles.

12/ 256 ADDITIONAL CCTV PROVISION – 2013/14
FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk reminded Council that at the January 2013 Annual Finance Meeting it allocated £1285 to spend on CCTV improvements in the 2013/14 financial year

RESOLVED - that consideration to install additional CCTVs should be deferred to a later meeting of Council.

12/257 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Meadow View– Need for Additional off Street Car Parking

RESOLVED - that the County Councillor's should arrange a site meeting to determine possible project details to achieve improved car parking for Meadow View.

b) Improvement to Road Surface – Brookside.

The County Councillor advised that the recently published Public Notice indicates that a number of roads will benefit from road surface repairs. John Griffiths advised that the work will be undertaken during 2013.

RESOLVED - that the County Councillor's report be noted.

c) Need to clarify re-routing of public right of way in the area of the closed steel works offices

RESOLVED – that Pochins be asked again to provide an update on the situation regarding the Council's request for the footpath to be rerouted.

**d) New Dog Bins
Green Lane Estate; Green Lane East – near to St.
Bartholomew's Church and Claremont Avenue**

John Griffiths advised that a dog bin has been placed at the bottom of Claremont Ave near the entrance to the riverside. The other dog bins requested will be sited as soon as they arrive on site from manufacturer.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

e) Pot Holes – Bridleway – Green Lane East

John Griffiths advised that potholes in bridle way Green Lane East are the responsibility of Public Rights of Way - John Davies 01352 701223. The Clerk advised that he has referred the matter to John Davies.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

f) Green Lane East - No Fly Tipping Signs and Drain

John Griffiths advised that fly tipping on Green Lane East has been removed and the ditch has been cleaned by the Hiab vehicle. John advised that he will arrange to reinstall the No Fly Tipping signs

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

g) No Dog Fouling Signs – Farm Road: Kingsley Road: Queens Road

John Griffiths advised that the dog fouling signs will shortly be placed on lampposts and sign posts.

John also confirmed that the 10 signs paid for by Council in 2012 will be fitted to street lights very shortly.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

h) Damaged Road Surface – Welsh Road near to Hotel Leprechaun and Seahill Road

John Griffiths advised that cracks in the road surface at Welsh Road by Hotel Leprechaun and Seahill Road have been repaired. The Highways Engineer has been asked to check both locations.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

i) Speed Limit Review – A548 Deeside Industrial Park

The Clerk advised that he has been informed by the County Council that the County Council is proposing to install a 50mph speed limit on the A548 at Sealand. The proposed length of the A548 is from the existing 40mph speed limit on the A548 Eastern Access Road, incorporating the circulatory of the A550/A548 interchange to a point approximately 100 metres North West of the Parkway roundabout at the Deeside Industrial Park.

The reduction in the speed limit will result in lower traffic speeds and the proposals have been designed to reduce risk of road casualties as this route has been identified as having a number of collisions

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12/258 LIGHTING MATTERS

a) Street Lighting Report

The Clerk reported that his most recent lighting inspection of the Council's 149 columns and 151 lights took place on 16th February 2013 all lights were working. Light 129 on Welsh Road / Cedar Avenue is not switching off

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Electrical Inspection – 20% / 40% of Street Columns

The Clerk advised that the work will shortly be started.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Review of Street Lighting Responsibilities – Flintshire County Council

The Clerk advised that he had responded to the Head of Streetscene to the County Council's review of Street Lighting as outlined at the February 2012 meeting of Council. A reply is still awaited.

The Clerk advised that he has heard that the County Council are considering taking over lights that have been brought up to adoption standard providing that a payment is made to cover for prospective maintenance and energy for a number of future years.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

d) Possible Lighting Improvements – 2013/14

The Clerk reminded Council that at the previous meeting he advised that he had been informed by the County Council of the following cost details –

North Green x 5 columns and Column 47 on East Green

Transfer of Services x6 £4,410

Take out, dispose and install 6 metre column x6 £4,110

Install 45w CPO Lantern (PEC & Lamp) x6 £2,791.50

Total £11,311.50 less 15% = £9,614.78

Total cost to install x 6 columns complete £9,614.78 (dependent upon 3 metre transfer of service)

The Clerk also reminded Council that at the previous meeting he advised that Council has one column at Green Lane West and is hoping to gain agreement from the County Council that it will take over the column providing Council covers 50% of the cost to replace it. A written quotation is awaited. The Council's column has been removed and a replacement has been installed

RESOLVED - that the Council should defer its decision regarding which columns should be replaced in the 2013/14 financial year to the next meeting of Council.

12/259 FOXES LANE UNDERPASS

It was reported that Tom Humphreys from Conwy Council is preparing a project to improve the drainage issues at the underpass.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted and for the Clerk to contact Tom Humphreys at Conwy Council requesting a project update.

12/260 SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1971

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

a) Summary of Grant Payments – 2012/13 Financial Year

The Clerk advised that the Government has confirmed that 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 role of 2192 and £6.50 per head produces an upper limit of £14,248.

Grants will be considered for payment at the May 2013, November 2013 and February 2014 meetings of Council.

Allocation for the 2012/13 financial year is £4,000 with £3,125 being allocated.

Allocation for the 2013/14 financial year is £4000.

RESOLVED:- that the report be noted.

12/261 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised on the following planning applications had been received electronically from Flintshire County Council since the meeting of Council held on 18th February 2013.

050339 - Erection of a 3 car garage with store room above and conversion of existing garage into games room at White House, Sealand Road, Sealand, Flintshire, CH1 6BR.

050506 - Removal of existing loading dock and internal goods loading ramp and making good and replacement of loading dock with prefile metal cladding to match existing at Unit 103, Tenth Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2UA.

050558 - Erection of a substation with associated works at 18 First Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2NU.

RESOLVED:- that -

- i) no objections be raised in respect of planning applications – 050339, 050506 and 050558.

- ii) County Councillor David Wisinger be asked if he could arrange for the Council to receive notification of planning applications both by email and hard copies in the post.

12/262 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING PERMISSIONS

The Clerk advised that the Head of Planning had advised that the following planning application has been refused –

- 050376 - Demolition of existing single storey double garage and erection of a two storey garage with office accommodation at Poultry Farm, Sealand Road, Sealand, Chester, CH1 6BS.

The Clerk advised that the Head of Planning had advised that the following planning applications have been approved.

- 050340 - Construction of the Southern Converter Station comprising valve halls, a control building and a spares building together with outdoor electrical equipment and associated access improvements, infrastructure, earthworks, security fencing, landscaped areas and habitat creation at Converter Station - Land south of Weighbridge Road, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside.
- 050371 - Use of building as a warehouse Class B8 at 12 First Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2NU.
- 050388 - Erection of an annexe building to the existing factory at Ivor Williams Trailers Ltd, Fourth Ave, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2NR.
- 050398 - Single storey extension to side and rear and internal alterations at St Andrews Church, Sealand Avenue, Garden City, Deeside, Flintshire.
- 050446 – Erection of extension to music studio at 38 Welsh Road, Garden City.
- 050506 - Removal of existing loading dock and internal goods loading ramp and making good and replacement of loading dock with prefile metal cladding to match existing at Unit 103, Tenth Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2UA.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

12/263 HMRC COMPLETION OF END OF YEAR 2012 -2013

The Clerk advised that he has completed the Council's Employer Annual Return to the HMRC on 28th February 2013 for the 2012/13 financial year. Forms P60, P35, P11 and P32 have now been completed.

Total

£2.03

RESOLVED - that the income be received.

12/266 CODE OF CONDUCT – TRAINING SESSION

The Clerk advised that he had been in communication with Gareth Owens – Legal Services at Flintshire County Council who has advised that having spoken to Councillor Mike Walker the issue is around 10(2)b of the code. To paraphrase that section says a councillor has a personal interest where there is a perceived conflict between the views of his/her ward or electoral division and the best interests of the council as a whole.

For example the County Council is the housing authority and it is under a duty to ensure there is affordable housing (AH) for its residents. A county councillor has electors who say they don't want AH in their area. The councillor must either.

1. ignore the views of the residents (which is not very democratic and risks being rejected at the next election); or
2. follow the residents' views putting the county council in breach of its statutory duties.

That creates a real and a perceived conflict and thus amounts to an interest. The same reasoning applies to any council wide policy.

This only applies where there is a conflict between your own council policies and the views of residents. So as community councillors you can say you do not want AH because it is not your council that is under the statutory duty to provide it. There is therefore no conflict between the duties of Sealand CC and the residents.

Community Councils do not often have statutory duties/council wide policies of this sort so the issue is less likely to arise. It might arise in relation to say a community or village plan where the Council adopts a vision for the community but certain wards object.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12/267 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk detailed the correspondence received by Council.

One Voice Wales – Together Creating Communities - Spring Public Assembly, Friday 19th April, 7 – 8.30pm at St. Margaret's Community Hall in Wrexham

Councillors are invited to TCC's Spring Public Assembly, Friday 19th April, 7 – 8.30pm at St. Margaret's Community Hall in Wrexham. It should be a really exciting evening – celebrating successes on issues as diverse as the Living Wage, funerals and high interest credit, and pushing on the issues we are currently working on in our communities in North East Wales. So far Susan Elan Jones MP, Ian Lucas MP and Mark Isherwood AM have said they will be attending. Anyone is welcome to attend; please feel free to forward this invite on. We'll also be offering a glass of Fairtrade wine or a cup of tea afterwards – it will be a great opportunity to meet people and find out about ways to get more involved in the community. It would be helpful to RSVP, but you can just come along on the night.

Gareth Owens – Flintshire County Council - The Standards Conference Wales will be held on Friday, 19 April at Venue Cymru in Llandudno

Request for expressions of interest from members of Town and Community Councils.

The conference programme is provided. The cost will be £70 per delegate. As with previous years the County Council will make the booking and pay the fee for all those attending and will in due course invoice the Town/Community Councils for their delegates.

The number of places allocated this year has been reduced. With this in mind the allocation of places should there be more delegates than places will be made by drawing lots.

I should be grateful if you would inform Mandy Haslam whether or not one of your members would like to attend the Conference and indicate which workshops he/she wishes to attend

Stuart Jones – Flintshire County Council – Saltney Ferry Footbridge

Further to previous emails regarding the upcoming closure on Higher Ferry Footbridge regarding the temporary closure. I have received the following information from the Structural Engineer, Martin Bishop:

The works at present are intended to start on Monday 25th March and finish on 17th May. This start date still depends on the speed that our legal department can make the contract so the work might end up starting on the 31st March/1st April.

The relevant information has been passed onto our press office also so we would expect the statement to be in the local papers early next week.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you but do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Matthew Brookfield – Flintshire County Council – Street Lighting Renewals

The County Council will shortly be undergoing a programme of Street Lighting renewals within Sealand. The work is being undertaken by Centregreat Ltd, replacing concrete columns with Galvanised Steel ones and modern lanterns.

All residents that are affected by the works will be receiving a letter informing them of what is going on and how long the work will take. A copy of the letter is provided for information. The program of the works is from February through to the end of May.

Peter Evans - Flintshire County Council - Democracy & Governance Manager – Community Review

The letter attached a report that was submitted to the County Forum meeting on 28 February 2013. As explained in that report the County Council has a duty under the Local Government Act to keep Town & Community boundaries and the electoral arrangements for communities within its area under review. The County Council has not completed a community review of all electoral areas and a comprehensive review is therefore overdue. The Council has committed to a review and Town & Community Councils have supported this commitment. 2013 presents an ideal opportunity as there are no elections planned until May 2014 so the Council's election staff have the capacity to assist in the community review process.

Prior to the formal commencement of the review the County Council wishes to consult with all Town & Community Councils over the draft guiding principles for the review. These draft guiding principles are provided and for each draft guiding principle there is a short explanatory sentence. As can be seen the majority of the principles are laid down in the Local Government Act 1972.

Any observations your Council has on these draft guiding principles will be carefully considered before the final version of the guiding principles are agreed. It is the intention to report on the guiding principles to a meeting of the County Council on the 16 April and to the Council's Cabinet on the 23 April. Any observations your Council wishes to make should therefore be submitted by the 8 April. If you have any queries I trust you will not hesitate to contact either myself or a member of the Council's election's team.

As you can see from the appendix attached to the report that went to the County Forum the community review process involves a number of different stages and at each of those stages there will be further consultation with Town & Community Councils. The whole review process is expected to take over a year to complete.

RESOLVED - that the correspondence be received and noted.

12/268 SEALAND MANOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairman gave an update on the current position regarding demolition details and the use of the residual balances held by the Management Group. The Community Group will be staying an active group to carry on fund raising to have equipment replaced and have a meeting area following the demolition of the centre. The funders who have expressed a wish not to have their donations returned these will be put towards the project.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12/269 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk outlined overall expenditure and income for the 2012/13 financial year up and including cheque number 002716

2012/13 Financial Year		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income	General Admin Inc. Precept	£53,000.00	£53,000.00	£0
	Bank Interest	£20.12	£20.00	£0.12
	Insurance Claims / Refunds	£22.93	£0.00	+£22.93
	VAT Refund	£1,366.08	£1,366	+£0.08
	Milk Claims	£679.17	£750.00	-£70.83
	Total	£55,088.30	£55,136.00	-£47.70
		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Expenditure	Play Areas	£6,571.32	£6,570.00	-£1.32

	Staffing Costs	£7,437.00	£7,437.00	£0.00
	General Admin Costs	£5,190.36	£4,420.00	-£770.36
	S137 Grants	£3,125.00	£4,000.00	£875.00
	CCTV	£1,284.00	£4,000.00	£2,716.00
	Street Lighting	£23,633.72	£23,500.00	-£133.72
	Notice Boards	£1,200.00	£250.00	-£950.00
	Insurances	£5,377.54	£5,100.00	-£277.54
	Milk	£3,186.69	£3,750.00	£563.31
	Election Costs	£350.19	£3,000.00	£2,649.81
	Total	£57,355.82	£62,027.00	£4,671.18
C u r r e n t S u m m a r y	Balance as at 31 March 2012	£43,972.48		
	Total Expenditure	£57,355.82		
	Total Income	£55,088.30		
	Balance	-£2,267.52		
	Overall balance as 18th March 2013 including cheques authorised for payment.	£41,704.96		
	VAT Costs for 2012/13	£1,500.21		

End of Year Prediction	Balance as at 31 March 2012	£43,972.48
	Total Anticipated Expenditure	£62,027.00
	Total Anticipated Income	£55,136.00
	Anticipated Balance for the year	-£6,891.00
	Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31 March 2013	£37,081.48

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY
ACCOUNTS 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk outlined overall estimated expenditure and income for the 2013/14 financial year.

2013/14 Financial Year		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income	General Admin Inc. Precept	£0.00	£53,000.00	£0
	Bank Interest	£0.00	£20.00	£0
	Insurance Claims / Refunds	£0.00	£0.00	£0
	VAT Refund	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0
	Milk Claims	£0.00	£750.00	£0
	Total	£0.00	£55,270.00	£0
		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Expenditure	Play Areas	£0.00	£9,200.00	£0
	Staffing Costs	£0.00	£7,537.00	£0
	General Admin Costs	£0.00	£4,870.00	£0
	S137 Grants	£0.00	£4,000.00	£0
	CCTV	£0.00	£1,285.00	£0
	Street Lighting	£0.00	£25,800.00	£0
	Notice Boards	£0.00	£500.00	£0
	Insurances	£0.00	£5,600.00	£0
	Milk	£0.00	£4,700.00	£0
	Election Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0
	Total	£0.00	£63,492.00	£0
C u r r e n t S u m m a r y	Balance as at 31 March 2013 - provisional	£41,704.96		
	Total Expenditure	£0.00		
	Total Income	£0.00		
	Balance	£0.00		
	Overall balance as at 1st April 2013 - provisional	£41,704.96		

VAT Costs for 2013/14	£0.00
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End of Year Prediction	Balance as at 31 March 2013 - provisional	£42,333.11
	Total Anticipated Expenditure	£63,492.00
	Total Anticipated Income	£55,270.00
	Anticipated Balance for the year	- £8,222.00
	Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31 March 2014	£34,111.11

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

12/271 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- Contact Pochins hedge still needs to be cut – Farm Road
- Concern expressed about the situation highlighted regarding Dave and Val Jones formerly of Bridge Farm
- With the loss of the Sealand Manor Community Centre there is no provision for a Polling Station at Sealand East
- Manor Road Sign damaged at junction with Foxes Lane
- Former Sealand Leisure Club – complaints about state of the building and overgrown bushes
- Explanation given by Councillor David Wisinger regarding the increase in the SCC element even though the precept has remained unchanged

The meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed Monday 15th April 2013.

Chair – Councillor Mrs. S. Webber - Sealand Community Council) PR