

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BLACKMOOR VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM



Present: Cllr D Ashcroft, Cllr S Bennett (Chair)
Cllr C Bridger, Cllr G Earney
Cllr S Heaselgrave, Cllr C McMeekan
Cllr D Webster-Jones

Absent: Cllr H Grosvenor, Cllr C Joyce,
Cllr W Megeney, Cllr N O'Donnell, Cllr M Turner

Also present: Liz Ford, Parish Clerk. Two members of the public.

23.240 Apologies for Absence

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Grosvenor, Megeney, O'Donnell and Turner (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Heaselgrave with all voting in favour).

23.241 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reported the resignation of Cllr Joyce and thanked her for her time as a Parish Councillor. There was now a casual vacancy on the Council which would be filled by co-option if no election was requested.

It was also noted that as usual the Clerk would make a recording of the meeting.

23.242 Executive Officer's Summary

The Clerk provided a summary of the work carried out since the last meeting.

23.243 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Earney declared an interest (Code of Conduct 9 (2)) in planning application ref. SDNP/24/00788/LIS as a family member had prepared key documents included in the application. He elected not to take any part in the determination of the Parish Council comment (see min 23.247).

23.244 Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 21st February 2024 (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Heaselgrave with all voting in favour. Cllrs McMeekan and Webster-Jones abstained on account of not having been present at the meeting).

23.245 Public Questions - There were no public questions

23.246 Financial Report:

a) The bank balances and earmarked reserves were noted as in the table over the page.

b) To approve bank reconciliations

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

Bank Balances as at 1st March 2024 (current) and 29th February 2024 (deposit)

Current Account		1,714.84
Deposit Account		99,516.93
Total at bank		101,231.77
Earmarked Reserves		
Village Projects		3,000.00
Traffic Projects		11,000.00
Play equipment		-
CIL&S106 (£565)		20,803.26
CIL Selborne Village Shop		5,000.00
Elections		2,000.00
Total EMR		41,803.26
Total General Fund		59,428.51

c) To approve the proposed schedule of payments

There were no new invoices and payments for approval.

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

SDNP/24/00727/ADV, Land at Shortheath Common, Oakhanger Road, Oakhanger

This will be a single panel interpretation board with information about the Wealden Heath SPA SSSI. The interpretation board has been designed to be consistent with others in the project area and designed to highlight the sensitive nature and special habitat of Shortheath Common. The board will measure approximately 1.2m in width with a maximum height of 2m. The structure will be made of oak, and the panel made of coated aluminium. The posts will remain in the ground for the duration of the project (March 2025) and beyond for a minimum of 10 years. These will be no deeper than 80cm. Once the interpretation board is in place, it will be fixed in place with Postcrete. Any excess spoil will be distributed locally. A scale drawing of the board will be included in the attached documents.

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

SDNP/24/00971/OHL, Priory Farm, Priory Lane, Selborne GU34 3BU

Installation of overhead electricity line

Cllr Ashcroft declared an interest as a neighbour of the applicant and elected not to take part in the determination of the Parish Council comment.

The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the comment of no objection (proposed by Cllr Bridger and seconded by Cllr Heaselgrave with all voting in favour. Cllrs Ashcroft and McMeekan abstained).

SDNP/24/00788/LIS Wakes Cottage, High Street, Selborne GU34 3JH

Listed building consent - Removal of the existing roof coverings, repairs to the roof structure where required, insulation of the roof, formation of a new loft hatch and the re-roofing with a breather membrane, battens, cross battens and a mix of new and reused handmade plain clay peg tiles.

Cllr Earney having declared an interest under min 23.243 took no part in the determination of the Parish Council comment.

The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the comment to support the application (proposed by Cllr Heaselgrave and seconded by Cllr Bridger with all voting in favour. Cllr Ashcroft abstained on account of also being a District Councillor. Cllrs Earney and McMeekan also abstained).

23.248 To consider approval of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Management Schedule and Asset List following annual review

Various proposed changes to the Standing Orders (as reviewed with no change on 15th February 2023) were discussed. Regarding the timing for the deletion of recordings of meetings, it was **RESOLVED** to add “after three months” to the end of Standing Order 12 f with consideration that this would be revisited on the introduction of broadcasting of Council meetings (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour). It was **RESOLVED** to retain the wording of Standing Order 26 as in the NALC model form (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour). It was **RESOLVED** to adopt Standing Orders, as so amended, and with no other changes (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Bennett with all voting in favour).

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations (as adopted 15th February 2023) with no changes (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Bennett with all voting in favour).

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Risk Management Schedule with a correction to record that there had been 1 Freedom of Information request (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Heaselgrave with all voting in favour).

It was **RESOLVED** to defer adoption of the updated asset list (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour).

23.249 To consider grant application for £500 from St Matthews Church, Blackmoor, for the upkeep of the churchyard

The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to make a grant of £500 to St Matthews Church, Blackmoor for the upkeep of the churchyard (proposed by Cllr McMeekan and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour).

The item including a presentation by the resident volunteer on proposed changes to local bus routes was brought forward to this point in the meeting (see minute 23.253).

23.250 To consider the purchase and installation of three AutoSpeedWatch cameras

Updated costs for the purchase and installation of three AutoSpeedWatch cameras were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the South Downs National Park Authority to request that for any further ASW camera deployment standard unslotted post installation was allowed in the National Park to reduce the cost to the Parish Council and also to ask if any funds towards ASW installation were available (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Bennett with all voting in favour).

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase and installation of the three AutoSpeedWatch cameras for a total cost of £4,253.26 exc VAT. This expenditure to use £2,267 of grant funding with the balance of £1,986.26 to be covered by the Neighbourhood CIL funds held by the Council (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour). The Clerk was asked to send thanks to East Hampshire District Council and County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee for the grant funding provided to the Parish Council.

23.251 To agree a Seed Swap event to be held at 11am on Saturday 13th April 2024 at The Selborne Arms

It was **RESOLVED** that a Seed Swap event would be held at 11am on Saturday 13th April 2024 at The Selborne Arms (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earne with all voting in favour).

23.252 To consider purchase of wildflower seeds for the Peppercorn Plot and appropriate areas around the Selborne Recreation Ground (as agreed with Selborne Recreation Ground Committee). If any left over to come back to Parish Council to see if possible for other appropriate verges

The sowing of wildflowers was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to purchase 500g of wildflower seed for a cost of £87.90 exc VAT for sowing on the "Peppercorn Plot" and in the wildflower areas at the Recreation Ground (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Earney with all voting in favour).

23.253 To receive presentation by resident volunteer on proposed changes to local bus routes and consider the Transport Working Group request that the proposals are adopted as Parish Council policy and supported for onward transmission to Hampshire County Council (as part of the PC response to the current HCC Future Services Consultation) as well as to East Hampshire District Council and Stagecoach for their consideration

The resident volunteer made a presentation on a proposal for the current diversion of the 13 bus route through Selborne village to be made permanent on completion of the SSEN cabling works along the B3004. The route of the 13 bus (typically running hourly from Basingstoke) would be amended between Alton and Whitehill to run alternately clockwise/anticlockwise via Kingsley, Bordon, Whitehill, Greatham and Selborne (e.g. with new service numbers 13a and 13b). This would provide a direct two-hourly service to/from Alton towards Selborne and Greatham on a direct routing (as well as a less direct service on the loop via Kingsley and Bordon) until mid-evening, Monday – Saturday. A shortening of the 38 route so that it only ran between Greatham and Petersfield was also proposed and was understood to provide the potential of a significant cost saving to HCC.

The Chair thanked the resident for his work on behalf of the community and the proposal was discussed. It was noted that any improved bus provision would be of benefit to the younger members of the community who relied on public transport to get to work, that the Selborne area was a tourist destination but had limited access by public transport, and as a result of the vehicle being garaged in Portsmouth, the 38 bus had a higher carbon footprint. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council accepted the resident proposal, with the addition that there was an emphasis on co-ordinating the timetables of any new bus routes for a workable service to Petersfield, and supported onward transmission to Hampshire County Council (as part of the response to the current HCC Future Services Consultation), EHDC, the SDNPA, the local MP, and the Stagecoach bus company (proposed by Cllr Earney and seconded by Cllr Bennett with all voting in favour). Cllr Earney and the resident volunteer would finalise the proposal paper.

23.254 To consider other parts of the draft of Parish Council response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation – closing date 31 March 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the other parts of the proposed response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation prepared by Cllr Earney with the addition of a strong objection to removal of a crossing patrol at the Selborne primary school (proposed by Cllr Ashcroft and seconded by Cllr McMeekan with all voting in favour). Cllr Earney would amend the response and submit to HCC under the account which had been set up in the Clerk's name.

23.255 To consider possible EHDC surrender of lease for the free public carpark to the rear of the Selborne Arms PH

EHDC had asked the Parish Council for its view if the EHDC no longer provided a free public car park to the rear of the Selborne Arms PH. This option had arisen as the lease to EHDC for this car park would expire in September. The EHDC toilet block was under a separate and longer lease.

Cllr Ashcroft declared an interest as a District Councillor and took no part in the determination of the Parish Council response.

The loss of the free public car park was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to thank EHDC for contacting the Council and to reply that the Parish Council's first option would be for EHDC to continue the lease and continue to provide a free public car park, but the Parish Council was also prepared to consider other options and asked EHDC to provide advice on a way forward (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Webster-Jones with all voting in favour. Cllr Ashcroft abstained on account of also being a District Councillor).

An item to consider the Traffic Working Group being actioned to prepare a report on how to facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the Parish would be included on the agenda of the April meeting.

23.256 To set date and consider arrangements for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Assembly (the meeting for all Parish residents) would be held in the Selborne primary school at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th May with the Parish Council Annual Meeting (AGM) to be held on Wednesday 15th May (proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Webster-Jones. Cllrs Ashcroft, Bridger and McMeekan

abstained). A suggestion for a speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on rewilding the Parish was made.

23.257 To receive District Councillor report

Cllr Ashcroft advised that EHDC would be completing its move to new premises in the very near future. EHDC would also no longer be using Capita services and would be introducing a new IT system.

23.258 The next meeting would be on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.30pm in Blackmoor Village Hall (Meeting Room).

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

Signed	
Chair of Selborne Parish Council	
Date	