

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2015 AT THE SEALAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

PRESENT: Councillors: Norman Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gwyneth Bullock, John Griffiths, Mrs. Barbara Hinds, Mrs Chris Jones (County Councillor), Alex Lewis, Mrs Mary Southall, Mike Walker and David Wisinger (Vice – Chairman).

Peter Richmond - the Clerk and Financial Officer.

Also in attendance –

Four members of the public.

Wayne Jones from Street Scene Flintshire County Council

14/222 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies received and accepted from Councillors John Dodd, Wayne Morris and Mrs. Shelley Webber.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted,

14/223 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

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

14/224 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised.

14/225 CHAIR'S ACTION SINCE 19th JANUARY 2015

The Chairman advised that he had no actions to report.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

14/226 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19th JANUARY 2015

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of Council held on 19th January 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

14/227 FLOOD AWARENESS – SEALAND

The Chairman advised Huw Webb - Flood Incident Management – North Wales had arranged for the production of identity badges for the Sealand flood wardens which were given out at the meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

14/228 COUNCIL'S CHAIN / BADGE OF OFFICE

The Clerk reminded Council that at the November 2014 meeting Council accepted the quotation submitted by Fattorini as detailed and the names of Chairman missing from the current chain should be engraved on the new Chain and for Fattorini to be asked to action this.

The Chain arrived on 4th February 2015 and was returned on 5th February 2015 as the names of the current and two past Chairman had been engraved onto individual sections rather than as agreed two per section. The shoulder pins were also missing. The Clerk asked for the payment to be authorised with the payment being withheld until the corrected chain had been received.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

14/229 POLICE ISSUES

PC Martin Price 229 had advised that the Police will not be able to attend the meeting on 9th February 2015.

Updates regarding issues raised at the previous meeting have been added to the issues below-

Issues previously raised -

1. Problems with youths at Sandy Lane – Police to maintain visits. An active CCTV (Community Safety) is still positioned on a lighting column near to the Youth Centre.

No update.

2. CCTV – Sealand

The Clerk reminded Council that at the Annual Finance Meeting it allocated £4,000 for the purchase of a new CCTV in the 2015/16 financial year. An email has been sent to the County Councils Community Safety Officer asking whether the County Council would contribute towards the cost – a reply has not been received.

Three quotations have been received -

The lowest cost option is the fixed low light camera. This offers a fixed 270 degree view but does not have pan/tilt/zoom capabilities are not able to see in complete darkness. £1,680 plus VAT - £366 – Total £2,106.00

The middle option would be for a HD 360 degree pan/tilt/zoom low light option, this can be moved and zoomed but doesn't have the ability to see in complete darkness. £2,922 plus VAT - £584.40 – Total £3,506.40

The plus model is also a HD 360 degree pan/tilt/zoom camera but with the addition of built in 100 metre infrared night vision for use in complete darkness £3,256 plus VAT - £651.20 – Total £3,907.20

It was also agreed at the previous meeting that Council needs to decide on the future use of the 5 non active CCTVs.

No update

3. Police advised that the CCTV at Sandy Lane has assisted greatly with the Police with their enquires. The Police require the name(s) of the individuals involved.

No update

4. Complaints about youths riding a motorcycle around Garden City and not wearing helmets. Police to action.

Update - The persons riding the motorbike have yet to be identified. I believe the reports have reduced. A request was made for Street Scene to lock the access gate to the field on Welsh Road neat to the Days Hotel as this is a possible point of entry.

5. Complaints about parking on the footway on Farm Road / Sealand Primary School – Police to action. Cars currently parked on the footway.

Update - I have spoken to one of the vehicle owners who had parked his van on the pavement one evening. He has been advised that positive action could be taken if the vehicle is seen in that position again.

6. Gypsies on the Kingsley Road site – site owned by the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. Flintshire County Council, Police and Clwyd Alyn are working on this as a matter of urgency.

Update - Flintshire County Council and Clwyd Alyn Housing are actively working to re house the family who have been offered a property. However they have declined the offer stating that they wish to remain in a caravan and have requested assistance in finding a suitable caravan park to move to. I am aware of ASB reports regarding the family which have been dealt with accordingly

It was reported that there are three untaxed vehicles being used by the gypsies – police to be advised

RESOLVED – that

- a) the reports be noted.
- b) Clwyd and Alyn Housing Association be asked for a progress report regarding the removal of the gypsies.
- c) consideration to decide to proceed to order a new replacement CCTV be deferred.
- d) at the next meeting Council to decide on the locations for the 5 Council owned CCTVs in the meantime members of Council to advise the Clerk of their proposed locations.

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

RESOLVED – that the matter be again deferred pending receipt of the detailed planning application for this area that will include details of proposed routes for public rights of way.

b) Litter Bins – Sealand Manor Recreation Field

RESOLVED – that the provision of two new litter bins be deferred pending the completion of the landscaping work at the site of the former Community Centre.

c) Changes to Speed Limits – Seahill Road, Old Sealand Road and A548 Sealand Road

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred pending the installation of the new speed limits.

d) Additional Waiting Restrictions – Farm Road and Foxes Lane

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting of Council when he reported on correspondence with the County Council regarding Council's requests for additional waiting restrictions. These relate to Farm Road and Foxes Lane at their junctions with Welsh Road. These sites are now on the appropriate list for consideration.

It was reported that on 4th February 2015 a bus could not pass the parked traffic on Foxes Lane

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the reports be noted.
- ii) Ian Jones - Senior Engineer (Traffic) be advised that it was reported that on 4th February 2015 a bus could not pass the parked traffic on Foxes Lane and requesting an urgent update regarding Council's request for extended waiting restrictions at Foxes Lane.

e) Fly Tipping – Green Lane East

It was reported that over the recent weekend two fridge freezers and 20 car tyres had been dumped. The big clear up as reported is taking place on 12th February 2015.

RESOLVED - that Wayne Jones be asked to arrange for their removal.

g) Need for overtaking lines to be installed on the Railway Bridge / Seahill Road.

The Clerk advised that at the previous meeting Council resolved to ask Ian Jones - Senior Engineer (Traffic) to provide details of the criteria that is required to be met in order that DWLs can be provided to Seahill Road on the section of the highway that runs up to and across the bridge over the MCR. A reply is still awaited.

It was reported that a car had been parked on the approach to the bridge..

Councillor Mike Walker advised that he recently had a meeting with Glyn Evans from Sustrans, about cutting a new entrance to the cycle path on the other side of the bridge on Seahill Road. Glyn thinks this is something they may be able to do and will look in to it.

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) when members of Council observe cars parked on the approach to the bridge they should immediately report details of the incident including details of the vehicle to the police.

h) Ferry Lane Bridge – Request for a Site Meeting

The site meeting took place on Saturday 31st January 2015 at 10am.

It was reported that Martin Bishop – Bridge Engineer, Flintshire County Council is taking suggestions forward to improve the noise problem

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Martin Bishop be asked for a report of the outcome from the site meeting.

i) Possible Pollution Tall Industrial Chimney at Sandycroft

RESOLVED – that the Clerk should contact Pollution Control to request details of the health risks that possible arise from the smoke and gases emitted from the tall industrial chimney at Sandycroft.

14/231 LIGHTING MATTERS

a) Street Lighting Report

All lights 138 columns / 140 lights were working apart from Columns

- 129 at Cedar Close – the power connection is being investigated.
- 105 at Sandy Lane – new column still needs to be connected to the mains supply
- 56 at Manor Road

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Electrical Inspection –Street Columns

The Clerk advised that he has been informed Darell Jones that all lights have now been electrically tested and a report outlining work that is required to be undertaken including costs will be issued to Council shortly. All lights are required to be electrically tested every five years.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Lighting Improvements – 2015/16

The Clerk reminded Council that at the Annual Finance meeting held on 19th January 2015 Council agreed to proceed in the 2015/16 financial year with Phase 1 - Columns 40 / 41 / 42 / 38 / 54 (Greens) Sealand Manor cost £7,000 plus commuted sum of £4,725 Total £11,725) and Phase 2 to include replacement of 119 and 120 at Dee Road, Garden City.

The Clerk advised that he has asked Darell Jones at the County Council to proceed with phase 1 and to start as soon as possible after 1st April 2015 and to provide the costs for phase 2. Three lights have already been installed at Sealand Manor.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

d) Change of Street Lighting at High Grove Estate

The Clerk reported that the lighting works have been completed and that Council Columns 31 and 32 will shortly be removed. That leaves Columns 33 and 34 both located on the unadopted link to Station Cottages.

The Clerk had visited the site and a resident at Station Cottages and requested that light 32 should be retained or failing that light 32 should only be removed provided it doesn't impact on the lighting of 33 and 34.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

14/232 SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1971
PAYMENT OF GRANTS

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 1964 and £6.50 per head produces an upper limit of £12,766

Allocation for the 2014/15 financial year is £3000 awarded to date £1,697.96 and had allocated £2,000 for the 2015/16 financial year. The previous stipulation on certain payment dates has been removed.

At the previous meeting Council referred to the grant request received from Sue Willder from Flintshire Disability Forum (FDF). A financial statement has been requested but so far not received.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

14/233 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised on the planning applications that had been received electronically from Flintshire County Council since the meeting of Council held on 19th January 2015.

053093- Application for removal or variation of condition no.1 of planning permission 050283 to renew the implementation date for a combined heat and power plant at Shotton Works, Weighbridge Road, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2NH

053148 - Application for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission. (052360) at Units 105-106, Tenth Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2UA

RESOLVED:-that all planning applications be noted and no objections raised.

14/234 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING PERMISSIONS

The Clerk advised that the Head of Planning had advised that the following planning

None to report

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

14/235 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:- that the under mentioned accounts be approved for payment.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code
002865	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Repairs, Maintenance and Energy – Nov 2014	£584.13		
002866	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Repairs, Maintenance and Energy – Dec 2014	£584.13		
002867	JOLORA	Web site Maintenance	£225.33		
002868	Flintshire County Council	Matched Funding cost new play equipment at the Kingsley Road Play Area	£5,000.00		
002869	P. Richmond	Salary – February 2015	£557.93		
002870	HM Revenues and Customs Only	Income Tax – PR – February 2015	£189.60		

002871	One Voice Wales	Annual Subscription	£360.00		
002872	Thomas Fattorini	New Chain of Office	£3,365.88	£560.98	343412878
002873	Heswall Computers	3 Boxes of A4 paper	£70.00	£10.00	539439706
Total Spend			£10,937.00	£570.98	

14/236 INCOME

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	£2.04
Total		<u>£2.04</u>

RESOLVED - that the income be received.

14/237 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the following correspondence –

Email from Janet Roberts - Flintshire County Council Summer Play Scheme Programme, 2015 - Start date: Monday 20th July, 2015

Flintshire County Council has now received confirmation of the level of grant funding available from Families First to fund the summer playscheme programme for this year. As in 2014, our aim is to make best use of all available resources. The summer play scheme programme, in partnership with local town and community councils, is highly valued by children, families and communities.

The Flintshire Families First grant enables us to offer match funding for schemes of three weeks duration in each town and community council area, at a cost to your Council of £900.00 per location. Should your Council wish to increase the level of provision above three weeks to four or five this will be available at a cost of £260.00 per week per location.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your Council's participation and potential locations (Match funding permitting), by Friday 27th March 2015. We plan to begin the recruitment process, week commencing 1st February, 2015; with short-listed candidates invited to interview during the Easter break, from 30th March to 10th April, 2015.

In preparation for the potential loss of the Families First grant, planning for summer Playschemes 2016 needs to commence. It is important to provide early notice of this to our partners, to enable us to plan and work together during 2015, to identify other 'ways' to maintain summer play provision for children and young people across the county. The Play Development Team will begin this process and explore a number of options, in partnership, as indicated below, to assist local communities to continue to deliver summer play schemes, for 2016.

- To organise a 'working group' of local town and community councils representatives to meet to discuss the 'way forward' from 2016

- To explore local town and community councils ‘commissioning’ the Play Development team. to deliver summer Playschemes, building on the existing partnership arrangements
- To recruit local community members and volunteers to deliver Summer Playscheme in 2015. This will ensure that the necessary skills and knowledge are available within local communities, to deliver playschemes in 2016
- To engage with 3rd sector and volunteer organisations to support or deliver community based play provision for 2015 and beyond

The cost to Sealand council for two schemes at Garden City and Sealand Manor are as follows

3 weeks x 2 locations - £900 x 2 = £1,800 - Plus two additional weeks at each location 4 x £260 = £1,040 - Total for 5 weeks Monday -Friday - £2,840

The Clerk reminded Council that at the Annual Finance Meeting held on 19th January 2015 it agreed to continue to fund the full 5 weeks and had allocated £3,000 for this. As the funds had been authorised by Council the Clerk had confirmed Council’s agreement on 29th January 2015.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk’s action be endorsed.

Email - Janet Kelly – Flintshire County Council, Competition Co-Ordinator

I just wanted to make you aware of the Timetable for this year's Competition especially the Information Evening being held on the 18th of February.

Information Evening - 18th February 2015 at 6.00 pm in the Alyn & Deeside Room, County Hall, Mold. This is a very informal evening hosted by the Judges. There will be a slide show of pictures from last year's competition and the Judges will give feedback and answer questions. You are invited to come along or send a representative from your Council or residents / community group. I would appreciate it if you would let me know if you will be attending.

Deadline for entries : Friday 29th May 2015

Judging : Week commencing 6th July 2015

Presentation Evening : Friday 11th September 2015

RESOLVED – that details of the competitions be added to the News Section on the Council’s Web Site together with the Council’s notice boards.

Email - Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People

The long awaited White Paper on the reform of local government in Wales entitled ‘Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People’ has been published by the Welsh

Government and is open for consultation until the end of April 2015 – the Clerk advised that the summary had been emailed to members of Council.

Whilst much relates to Principal Authorities and Area Boards, there is a very important section on Community Councils as per the extract at the foot of this e-mail. The government have also published some interesting headline facts relating to the sector, again copied below.

The good news is that the government clearly wants to see Community Councils being more ambitious, working in partnership, to see themselves as being part of public services in Wales and to be more actively involved in work supporting vulnerable groups. Therefore a larger and more significant role for the sector is envisaged.

However, they believe that this can only be done if there are fewer, larger Community Councils, and that smaller Councils should look at joining together to form larger Councils covering wider areas. They want to Local Authorities to review the role, structure and governance of Community Councils in their area with a view to reducing the overall number, with a target date for completion of 2022.

They have also raised the proposal that Community Councils should have to pass a set of competency tests on democracy, capability, capacity and governance; those that pass the tests will have extra rights and responsibilities whereas those that don't should look to join with other Community Councils. The proposed tests have parallels with the General Power of Competence tests currently in place in England, but with some significant differences such as a proposed minimum annual budget of £200k. (which seems rather high, as less than 10% are currently above this level). Importantly, a 'competent' Community Council would not be subject to the section 137 limits of the LGA 1972 and would not necessarily be subject to any capping of the precept.

Significantly for Clerks and the Society, one of the tests might include a capability test which proposes that the Community Council must employ a clerk with relevant professional qualifications. Relevant qualifications might include Certificate in Local Council Administration; Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy; Certificate of Higher Education in Local Council Administration; the first level of the foundation degree in Community Engagement and Governance awarded by the University of Gloucestershire; or qualifying professional status such as a lawyer or accountant. This could significantly boost the low take-up of CiLCA in Wales.

The Society will be studying the full document in detail over the coming weeks, discussing with One Voice Wales, and preparing the Society response to the White Paper. All members in Wales are encouraged to ensure their Councils respond directly to the consultation, and also to make the Society aware of your views to assist in preparing our response as the professional body for the Town and Community Council sector. Mark Galbraith at Llanelli Rural will be leading the project to co-ordinate the Society response, and we will aim to set up a briefing meeting for clerks in Wales attended by Welsh Government officials.

There is much that is positive in the White Paper for the sector overall, although I appreciate that many of our members in smaller Councils will have some concerns. It is encouraging to note that many topics the sector bodies have been discussing and lobbying for with the Welsh Government have been included in the proposals. This is a real opportunity to contribute to

shaping the future of the sector in Wales, to ensure that Community Councils play a greater part in the future of local government and for our members to play a greater role in serving local communities.

RESOLVED – that the matter of the Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People be an agenda item for the next meeting.

14/238 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

The Clerk outlined expenditure and income for the 2014/15 financial year up to cheque 002873

2014/15

Financial Year

Income

	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
General Admin Inc. Precept / Payment from Welsh Audit office of £30	£53,030.00	£53,000.00	£30.00
Bank Interest	£18.07	£20.00	-£1.93
Insurance Claims / Refunds	£2,377.59	£0.00	£2,377.59
VAT Refund	£646.11	£750.00	-£103.89
Milk Claims	£282.52	£600.00	-£317.48
Total	£56,354.29	£54,370.00	£1,984.29

Expenditure

	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Play Areas	£7,796.40	£9,200.00	£1,403.60
Staffing Costs	£7,225.35	£7,637.00	£411.65
General Admin Costs	£8,420.75	£5,760.00	-£1,466.94
S137 Grants	£1,697.96	£3,000.00	£1,302.04
CCTV	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£23,134.42	£25,100.00	£1,965.58
Notice Boards	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Insurances	£2,356.02	£2,500.00	£143.98
Milk	£2,162.14	£3,800.00	£1,637.86
Total	£52,793.04	£58,247.00	£5,453.96

Current Summary

Balance as at 31 March 2014	£40,623.37
Total Expenditure	£52,793.04
Total Income	£56,354.29
Balance	£3,561.25
Overall balance as at 9 th February 2015	£44,184.62
VAT Costs for 2014/15 financial year	£904.08

End of Year Prediction

Balance as at 31 March 2014	£40,623.37
Total Anticipated Expenditure	£58,247.00
Total Anticipated Income	£54,370.00
Anticipated Balance for the year	-£3,877.00
Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31 March 2015	£36,746.37

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

14/239 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

At the previous meeting Council agreed Council to express an interest concerning the four play areas in Sealand and for Ian Bancroft to be advised accordingly.

Sealand Assets

Sealand Youth Centre

Four play Areas – Kingsley Road; Riverside Park; Sealand Manor and Welsh Road

Two playing fields – Welsh Road and Sealand Manor

The Clerk advised that the Council had now received a questionnaire to complete which requires the Council to have some knowledge of the running costs of the play areas and work involved. Also the questionnaire seems to be aimed at it being completed by either a Charity or a Community Interested Company (CIC) rather than a Community Council. The Clerk mentioned that Community Asset Transfers are being discussed at the Area Forum that he will be attending on 26th February 2015.

It was noted that the Kingsley Road Play Area is held on a lease by Flintshire County Council

Note - the Clerk has a recollection that the Welsh Road Play Area and the Welsh Road Playing Field may also be held on a lease.

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

14/240 CLERK'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

At the Annual Finance Meeting held on 19th January 2015 it was agreed that the Clerk's hours be increased from 10 to 12 with effect from 1st April 2015 and for his contract to be amended and resigned at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – that two copies of the amended contract dated 9th February 2015 be signed by the Chairman and Clerk

Note - Councillor Norman Jones left the meeting at 7.20pm and Councillor Daid Wisinger took the Chair.

14/241 SCHOOL MILK CLAIM – SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2014

The Clerk advised that he had submitted the Council's milk claim to Flintshire County Council for the period September to December 2014.

Month	Days	Pupils	Cartons	Cost
September	21	70	1470	£292.53
October	17	14x70	1160	£230.84

3x60

November	20	70	1400	£278.60
December	15	70	1050	£208.95

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

14/242 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- Need for street nameplates for Station Cottages at the entrance to their unadopted access. Will be considered when the roads at then is location are finally adopted.
- Noises starting at 5pm coming from the Deeside Industrial Park
- Need to lock the double gates onto the Welsh Road Recreation Field

14/243 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Stuart Banks has been using chicken manure again on his fields in Sealand

14/244 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 16th MARCH 2015

RESOLVED – that the meetings of Council for the period to July 2015 be held on the following Mondays –

20th April 2015; 18th May 2015 – Annual General Meeting; 15th June 2015 and 20th July 2015

14/245 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No issues were declared

The meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 7.45pm

.....
Signed 16th March 2015 – Chairman of Council