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**SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012 AT THE SEALAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

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

Peter Richmond - the Clerk and Financial Officer.

Three members of the public were in attendance.

**11/212            APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from – Councillor Miss. H.Jones

**11/213            CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION**

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

**11/214            MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

No matters were raised.

**11/215            CHAIR'S ACTION SINCE 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

The Chair advised that she attended the recent Sealand area walkabout.

**11/216            MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**11/217            COUNCIL'S CHAIN / BADGE OF OFFICE**

At the July 2011 Council agreed that the quotation submitted W.H. Darby Ltd to manufacture and sew a velvet collar onto a single row chain of office for £165.00 be accepted. Council also agrees to accept the W.H. Darby courier service, which carry the correct insurance, to collect and deliver the chain of office. The price for this is £35 collection and £10.50 for delivery. The Chair advised that the Chain of Office is now with W.H. Darby Ltd.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

## **11/218     POLICE ISSUES**

The Clerk advised that he had sent the agenda and papers to the Police together with reminders about the meeting but hadn't received any notification that the Police would or would not be attending the meeting.

The Chair and the County Councillor reminded Council that they both attended the Deeside Police / Councillors meeting for the Chair and County Councillor on Wednesday 14 December 2011 at the Deeside Police Station. The next meeting will be held in March 2012. The Chair also advised that the previous Police meeting for Sealand Manor was held at the Community Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7pm.

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting as resolved he had sent a letter to the Chief Constable of North Wales Police advising that until recently the police have attended the majority of Council meetings which has benefited both Council and North Wales Police. Council asks if the attendance can be resumed. The letter has been acknowledged.

The Clerk also referred to communications received from North Wales Police that had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

### **Police Surgeries – Sealand**

RESOLVED - that the matter be deferred.

- a)     **Problem with youths – mainly from outside Sealand : 7pm to 10pm:  
various locations: Garden City.**

RESOLVED - that the matter be deferred

- c)     **Matters raised previously by members of Council**

RESOLVED - that the matters outlined below be referred to North Wales (the responses received from PCSO Gareth Price 2944 are also included)

- Motorised scooter: Police will patrol – Police require information on the drivers of the scooters.
- Fly tipping: Police will request that the area be cleaned up.
- Drugs: Police require more information in regards to who and where.

- Kids on scooters: PCSO 2944 stopped a few youths last week in regards to this, this will be kept under review.
- Parking congestion outside Sealand Primary School: Police will provide extra patrols and speak with parents.

**d) Sealand Primary School**

The Headteacher advised that she would raise issues with her children about the problems associated with mixing with older children – playing in the street and drugs. The Headteacher stressed the importance in children seeing a Police presence at the school

RESOLVED - that the matter be deferred

**11/219 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

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

The County Councillor referred back to the recent site meeting and advised that the County Council are preparing details of how car parking can be improved together with costings and a possible date when the work will be undertaken.

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

**b) Old Marsh Farm Road – Street Name Signs**

The County Councillor advised that she has been informed by Joe Williams from Flintshire County Council that the proposed naming of the road has been agreed and the confirmation of the road name will now be sent to all occupiers on the 'new' road. Gwyn Parry (Signage Engineer) will need to order the signs

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

**c) Improvement to Road Surface – Riverside Park, Farm Road, Sandy Lane and Brookside.**

The County Councillor advised the projects are on the County Council priority list – Riverside Park is programmed for May 2012 and the remaining areas will be actioned when funds become available.

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

**d) Car Park – Welsh Road – Need for a Stopping up Order.**

RESOLVED - that the matter be deferred.

**e) Speeding Traffic – West Green, Sealand Manor**

The County Councillor reminded Council that West Green will be assessed for traffic calming in accordance with the traffic calming as approved in November 2010. The County Council is currently receiving many requests and this road can then be compared with other requests to determine which are the most applicable for calming.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**f) Public Footpaths and Cycle ways**

**Missing footpath direction signs – North Wales Shooting School.**

The County Councillor advised that Rights of Way Inspector who is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance in this particular area will shortly be installing replacements signs.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**Cycleway linking Riverbank to Foxes Lane / Sealand Road – Need for improved signage warning cyclists and motorists of the cycleway junction with Foxes Lane.**

The Clerk advised that he has informed Sustrans that Council has asked that warning signs need to be installed on both the highway and cycleway warning of the cycle way's junction with Foxes Lane. Glyn Evans of Sustrans has advised that he will investigate the Council's request. Work is still outstanding.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**Need to clarify re-routing of public footpath / right of way in the area of the closed steel works offices**

The Clerk advised he had sent to the map detailing the existing footpath route and Council's preferred alternative route to TATA Steel Corus. Tata responded that Pochin owns the area of land in question. A letter and the map was sent to Pochin for their consideration who have advised that their Estates Manager will contact Councillor Norman Jones to arrange to meet on site.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**h) Green Lane Estate – Need Dog Bin.**

At the December 2011 meeting Councillor Alex Lewis provided the Clerk with a location map detailing the proposed location for the new dog bin. The Clerk then forwarded the map and the request for the additional dog bin to Hilary Williams at the County Council

RESOLVED – that the Clerk should send a further reminder to Hilary Williams at the County Council.

**i) Land Ownership Enquiry – Fencing along the link footpath at West Green at Sealand Manor**

The Clerk reminded Council that at the previous meeting he advised that Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services has advised that a further inspection of the fencing has been made and is now deemed to be the responsibility of the County Council. The maintenance inspector is currently looking into its repairs and hopefully the fence will be rectified as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk should check to see whether the fence has been repaired.

**j) Walkabout by the County Councillor**

The County Councillor advised that she will be undertaking every two months walkabouts at both Sealand Manor and Garden City with various officers from the County Council to cover issues such as housing repairs – tree cutting – highway and footway maintenance etc. Dates to be given out in due course.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**k) Sealand “Design a Sign” Project**

The Clerk advised that the invoice had been received from Graphikos Design Consultants Ltd for £405.12 plus VAT of £81.02. Total for payment being £486.14

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**l) Kingsley Road Play Area - Need for a replacement Dog Bin.**

RESOLVED – that the Clerk should advise Hilary Williams at the County Council that a replacement dog bin is required at the Kingsley Road Play Area.

**11/220 LIGHTING MATTERS**

**a) Street Lighting Report**

The Clerk reported that his most recent lighting inspection of the Council's 149 lights took place on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 all lights were working.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**b) Proposed Lighting Projects – 2012/13**

Costings have been provided by the County Council's Street Lighting Manager -

Installation and upgrade (including transfer of service)

North Green - Cols x 4 £6,630

North Green – Additional Col - £2,500

Bridge View – Cols x 5 £8,200

Brookside – Cols x 3 £4,935

Kingsley Road – Cols x 2 £3,290

The Clerk reminded Council that a review of street lighting policies is now in progress under the direction of the Members. This Council will be advised of the outcome of this review, which should be concluded by March 2012.

The Clerk reminded Council that at the Annual Finance Meeting it allocated the following for the 2012/13 Financial Year –

Energy	£6,500
Repairs and Maintenance	£6,000
New / Replacement Columns	£10,000

RESOLVED - that

- i) the Clerk's report be noted.
- ii) in principle Council will undertake the following lighting improvements in the 2012/13 financial year -

North Green – Additional Col - £2,500

Bridge View – Cols x 5 £8,200

Kingsley Road – Cols x 2 £3,290

- iii) the County Council's Street Lighting Manager be asked to verify the above costs.

**c) Increase cost in Energy – Scottish Power from 1 May 2011**

The Clerk advised that he has submitted details of the Council's lighting energy requirements to [customeracquisition@buyingsolutions.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customeracquisition@buyingsolutions.gsi.gov.uk). The Clerk advised

that the Council would not be provided with details of charges until it actual submitted a formal contract to proceed. The Clerk considered this to be unwise especially as the situation is being reviewed by the County Council as part of their review of Town and Community Council Street Lighting Arrangements

The Clerk advised that he had responded to the Head of Streetscene advising that - "Sealand Community Council changed over to Flintshire County Council for its contracted lighting support about three years ago. I have to admit that the service has been excellent and a service my Council would thoroughly recommend to other Town and Community Councils in Flintshire. Council in liaison with your Street Lighting Manager decided to invest in improving its street lighting by replacing facilities and having them adopted by the County Council. This has reduced Council's lighting stock from 170 to 149. This has also brought about savings on maintenance, insurance and energy costs.

Historically, since Local Government Reorganisation in 1974 when Clwyd County Council and Alyn and Deeside District Council were formed the Council has always had a major complaint with regard to street lighting responsibilities. Former Urban District Councils i.e. Mold, Buckley, Flint, Connah's Quay etc. had all their lighting responsibilities taken over by the County Council whereas the former Rural District Councils and Parish Councils had their lighting responsibilities transferred to the new Community Councils. So Sealand Community Council has had to fund its lighting and the former Urban District Councils do not. This means that Council Taxpayers in Sealand and other Community Council areas pay for their lighting and through the County Councils' Council Tax also pay for the lighting that was transferred to the County Council from the former Urban District Councils of Mold, Buckley, Flint, and Connah's Quay etc. Referred to in the past as double rating. For a Community Council like Sealand this means that it operates at a significant disadvantage to say Mold Town Council etc. in having to use over 35% of its precept to fund its street lighting and at present has to find the funds to bring its lighting up to adoptable standards.

This is now further compounded when earlier in the year Council received a letter from Scottish Power advising that it has come to their attention that Council is still billed at 1999 prices. The current price as from 1 August 2008 for unmetered supplies is a standing charge of 12 pence a day and 12 pence per kWh. This meant that Council was faced with a doubling of its energy costs without any prior warning.

At meetings of Council it resolved that the Street Scene Manager should consider the Council's request for its lighting stock to be added to the County Councils' and for the County Council to recharge Council accordingly. This would mean that the public cost in Sealand would be reduced. Unfortunately this request was declined. Council understands that at least 2 Welsh County Councils have agreed to this process.

Council urges that the Streetlighting Task and Finish Group should agree that -

1. FCC should procure energy on behalf of the Town and Community Councils and to recharge costs back accordingly – thus reduce costs across Flintshire – a big winner and should be publicised.
2. FCC should adopt all Town and Community Councils lighting and remove at last the unfairness introduced in 1974.

In the unfortunate event that FCC cannot adopt lighting which is not up to adoption standards -

3. Then FCC to be given a budget from the Town and Community Councils to maintain all lighting or take over the lighting as they are brought up to standard by the Town and Community Councils. This will mean that Town and Community Councils lighting will be maintained to the high standards of the County Council rather than services current being experienced by Town and Community Councils.
4. Then FCC to manage Town and Community Councils lighting stock / inventory to ensure compliance to various regulations

It is very clear that FCC Street lighting are the experts within this field and should be utilised to this effect - Town and Community Councils clearly are not

RESOLVED - that the Clerk's report be noted.

## **11/221 FLOOD RISK - HIGHWAYS**

### **a) A550 Drainage Scheme**

At the previous meeting the Clerk advised that Neil Parry's had informed him that with regards to the other drainage issues that have been discussed previously the County Council are still awaiting the downpour to test the drainage in the area of the A550.

Neil had asked that if any Councillors wish to discuss the issue of flooding at this location they can contact Neil on 01352 704723.

RESOLVED - that the Clerk's report be noted.

### **b) Foxes Lane Underpass**

It was reported that there are large areas of damp on one of the sidewalls of the underpass and that the drainage grids have been repaired as requested by Council.



RESOLVED - that the County Councillor should action the reports that there are large areas of damp on one of the sidewalls of the underpass.

**11/222            SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1971**  
**PAYMENT OF GRANTS**

**a)            Summary of Grant Payments – 2011/12 Financial Year**

The Clerk reminded Council that the calculation of the Free Resource Base is based on the local population taken from the current electoral role of 2114 and £6.15 per head produces an upper limit of £13,001.10.

For the 2011/12 financial year – as at prior to the meeting £3,375.00 have been authorised for payment or authorisation is sought.

Allocation for the 2011/12 financial year is £3,500.00

The Clerk reminded Council that at the recent Annual Finance Meeting it resolved that grant payments for the 2012/13 financial year be restricted to a maximum of £150.00 apart from Sealand Primary School who should receive £1000.00 and the Sealand Manor Community Group who should receive £1200 towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Community Centre. The Free Resources Fund should be £4000.00 and that for the 2012/13 financial year grants will be considered for payment at the May 2012, November 2012 and February 2013 meetings of Council.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**11/223            PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Clerk advised that the following planning applications had been received electronically from Flintshire County Council since the meeting of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

049189 Retention of a freestanding Automated Teller Machine with bollard at Spar Stores, 35 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2HU

049226 Outline erection of 3 no. town houses at 6 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2RA – THIS APPLICATION WAS WITHDRAWN – NOTIFIED TO COUNCIL ON 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012.

049320 Outline application for the redevelopment of a strategic brownfield site for an employment led mixed use development with new accesses and associated infrastructure including flood defences and landscaping.  
at RAF Sealand South Camp, Welsh Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2RD

049410 Demolition of existing double garage and erection of a single storey extension incorporating kitchen, utility and detached single garage at 31 Maplewood Avenue, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2JL

049427 Erection of single storey front and rear extensions and loft conversion at 3 Old Farm Cottages, Deeside Lane, Sealand, Chester, CH1 6BB

RESOLVED - that the planning application as reported by the Clerk - 049189, 049320, 049410 and 049427 be supported and for the Council to submit its response to [planning.consultation@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning.consultation@flintshire.gov.uk).

#### **11/224            NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING PERMISSIONS**

The Clerk advised that the Head of Planning had submitted details of planning decisions since 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 meeting of Council.

The following planning application had been approved:

- 049165– Change of use to allow development of small scale waste transfer operation in connection with the existing skip hire business including the erection of a building for storage of recyclates and mixed waste and provision of open air storage for skips and inert material at CT Skips – Hire Lane at Drome Corner, Deeside Industrial Estate.
- 049189 Retention of a freestanding Automated Teller Machine with bollard at Spar Stores, 35 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2HU
- 049266 Erection of single story extension to side at Dailycer Ltd, Fourth Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park.

The following application has been withdrawn-

- 049226 Outline erection of 3 no. town houses at 6 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2RA

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

#### **11/225            ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payable to</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Vat Code</b>
002606	Communi Group	Annual Subscription	£100.00		
002607	Graphikos Design Consultants Ltd	Doggy Signs	£486.14	£81.02	840414850
002608	Hayes Dairy Ltd	School Milk – January 2012	£340.20		
002609	Flintshire County Council	Street Lighting Maintenance	£725.75		
002610	P.Richmond	Salary – February 2012	£548.04		
002611	HMRC	Income Tax – PR – February 2012	£187.90		
002612	Scottish Power	Lighting Energy –30 November 2011 to 31 December 2011	£530.78	£88.46	659372008
002613	Cartridge World	Printer Cartridges for Council Xerox Printer	£275.94	£45.96	943836202
002614	Scottish Power	Lighting Energy – 31 December 2011 to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	£529.28	£88.21	659372008
<b>Total Spend</b>			<b>£3724.03</b>	<b>£303.65</b>	

#### **11/226            INCOME**

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank TSB	Interest	£1.50
		£1.82
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3.32</b>

RESOLVED - that the income be received.

#### **11/227            NOTICE BOARDS**

The Clerk advised that he awaits the invoice from Flintshire County Council for the work involved in moving the notice board from Sealand Avenue to Ferry Lane.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

## **11/228 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk detailed correspondence received since the previous meeting of Council -

- Project Director – Richard Lovelace - Flintshire County Council – Consultation on the proposal to transfer the Council’s Housing Stock.
- Clerk and Financial Officer, Connah’s Quay Town Council – Proposed North Wales Waste Treatment Plant
- Eye 2 Eye – have responded to the Council’s letter that advised that the grant request are considered by Council at its May and November meeting – the request will be considered at its May 2012 meeting. Eye 2 Eye have asked Council to reconsider and award a grant
- Flintshire County Council – Electoral Officer – Election packs for the impending May 2012 Community Council elections.
- Communities and Local Government- Proposed Revocation of Retirement Gratuities in the Local Government(Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/1680)

RESOLVED - all to note.

## **11/229 BT PROPOSALS TO REMOVE PUBLIC PAYPHONES**

The Clerk reminded Council that at the previous meeting he advised that BT has informed him that Mark Harris’ email (FCC) has been accepted by the BT planning team as the removal of the veto, which was preventing the removal of this box. The matter has been referred to the BT commercial team to see if they will be able to finance the removal of this box in the forthcoming months.

RESOLVED - that the Clerk’s report be noted

## **11/230 FLOOD AWARENESS WALES – HELPING COMMUNITIES PLAN AND BETTER PREPARED FOR FLOODING**

The Clerk advised that he is still awaiting her initial work on the Sealand Community Flood Plan

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

## **11/231 MILK CLAIMS**

The Clerk advised that he had recently submitted the Council’s milk claim for the Autumn Term 2011 to Flintshire County Council

The Clerk also advised that he had reminded the County Council that Council still awaits payment of both the claims for the Spring and Summer Term 2011.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**11/232      SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY ACCOUNTS**  
**2011/12 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk outlined overall expenditure and income for the 2011/12 financial year up to cheque number 002612

2 0 1 1 / 1 2 Financial Year		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
<b>Income</b>	General Admin inc Precept/	£50,100.00	£50,000.00	+£100
	Bank Interest	£16.23	£20.00	-£3.77
	Insurance Claims / Refunds	£0.00	£0.00	-
	VAT Refund	£1,119.96	£2,000.00	-£880.34
	Milk Claims	£244.50	£750.00	-£505.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£51,480.69</b>	<b>£52,770.00</b>	<b>-£1,289.31</b>
		Actual	Anticipated	Difference
<b>Expenditure</b>	Play Areas	£1525.54	£4,026.00	+£2,500.46
	General Administration inc Doggy Signs	£4,606.13	£4,250.00	-£356.13
	Staffing Costs	£6,725.40	£7,337.00	+£611.60
	S137 Grants	£3,375.00	£3,500.00	+£125.00
	Lighting	£24,488.88	£26,500.00	+£2,011.12
	Milk	£2,932.18	£4,200.00	+£1,267.82
	Insurances	£5,019.77	£4,500.00	-£519.77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£48,672.90</b>	<b>£55,563.00</b>	<b>+£6,890.10</b>
<b>C u r r e n t Summary</b>	Balance as at 31 March 2011	<b>£43,474.10</b>		
	Total Expenditure	<b>£48,672.90</b>		
	Total Income	<b>£51,480.39</b>		
	Balance	<b>+£2,807.79</b>		
	<b>Overall balance as at 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 including cheques authorised for payment.</b>	<b>£46,281.89</b>		
	<b>VAT Costs for 2011/12</b>	<b>£1,149.39</b>		

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

<b>End of Year Prediction</b>	Balance as at 31 March 2011	<b>£43,474.10</b>
	Total Anticipated Expenditure	£55,563.00
	Total Anticipated Income	£52,770.00
	Anticipated Balance for the year	-£2,793.00
	<b>Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31 March 2012</b>	<b>£40,681.10</b>

**11/233 SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk detailed the Council summary income and expenditure as reported to and agreed at the January Annual Finance Meeting

Income

Details	Amount
General Admin inc Precept/	<b>£53,000.00</b>
Bank Interest	<b>£20.00</b>
Insurance Claims / Refunds	<b>£0.00</b>
VAT Refund	<b>£1,200.00</b>
Milk Claims	<b>£750.00</b>
Total	<b>£54,770.00</b>

Expenditure

Details	Amount
Play Areas	<b>£6,570.00</b>
General Administration	<b>£4,420.00</b>
Staffing Costs	<b>£7,437.00</b>
S137 Grants	<b>£4,000.00</b>
Lighting	<b>£23,500.00</b>
Milk	<b>£3,750</b>

CCTV	<b>£4,000.00</b>
Election Costs	<b>£3,000.00</b>
Repairs Notice Boards	<b>£250.00</b>
Insurances	<b>£5,100.00</b>
Total	<b>£62,027.00</b>

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**11/234 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

- Letter to be sent to the Clwyd & Alyn Housing Association expressing thanks for improvements to the play area – reseeding and bulbs
- Impending elections
- Concern about the height of the hedge at 80 Farm Road.
- Problems caused by parents parking cars outside Sealand Primary School – causing congestion at corner of Farm Road and Bridge View.
- Clarification on grant applications to the Trustees of the former Sealand Parish Rooms

**11/235 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC**

- Clarification on grant applications to the Trustees of the former Sealand Parish Rooms

**11/236 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012.**

The meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed ..... Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012

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