

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PAVILION, SELBORNE RECREATION GROUND
ON WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM



Present: Cllr D Ashcroft, Cllr S Bennett (Chair)
Cllr C Bridger, Cllr G Earney
Cllr H Grosvenor, Cllr S Heaselgrave
Cllr C McMeekan, Cllr N O'Donnell
Cllr M Turner

Absent: Cllr C Joyce, Cllr W Megeney

Also present: Liz Ford, Parish Clerk, and 6 members of the public

23.124 Apologies for Absence

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Joyce and Megeney (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr McMeekan with all voting in favour).

23.125 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair requested that Councillors: always copied in the Clerk, Chair and other Councillors to all emails sent on Council business unless any Councillor had requested not to be copied in; did not release any personal data outside the Council - the Clerk would circulate a key advice document; adhered to all confidential information requirements in emails; and checked their declaration of interest forms. There had been an FOI request. Finally with the winter approaching, HCC had issued its guidance to landowners for flood management – see the Parish Council website "Links" page and select the General Information tab. HCC had also provided generic letters for the Parish Council to use regarding any problems with hedge and ditch management.

23.126 Executive Officer's Summary

The Clerk reported the work done since the September 13th meeting.

23.127 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Turner declared an interest, as treasurer of the Selborne Recreation Ground Committee, in the approval of the payment to the Committee for the annual grass cutting (see minute 23.130 c) and would leave the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

23.128 Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting on 13th September 2023 was deferred. A review of the accuracy of minute 23.118 would be carried out and all Councillors would be provided with the file of information collated in regard to the issue covered under minute 23.119.

23.129 Casual Vacancy

There had been no resident requests for an election by the closing date and so the Council could co-opt a new Councillor. It was planned that co-option would be included on the agenda of the next routine Council meeting on 8th November.

23.130 Public Questions:

It was RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for public questions (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour).

A resident requested that the Council post notices on the public board (not a Council asset) in Ketchers Field. The reminder of this board was welcomed and the Clerk would post notices there in future. In response to questions from two residents, it was confirmed that the DRAFT Parish Priority Statement would be available on the Parish Council website by Thursday/Friday evening that week and, if it was possible to redact the personal data from the response forms, these would be made available to the public. There would be Public Open Days on Saturday and Sunday when information would be available for review and residents could submit comments in time for Council to prepare a final document for consideration and approval at a Council meeting on 22nd November. The final document would then be submitted to the National Park Authority on 30th November.

It was RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour).

23.131 Financial Report:

Cllr Turner left the meeting having declared an interest under min 23.127 and item c) was brought forward

c) To approve the proposed schedule of payments

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as listed in the schedule below (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr McMeekan with all voting in favour).

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
Payments to be approved at Council Meeting 18/10/23					
Already paid					
14/8/23	EHDC	uncontested elections May 2023	190.00	-	190.00
N.B. above wrongly addressed and re-issued Thurs 12th October					
Future payments					
26/9/23	HALC Ltd	Cllr Core Skills training (SM)	98.00	19.60	117.60
28/9/23	Id Verde	bin collections 1 Jul to 30 Sep 23	102.19	20.44	122.63
3/10/23	PJ Grace	grass cutting September 23	480.00	96.00	576.00
6/10/23	E Ford	receipted expenses - wreaths	33.34	6.66	40.00
16/10/23	Selborne Recreation Ground	2023 annual grass cutting charge	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
TOTAL FOR 18 October 2023			2,403.53	142.70	2,546.23

Cllr Turner returned to the meeting

a) The bank balances and earmarked reserves were noted as:

Bank Balances as at 30th September 2023

Current Account	£ 4,507.72
Deposit Account	£ 94,021.83
Total at bank	£ 98,529.55

Earmarked Reserves

Village Projects	£ 3,000.00
Traffic Projects	£ 11,000.00
Play Equipment	nil
CIL	£ 16,572.95
CIL Selborne Village Shop	£ 5,000.00
Elections	£ 2,000.00

Total EMR £ 37,572.95

Total General Fund £ 60,956.60

It was noted that over £16K of receipts (VAT for 1 April to 30 Sep 23 and the final a Landfill tax grant) were outstanding.

b) To approve the September bank reconciliations

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the September bank reconciliations (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr McMeekan with all voting in favour).

23.132 Planning Applications: To consider and agree a response to the following planning application(s):

SDNP/23/03495/TCA Lothlorien, Huckers Lane Selborne GU34 3JN, To cut back overhanging branches from individual trees to bring them line with the existing boundary line. Comprising of cutting back branches from 0.5 metre to 2 metres in length to match previous years work. For cutting points see photographs.

The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the comment of no objection (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Bennett with all voting in favour).

23.133 To agree the date of a Finance Working Group Meeting for the preparation of the proposed 2024/2025 Budget

A Finance Working Group meeting would be held on Monday 6th November 2023 at 7.30pm to assist in the preparation of a proposed budget for 2024/2025 for review at the Council meeting on 8th November 2023. All Councillors were welcome to attend and the Clerk would confirm the venue.

23.134 To agree Parish Representatives to the Remembrance Sunday services

It was agreed that Cllr Turner would lay the wreath at Selborne and Cllr Megeney at Blackmoor.

23.135 To consider the adoption a Privacy Statement for Councillors

A draft privacy statement was discussed. Decision on the statement was deferred to allow changes to be made by Cllr Grosvenor and the Clerk. Both the proposed privacy statement and a proposed revision to the Council Privacy Policy, based on the SLCC model policy, would be presented to the November 8th Council meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed confidentiality statement for use at the end of all Councillor emails (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Grosvenor with all voting in favour).

23.136 To consider the Council submission of Open Space data to the SDNPA

Omissions in the data prepared by the Open Space Working Group were discussed and the Group would meet again, assisted by the Clerk, to revisit the sites to be included and gaps in the other information requested in the proforma.

The draft documents would then be submitted to a future Council meeting for approval. The Clerk had requested a later closing date of 30th November for submission of the completed forms.

23.137 To consider and approve a draft Parish Priority Statement

The arrangements for the two public consultation Open Days on the Parish Priority Statement on Saturday 21st October in Oakhanger Village Hall and Sunday 22nd October in Selborne Village Hall were agreed. The Open Days would both start at 11am and finish at 4pm.

The DRAFT Parish Priority Statement was reviewed in detail and amendments were made at the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting by half an hour (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Grosvenor with all voting in favour). The review continued.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow a short further extension to the meeting to enable the DRAFT document to be completed (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr McMeekan with all voting in favour. Cllrs Ashcroft and Turner abstained).

The Draft Parish Priority Statement to be put forward to the second round of public consultation was completed and is included in Appendix A.

23.138 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Selborne Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at approx. 10.12pm

Signed	
Chair of Selborne Parish Council	
Date	

The vision for the future....

The three key priorities for the Parish are traffic, landscape, infrastructure.

Traffic through the Parish is by far the most pressing issue as detailed in the responses from residents, asking for: less traffic; improved air quality and monitoring; and enforcement of the speed and weight limits. Ideas have ranged from pinch points like the ones in Greatham, speed cameras, a bypass to be built and the Ham Barn roundabout to be changed to divert traffic away from the Parish. Wider and additional pavements were also suggested - people mentioned not feeling safe walking along the pavements.

Protection of the landscape was the second most commented on area, with maintaining the countryside, footpaths and verges featuring highly, with greater biodiversity mentioned. Ideas were planting more trees and wildflower verges.

Infrastructure featured as well, ranging from the need for local shops selling affordable essentials, regular and reliable public transport, cycle paths and electric charging points for cars. Fibre broadband and mobile phone reception featured for all villages - home working and small local businesses all require good quality communications. The need for social and affordable housing was noted, as well as downsizing properties for older residents so they could stay locally and thus free up their houses for new families wanting to buy in the Parish. Many mentioned keeping the character of the village and sustainable, eco-friendly housing.

Development & management of Land

What type and level of development would you like to see in the Parish?

71% mentioned housing to be done of some kind, with the highest being social and affordable housing, followed by downsize homes. 19% want no housing built at all.

Improved community facilities featured heavily throughout the responses. The community facilities requested included a village store with some requesting it to be a community store, access to health facilities and better parking facilities.

Are there areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?

Building on the site of the old pickers huts topped this section (respondents linked this to the SDNPA Local Plan), with “no development” coming in a close second, next the re-development of the old brickworks and some suggesting only infill sites. Many suggested various other sites.

Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?

Generally there was a request for land to be protected as Open Space, particularly current open land, including the fields related to the Selborne Hanger open landscape, Local Green Spaces and the green fields backing onto people’s homes.

Homes

What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?

- Small scale developments of social or affordable housing are needed especially for young families. May be self-build.
- Good quality provision for older residents to enable downsizing. This to allow them to stay in the Parish and to free up larger houses for families.

- The developments at Bordon and Alton suggest to some residents that there is no need for further provision. This view varies significantly across the Parish.

What size of home is needed locally?

- The provision of smaller units eg 1-2 bedroom and 3 bedroom is supported.
- These are for older residents, for smaller families and starter homes for couples and single persons.
- Some specific provision for elderly care is noted by a small proportion of the population.

Any other requirements?

- New houses to be energy efficient using latest available technology and innovations.
- Owners of existing houses to be encouraged and helped (by grant) to improve energy efficiency.
- Grey water re-use, EV Charge points, better foul and surface water management, and local energy source provision also mentioned.

Design

Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?

A high proportion of respondents, including those outside Selborne village, made reference to the Selborne VDS and the areas described in the VDS as meriting protection. The historic buildings of the villages should be protected: the Conservation Area, listed buildings, village halls, public houses, war memorials, churches and churchyards, Selborne High Street and all the lanes leading off it, the Lions Mouth and the Gilbert White Museum and café. All these are important to our village communities.

Other areas were identified and not just on account of built heritage. The Parish has strong links to the natural world and so all its green spaces both in and around the villages plus their surrounds and footpaths should be protected. Areas such as The Hanger and its apron, open spaces within the villages and behind houses, Zig Zag, Selborne Common, Recreation Ground, Plestor and Lythes, Shortheath Common and Local Green Spaces. Valued features of the landscape also to include open streams, tributaries and watercourses.

On drawing up priorities we note the regulatory purposes of the SDNPA and the Selborne Conservation Area.

Particular features of buildings of local character

There was a strong suggestion for, where possible, local materials that match the aesthetic of the villages to be used in any new small development so that this can sit happily alongside existing buildings whether of traditional or more recent design. The use of timber, local stone and traditional roofing methods should be encouraged where appropriate. A need for energy efficiency should also be prioritised in any design whilst in keeping with the historic nature of the setting.

Any social and affordable housing development could be achieved if preserving the landscape quality, and the VDS recommendations followed wherever possible.

The natural environment

Maintaining the natural environment has featured heavily, with many commenting on a need for improvement in the state of the footpaths through the Parish. Planting trees and wildflower verges were a common comment as was supporting the Selborne Landscape Partnership, South Downs National Park, the National Trust and seeing what collaborations can be done to protect our landscape.

There is a need to ensure the footpaths are kept well maintained and accessible, not only for our own residents but also for visitors, with a knock-on effect in supporting tourism and the local economy.

Jobs

Support for local employers;

Improved provision for home working (technical improvements including Broadband) and the provision of working hubs to reflect changing working practices.

Public spaces

The Recreation Ground in Selborne was mentioned most, with ideas for improved facilities, such as an outdoor gym, wildlife garden and facilities for a greater range of ages than is currently available. Many areas were mentioned specifically but there were many comments about accessibility to them, from better maintained footpaths, safer crossing of the B3006 and better parking, to enable residents from across the Parish to enjoy the beauty of the area. A need for parking in general has been mentioned in many areas of the Parish Priority Statement so we need to look at how this can be addressed. We need a playground for the Goslings Croft end of the village and also for the village of Blackmoor, neither of which currently have a playground for children.

Infrastructure

Mobile telephone and broadband services are poor across the Parish. Need for fibre broadband connection to each property to support the introduction of VOIP and home working. The lack of a frequent and reliable bus service especially at the start and end of the day mitigates against its use to connect with national train services and access to other services at local centres. Both result in increased use of cars for local journeys.

Need to reduce traffic speeds, volumes and HGV movements, and to improve local pavements to safeguard pedestrians.

The provision of a local shop and post office is specifically mentioned by about half of all respondents. The absence of cheap local car parking is seen to work against residents, businesses and visitors