

**SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT THE SEALAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

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

Peter Richmond - the Clerk and Financial Officer.  
Also in attendance – three members of the public.

**15/194      APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors John Griffiths, Wayne Morris and Mrs. Shelley Webber.

RESOLVED – that apologies be received and accepted

**15/195      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.

**15/196      MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

No matters were raised.

**15/197      CHAIR’S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

The Chairman advised he had agreed that no objections be raised in respect of the following planning applications -

051208 - Change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation with associated hard standing, fencing and 2no. shared utility blocks and septic tank (retrospective) at Bridge Yard Dundas Sidings, Factory Road, Sandycroft, Deeside, Flintshire.

054604 - Cable Route to Support Planning Permission: 051772 at Deeside Solar Park - Land North of Weighbridge Road (A548), Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire at Land lying north of Weighbridge Road (A548), Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2NN.

The Clerk advised that members of Council had been consulted by email regarding the above and no objections had been received.

The Clerk advised that the allocated Chairman’s Fund payments so far in the 2015/16 financial year are -

- £120 - Cost of refreshments – Remembrance Sunday Service.

- £120 - Cost of refreshments – Christmas Carol Service.
- £50 - Waverton Handbells - Christmas Carol Service.
- £150 – St. Bartholomew’s Church

Total - £440

RESOLVED – that the –

- i) report be noted.
- ii) Chairman’s actions be endorsed.

**15/198      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**15/199      COUNCIL’S CHAIN / BADGE OF OFFICE**

The Chairman said that he will enquire about having the chain engraved locally

Councillor John Dodd said he will bring the Council’s original chain of office to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**15/200      POLICE ISSUES**

The Chairman welcomed Martin Price to the meeting.

- 1 – Patrols have been continuing in the area.
- 2 – A complaint has been received re males getting off a private bus and causing a nuisance. Enquiries are still on-going.
- 3 – Consideration requested for funding towards opening the Youth club during the summer holidays as it is currently closed for the 6/7 week period. This would provide a venue for the youths to attend and hopefully reduce Anti-Social Behaviour incidents.
- 4 – Community Speed Watch – request for Councillors to get involved.
- 5- Concern about the fact some vehicles using the corner café are parking on Foxes Lane and preventing the bus from getting thorough to Sealand Manor. Police will investigate.
- 6 – Van has parked for weeks at the rear of 31 Welsh Road. Police will investigate.

RESOLVED – that the –

- i) report be noted.

- ii) Council agrees in principle to assisting with the cost of supporting a summer holidays youth club in 2016 and that Martin should send proposals and costings to Council for their consideration.
- iii) members of council should consider getting involved with the Community Speed Watch and to advise the Clerk by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The Clerk to advise Martin Price.

Note - Councillors Gwyneth Bullock and Mike Walker have already volunteered.

**15/201                    FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

**a)     Litter Bins and Benches – Sealand Manor Recreation Field**

It was reported that the litter bins and benches will shortly be installed following completion of the redesign of the play area.

RESOLVED – that report be noted.

**b)     Additional Waiting Restrictions –Foxes Lane**

The County Councillor advised that reported the parking issue is being investigated by Ruth Cartwright at Flintshire County Council.

Concern was expressed in the meeting to PC Martin Price about the fact that a number of vehicles using the corner café are parking on Foxes Lane and preventing the bus from getting thorough to Sealand Manor. Police will investigate

RESOLVED – that the –

- i)     report be noted.
- ii)    Clerk should report the parking issue as a Hot Spot to the StreetScene Highways Enforcement Service

**c)     Welsh Road Recreation Field - Gate(s)**

It was reported that the gates on Welsh Road have been temporarily removed to enable work to take place on the field.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**d)     Ferry Lane Foot Bridge – Remedial Repairs / Vibration Noise Levels**

The Clerk advised that he still awaits an update from Wayne Jones – Flintshire County Council regarding works required to the bridge.

Wayne Jones has previously advised that he will chase the correspondence between the County Council and the supplier of the bridges’ metal tubing.

RESOLVED – that -

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Wayne Jones be asked to provide a progress report.

**e) Sealand Manor - West Green Ditch**

Wayne Jones has previously advised that the landowner – Jones The Balers are responsible for maintaining this drainage ditch and they will be advised of their responsibilities to maintain it. The work has not been done.

RESOLVED – that -

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Wayne Jones be asked to provide a progress report.

**f) Bridleway - Green Lane East and West – Pot Holes**

Wayne Jones has previously advised that he will contact Steve Bartley to arrange for the full section of the unadopted Green Lane East to be inspected and for the pot holes to be filled. The pot holes have still not been filled.

It was also reported that the section of Green Lane West beyond the houses near to the underpass to Shotwick also requires pot holes to be filled.

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) Wayne Jones be asked to investigate.

**g) Sealand Road / Cottage Garage – Mud on the Road / New Access onto Sealand Road**

Complaints were raised about the amount of heavy agricultural traffic that is driving onto Sealand Road and leaving large amounts of heavy mud on the footway and highway along Sealand Road.

The County Councillor advised that the issue is being investigated both by the County Council and Natural Resource Wales. A site visit is being held in order to inspect the situation and to investigate the drainage problems.

Complaints should be telephoned to the NRW Hotline – 0800 807060. .

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**h) Sealand Road - Lights Off**

The County Councillor advised that the Council's Lighting Engineer is fully aware of the lights that are not working and that all affected lights have been marked with tape to identify

that they require attention.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**i) Garden City Drain – Bad Odours – Rear of the Hotel Leprechaun**

RESOLVED – that the issue be referred to Wayne Jones for investigation.

**j) Concern about Ditches – Seahill Road**

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mike Walker should telephone Neil Parry / Ruiria Barry from the County Council to arrange to meet on site.

**k) Blocked Grids – Seahill Road**

RESOLVED – that Wayne Jones be asked to investigate.

**l) Near to Sandy Lane Cut-de- sac – Blocked Grids**

RESOLVED - Wayne Jones be asked to investigate.

**m) Concern about Drainage – end of Old Sealand Road**

RESOLVED – that Councillor John Dodd should telephone Neil Parry / Ruiria Barry from the County Council to arrange to meet on site.

**n) Dog Bin Needs Empty – Kingsley Road Play Area**

RESOLVED - Wayne Jones be asked to investigate.

**o) Water Leaking from Walls – Foxes Lane Underpass**

RESOLVED - Wayne Jones be asked to investigate and to arrange for a site meeting to be convened.

**15/202      LIGHTING MATTERS**

**a) Street Lighting Report**

Of the 128 columns / 127 lights are working – 1 light isn't working – 91 at Sealand Avenue. This has again been reported to County Council.

The Clerk reminded Council that should they see a light that needs attention to phone / text or email the Clerk straightaway.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**b) Electrical Inspection / Structural Inspection of Street Lights**

The Clerk had asked Darell Jones to advise Council which 8 / 10 lights following structural inspections should be considered for replacement in 2016/17. Darell has advised that there are no specific lights that need to be replaced based on a structural issue.

RESOLVED – that –

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) at the next meeting Council should agree on which lights should be replaced in the 2016/17 financial year.

**c) Lighting Improvements – 2015/16**

Council has still not received an invoice from Flintshire County Council in respect of the replacement columns installed at Sealand Manor and column 105 at Sandy Lane. Council has previously been informed of the costs that will be invoiced. Darell Jones has been reminded again that then invoice is required urgently

Replacement columns 158 and 159 at Riverside Park have been installed and await the transfer from the old columns – total cost including adoption is £4,460. Darell Jones has been asked to invoice Council for work in this financial year.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**d) Change of Street Lighting at High Grove Estate – Columns 31 and 32**

At the July 2015 meeting Council agreed that Column 31 should be removed and that further consideration be given at the September 2015 meeting regarding the removal of column 32.

It was concluded that 32 should be retained and reviewed in six months.

The Clerk advised that he has been informed that Column 31 will shortly be removed.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**15/203            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 2015/16 financial year is £2000. £2,000 has been paid out.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

**Note – Councillor Barbara Hinds left the meeting at 6.45pm**

**15/204 a) 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

054695 - Outline application for the erection of 4no. dwellings at 88-92 Welsh Road, Garden City, CH5 2HX

054727 - Construction of Multi Use Games Area at Welsh Road Playing Fields, Welsh Road, Garden City, CH5 2HX

054753 - Change of use of land to residential curtilage and erection of fence at White House, Sealand Road, Sealand. Flintshire, CH1 6BR

054762 Creation of new access at Deeside Solar Park - land north Weighbridge Road, Sealand. Deeside. Flintshire

054767 - Extension to existing roof and alterations at 14 Welsh Road, Garden City, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2RA

RESOLVED: - that -

- i) no objections be raised in respect of 054727, 054753 and 054762.
- ii) objections be raised in respect of 054695 on the grounds that the proposed development site is situated within in the Sealand Flood Plain which precludes approval for new development and Council has concerns regarding the traffic hazards created with the close proximity of the proposed access / egress to the traffic roundabout.
- iii) objections be raised in respect of 054767 on the grounds that the proposed extension and alterations are not in keeping with the general area of Garden City and will create a nuisance for neighbours and possible loss of privacy.

**b) NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING PERMISSIONS**

The Clerk advised that the Head of Planning had advised that the following planning have been considered -

054305 - Application for variation of condition nos. 13 and 14 following grant of planning permission 051772 relating to site access at Deeside Solar Park - land north Weighbridge Road, Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire. Decision Type: **Approved**. Decision Date: 11 December 2015. Determination Level: Delegated-Officer

054444 - Application for variation of condition No. 1 following grant of planning permission. (048143) to allow further period of time for commencement of works at Green Lane Farm, Green Lane, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LH. Decision Type: **Approved**. Decision Date: 11 December 2015. Determination Level: Delegated-Officer.

054560 - Erection of steel portal framed building at City Furniture Marcher Court, Sealand Road, Sealand, Chester. Flintshire, CH1 6BS. Decision Type: **Refused**. Decision Date: 23 December 2015. • Determination Level: Delegated-Officer.

054593 - Variation of a condition no. 5 attached to planning permission ref: 054138 to allow external storage on site at land adj to Units 43 & 44 First Avenue, Sealand. CH5 2NT Decision Type: **Approved**.

054628- Erection of metal storage shed at Sealand Youth Centre, Sandy Lane, Garden City, Deeside, CH5 2JH. Decision Type: **Approved**. Decision Date: 11 January 2016. Determination Level: Delegated-Officer.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**15/205            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>
002940	Jolora	Web Site Maintenance October to December 2015	£90.00		
002941	P. Richmond	Salary – January 2016	£618.44		
002942	HM Revenues and Customs Only	Income Tax – PR – January 2016	£235.20		
002943	Communi Group	Annual Subscription	£100.00		
002944	P. Richmond	Refund - Envelopes	£43.08		
<b>Total Spend</b>			<b>£1830.86</b>		

**15/206            INCOME**

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	£1.63
Flintshire County Council	Final Precept payment	£19,000.00
Flintshire County Council	Milk Subsidy Claim April to July 2015	£139.60
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£19,141.23</u></b>

RESOLVED - that the income be received.



**15/207            COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

The Clerk advised that at the previous he reported that he had –

- i) requested and received from John Gray - FLVC the required forms for Council to proceed to Stage 2
- ii) requested Ian Bancroft – Flintshire County Council to provide Council with the required details and costings so that Council can make a Stage 2 submission in respect of the four Sealand play Areas – Kingsley Road; Riverside Park; Sealand Manor and Welsh Road.  
Not received

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**15/208            SUMMARY ACCOUNTS – AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2015.**

The Clerk advised that in line with the Council’s Financial Regulations he submits details of the Council’s overall bank balances in respect of – as at 30th June, 30th September , 31st December and 31st March.

The position as at 31st December 2015 is –

Account - no – 0388217 - £17,750.05

Account - no – 7326098 - £55,619.39

Total - £73,369.44

Total bank Accounts - £73,369.44 less unpaid cheques of £14,266.90 – 002924, £150 – 002930, £278.60 – 002931, £10 – 002932 and £118.00 – 002933. Total £14,823.50 leaves a net balance of - £58,545.94

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted

**15/209            SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk outlined expenditure and income for the 2015/16 financial year up to cheque number 002944 - .

**2015/16**

Financial Year

**Income**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Anticipated</b>	<b>Difference</b>
General Admin Inc. Precept.	£57,220.00	£57,000.00	£220.00
Bank Interest	£17.28	£20.00	-£2.72
Insurance Claims / Refunds	£37.65	£0.00	£37.65
VAT Refund	£904.08	£900.00	£4.08
Milk Claims	£490.07	£500.00	-£9.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>£58,669.08</b>	<b>£58,420.00</b>	<b>£249.08</b>

**Expenditure**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Anticipated</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Play Areas	£2,840.00	£8,000.00	£5,160.00
Staffing Costs	£7,540.84	£9,049.00	£1,508.50
General Admin Costs	£3,547.84	£4,130.00	£582.16
S137 Grants	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
CCTV	£3,907.20	£4,000.00	£92.80
Street Lighting	£19,621.94	£26,700.00	£7,078.06
Street Furniture Repairs	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00
Insurances	£2,356.02	£2,500.00	£143.98
Milk	£1,731.30	£3,200.00	£1,468.70
Chairman's Fund	£440.00	£800.00	£360.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£43,984.80</b>	<b>£60,879.00</b>	<b>£16,894.20</b>

**Current Summary**

Balance as at 31 March 2015	£42,772.74
Total Expenditure	£43,984.80
Total Income	£58,669.08
Balance	£14,684.28
<b>Overall balance as at 18th January 2016</b>	<b>£57,457.22</b>
VAT Costs for 2015/16 financial year	£879.67

**End of Year Prediction**

Balance as at 31 March 2015	£42,772.74
Total Anticipated Expenditure	£60,879.00
Total Anticipated Income	£58,420.00
Anticipated Balance for the year	-£2,459.00
<b>Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016</b>	<b>£40,313.74</b>

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

**15/210            SEALAND FLOOD PLAIN**

The Clerk advised that after the December 2015 meeting of Council following receipt of Edwina Hart's email the following issues were raised by Council an email was sent to Carwyn Jones, Edwina Hart and Carl Sargeant advising that Council was both concerned and disappointed that the points raised in its previous emails have not been adequately answered and would appreciate a more informative and relevant response.

What Council needs to know is that with the completion of the flood defence works funded by the Welsh Assembly is Sealand now not sitting in or not sitting in a flood plain - this is something that was indicated when the project was first announced.

Can you also clarify that with these works being completed that the land relevant to the Northern Gateway is not in the Sealand Flood Plain and that development of the site will now be permitted to start.

Edwina Hart has now responded thanking Council for its emails of 15<sup>th</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> January regarding the Sealand flood plain and the proposed Northern Gateway development. To clarify, the works undertaken were completed to satisfy planning conditions for the development of Northern Gateway, and not in order to remove Garden City and the new development area from the Sealand flood plain.

The planning condition to which is referred can be found in Condition 7 of the Planning Decision Notice issued by Flintshire County Council in respect of the Northern Gateway Development. A copy of this Notice is provided.

Unfortunately I am unable to provide the further detail you have requested as matters regarding the surrounding area are the responsibility of Flintshire County Council, and queries should be directed towards them.

**Condition 7 states** - No built development (being above ground other than necessary infrastructure works and ground preparatory works) authorised by this permission shall commence until such time as:

a) A scheme to strengthen the River Dee defences has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with EAW (or such other body as shall succeed it)

AND

b) The approved scheme has been completed in accordance with the approved details and has been certified in writing as complete by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with EAW (or such other body as shall succeed it).

Reason: To ensure that appropriate flood defences are put in place to protect against the risk of flooding from a breach in the existing River Dee defences, thereby protecting future site users, existing residents and users of neighbouring land, for the lifetime of the development.

RESOLVED – that the –

- i) report be noted.
- ii) Carl Sargeant be invited to attend a meeting of Council so that a full discussion can take place concerning the issues raised by Council concerning the impact of the flood defence improvement works.
- iii) Council should request Flintshire County Council's Chief Planning Officer to undertake a full review of the Sealand area in the light of the recently completed flood improvements works.
- iv) Council should request a site meeting with representatives from Flintshire County Council and Natural Resource Wales to enable a clear position to be understood about the impact of the flood defence improvement works to see if Garden City is no longer classed as a high risk flood area and to discuss potential flooding issues in Sealand.

**15/211      VIBRANT AND VIABLE PLACES – LANDSCAPING SCHEME – GARDEN CITY**

The County Councillor advised that work on the project has been resumed and that a new project is being formulated for the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

**15/212      ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Clerk advised that Councils are required to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of their internal audit processes. Evidence of this review will be requested by the external auditors as part of the 2015/16 audit.

The guidance states that the internal audit must not influence the direction or extent of the review however it is good practice to seek their input.

The following table demonstrates how the Council's internal auditor JDH Business Services Ltd will meet the required standards together with the relevant evidence.

<b>Expected Standard</b>	<b>How IDH Business Services Ltd meet the standard</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Scope of Internal Audit	<p>The terms of reference for internal audit are set out in their audit plan.</p> <p>This includes testing suggested in the Practitioners' Guide.</p>	<p>Audit Plan</p> <p>The audit plan should be approved by full council and this should be recorded within the minutes.</p> <p>Copy held by the Clerk.</p> <p>Copies given to each member of Council.</p>

Independence	<p>Reports are made in the name of 'JDH Business Services Ltd' and are reported to the Council.</p> <p>They do not have any other role within the Council.</p> <p>They are independent of all members of the Council.</p>	Letter of continuing independence provided to Council.
Competence	<p>They have highly skilled staff (CIPFA and ICAEW qualified)</p> <p>Long term experience of carrying out internal audits of Local Councils</p> <p>The Company, JDH Business Services Ltd is registered to carry on audit work by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.</p>	
Relationships	<p>They report initially to the Clerk/RFO. Should a matter arise which they consider should be immediately reported to the Council, they would contact the Chair.</p> <p>Their reports are for the Council's attention.</p>	
Audit planning and reporting	<p>The internal audit plan is provided to Council.</p> <p>They issue an audit report annually to the Council following their audit. This is in addition to completing section 4 of the Annual Return.</p>	<p>Audit plan</p> <p>Annual internal audit report.</p>

The Clerk distributed copies of the Council's Internal Audit Plan 2015/16 to members of Council.

The Clerk then highlighted the various aspects of the plan and the requirements placed up on Council.

RESOLVED – that the –

- i) report be noted.
- ii) Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16 be noted and endorsed.

**15/213**            **CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

Councillor Alex Lewis has advised that he will be attending - Tuesday, 26 January 2016 starting at 6pm in the Cymau Community Centre, Cymau, Wrexham LL11 5EP

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

**15/214**            **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised on the following –

Chief Officer - Planning and the Environment – Planning and Development Control Committee Meeting - 20th January 2016 Council Chamber, Mold – 1pm – concerning :-

053686 - Proposed development of solar photovoltaic panels and associated works including inverter housings, access tracks, securing fencing and cameras at Land east of Deeside Lane, Sealand. CH1 6BQ.

Note – the County Councillor advised that the above PA has been deferred.

053687 - Proposed development of solar photovoltaic panels and associated works including inverter housings, access tracks, securing fencing and cameras at Land opposite Kingston Lane Manor Farm, Deeside Lane, Sealand. CH1 6BP.

Note – the County Councillor advised that the above PA has been deferred.

054513 – Erection of 21 dwellings including 15 number 2 bed apartments and 6 number 1 bed apartments at land side of Gateway to Wales Hotel, Welsh Road, Garden City. CH5 2HX

**15/215**            **MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

- Perimeter fence still needs to be repaired - Sealand Manor (Wayne Jones has contacted the Shooting School)
- Councillor Mike Walker to repair the notice board at Ferry Lane
- Issues at The Owl –alleged persons sleeping in caravans – Clerk awaiting progress report from the Planning Enforcement Officer.
- Issues at The Owl –alleged persons urinating into hedge - Clerk awaiting a progress report from the Planning Enforcement Officer.
- Issues at The Owl – large lorries turning into The Owl / cars obstructing their turning movement - Clerk awaiting a progress report from the Planning Enforcement Officer.
- Pot Hole – Sandy Lane – near to Orchard Way
- Water ponding at the side of Manor Road near to junction with Meadow View.

**15/216**            **MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No matters were raised..

**15/217      REQUEST FOR PUBLIC TO BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

RESOLVED: - that in view of the special nature of the business to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public is excluded.

**15/218      FINANCIAL REPORT –2015/16 and 2016/17**

The Clerk advised:-

- a) that a precept is an order to the charging authority – Flintshire County Council to pay a requested sum to the precept authority – Sealand Community Council and that the schedule of payment from Flintshire County Council will be 3 equal instalments – on the last working days of April, August and December.
- b) 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.
- c) on details of anticipated income and expenditure for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years.
- d) the Clerk is contracted for a normal working week of 12 hours. Payment is net with the Council deducting income tax at 40% and making payment to the HMRC.
- e) the allowance is paid to the Clerk for the use of his private telephone, computer and a contribution towards the cost of maintaining his residence in which a room is dedicated as an office. The payment for 2015/16 is £ 2,000.00. Details of the payment are submitted on an annual basis to the HMRC. The Clerk advised that the payment should not be increased for the 2016/17 financial year.
- f) that expenses incurred in carrying out his duties are also reimbursed. The expenditure being incurred on behalf of the Council as part of its administration and running cost, i.e., stamps, payphone for daytime calls, and travelling expenses. NJC rate for Casual Users being paid for car mileage within Sealand and as required mileage to venues outside Sealand – 47p per mile.
- g) the estimated income for the current 2015/16 financial year is £58,712 and estimated expenditure is £59,961. The opening balance at 1 April 2015 was £42,773. The estimated opening balance at 1 April 2016 is estimated at approx. £41,524 assuming all planned expenditure takes place which may not be the case.

RESOLVED:-that the report be noted.

**15/219      ALLOWANCES AND SALARY**

RESOLVED: - that the following be agreed for 2016/17 -

	<b>£</b>
• Chair's Fund	800
• Clerk's Salary	7,049
• Clerk's Allowance	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,849</b>

**15/220      PAYMENT OF GRANTS – FREE RESOURCE ACCOUNT**

RESOLVED: - that –

- i) grant payments for the 2016/17 financial year be restricted to a maximum of £150 apart from Sealand Primary School who should receive up to a maximum of £1000.
- ii) Free Resources Fund should be £3,500 - **Total - £3,500**

**15/221      SCHOOL MILK**

RESOLVED:-that Council should continue to provide milk to the pupils of Sealand Primary School ages 7+ to 10+ - gross anticipated cost £3,100. **Total - £3,100**

**15/222      PLAYLEADER SCHEME 2016 AND PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

RESOLVED:- that Council should –

- i) support both proposed Play Schemes – overall estimated cost £6,000
  - ii) advise the Head of Leisure Services of its decision.
  - iii) allocate £5000 for possible matched funding for play equipment.
- Total - £11,000**

**15/223      STREET LIGHTING**

RESOLVED:-that the following be allocated:-

	£
Energy	3,700
Repairs and Maintenance	5,400
New / Replacement Columns	16,000 (8 lights)
Electrical Testing	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>£25,850</b>

**15/224      OTHER AREAS OF EXPENDITURE**

RESOLVED:- that the following funds be allocated:-

	£
Printer Cartridges	400
Street Furniture Repairs -	350
CCTV Repairs / New Purchase	350
Printer Maintenance	150
Insurances	2,500
Stationery	50
Annual Subscriptions	520
Audit Fees	650
Conferences	350
Council's Web Site	600
Postage / Mileage	1,000
Engraving Chain of Office	50
Data Protection Registration	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,005</b>



**15/225      PRECEPT 2016/17**

The Clerk advised that the Council had agreed to an indicated expenditure of £60,304

Estimated income excluding precept is £1,870. Estimated opening balance at 1 April 2016 is £41,524.

To achieve an estimated balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 of £40,000 a precept of £56,910 is required – rounded up to £57,000.

The Clerk advised that the County Council require the completion of a precept mandate form to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk outlined the form -

Current year's precept – 2015/16 - £57,000

Current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties is £1,138.42

The current Band D charge is £49.94

The precept for 2016/17 - £57,000

Tax Base for 2016/17 of equivalent Band D properties is £1,133.04

The band D charge for 2016/17 will be £50.31

The increase in the Band D charge amount is £0.37

The percentage increase in the 2016/17 band D charge compared to the 2015/16 band D charge is 0.74%

RESOLVED:- that the –

- i) precept for 2016/17 be set at £57,000 and for Flintshire County Council to be advised accordingly and for the Clerk and Chairman to sign the required precept mandate.
- ii) Clerk be thanked for his usual excellent and informative financial report.

**15/226      DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING – 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 – start at 6.30pm.**

RESOLVED – that the meetings of Council for 2016 be held on the following Mondays – 8<sup>th</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**15/ 227      IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Member	Item	Minute Reference
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The meeting opened at 6pm and closed at 8.25pm

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Signed                      8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Chairman of Council