

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN BLACKMOOR VILLAGE HALL**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 AT 7.30 PM**



**Present:** Cllr S Bennett (Chair), Cllr W Megeney  
Cllr B Roger-Smith, Cllr M Turner

Cllr H Grosvenor (arrived at 7.31pm during min 24.68)  
Cllr C Bridger, (arrived at 7.32pm during min 24.70)  
Cllr D Ashcroft (arrived at 7.34pm during item 24.71)

**Absent:** Cllr G Earney, Cllr S Heaselgrave, Cllr S Hulbert, Cllr N O'Donnell, Cllr Webster-Jones

**Also present:** Liz Ford, Parish Clerk, PCSO Harvey Bennett and three members of the public

**24.68 Apologies for Absence**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Earney, Heaselgrave, Hulbert, O'Donnell and Webster-Jones.

**24.69 Chairmans Announcements**

The Chair advised that the Clerk would be recording the meeting.

**24.70 Executive Officers Summary**

The Clerk provided a list of work done since the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**24.71 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Turner declared an interest (under 8(a) of the Code of Conduct) in the annual grass cutting charge as Treasurer of the Selborne Recreation Ground Committee, and would leave the meeting while the business was discussed (see min. 24.77 c)).

Cllr Grosvenor declared an interest (under 9(2) of the Code of Conduct) as a neighbour of the property Nuthatch, which was subject to a planning application for discussion at the meeting, and elected to leave the meeting while the item was discussed (see min. 24.78).

**24.72 Approval of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Cllr Turner abstained on account of not having attended the meeting.

**24.73 Public Questions**

***It was RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting for public questions***

A resident requested that the Parish Council included an item on a meeting agenda for the decoration of Selborne village with poppies in time for Remembrance Sunday. Consideration of decoration of the other villages of the Parish was also mentioned.

There was discussion of providing flowers at the village gate to the north of Selborne village to add to those already provided at the southern village gate.

A second resident advised that the overcrowded parking of cars on the entrance of Plum Fell lane and the public car park to the rear of the Selborne Arms Public House was a potential obstruction to emergency access for the Kite Hill area of Selborne village.

***It was RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting***

#### **24.74 Report from PCSO Harvey Bennett 18523, Police Community Support Officer, Alton Neighbourhood Policing Team followed by Council discussion of local policing priorities**

PCSO Bennett introduced himself and outlined the PCSO and police officer provision in the area (this data to be added). Different types of community information which could help local policing were discussed. This included: the Parish Council to provide data on problem speeding times from its speed cameras; the local community to report non-emergency crime and suspicious vehicles etc. using the Hampshire Constabulary website. This would help with the intelligence gathering which was used to allocate police resources efficiently; the Parish Council to forward collated crime information provided by residents to the local police officers/PCSO's; local community to use social media to warn other local residents when burglaries/thefts had taken place.

It was noted that in the event of an emergency always to call the 999 number.

Residents were encouraged to take measures to safeguard against burglaries such as: to secure property; lock doors and windows; use doorbell cameras; and fit cameras to properties etc.

Fly tipping was not a police matter and should be reported to East Hampshire District Council. If residents had work carried out which generated waste it was important that they obtained written confirmation that the waste would be correctly disposed of.

#### **24.75 To consider update on the imminent EHDC surrender of the lease for the free public car park to the rear of the Selborne Arms PH**

The Clerk read a written statement from a resident which asked that the Parish Council acted to ensure the continued provision of the public toilets and that the car park to the rear of the Selborne Arms PH remained a "village car park".

On 26<sup>th</sup> June the Clerk and the Chair had met with an EHDC officer who advised that the District Council was preparing to surrender its lease for the car park to the rear of the Selborne Arms PH in September. The toilets were on a separate and longer lease to EHDC.

A second resident advised the meeting that the leasehold for the public house was for sale and also that the pub company would prefer that the lease was not surrendered so that it did not have to take back the management of the car park.

Options for Parish Council involvement in the provision of continued public parking, free or chargeable, to the rear of the Selborne Arms PH were discussed. The Clerk was requested to obtain information on the following for consideration at a future meeting:

- what would be the terms of a new lease for the car park to the Parish Council or a third party;
- the insurance requirements in the event that the Parish Council took on the lease for the car park;
- the likelihood of the National Trust and/or the South Downs National Park Authority taking on the management of the car park or providing funding in the event that the Parish Council took on a lease for the car park;
- the Parish Council to ask the Wakes Museum if it would take on the lease of the car park.

#### **24.76 To consider reduced frequency of grass cutting under the Plestor oak tree**

The 2024 tree survey report had included that the Plestor oak tree was likely to be suffering from compaction damage to the root system due to ongoing footfall and occasional vehicle access over the rooting zone. Measures to safeguard the health of the tree and prolong its longevity were discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to stop cutting the grass under the oak tree and to form a Working Group to look up all the points raised at the meeting for future consideration by the Council.

## 24.77 Financial Report:

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

<b>Bank Balances as at 1st July 2024 (current) and 30th June 2024 (deposit)</b>		
Current Account		5,510.89
Deposit Account		112,003.74
<b>Total at bank</b>		<b>117,514.63</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>		
Village Projects		3,000.00
Traffic Projects		11,000.00
Play equipment		-
CIL&S106 (£565)		15,856.52
CIL Selborne Village Shop		5,000.00
Elections		2,000.00
<b>Total EMR</b>		<b>36,856.52</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>		<b>80,658.11</b>

See the bank reconciliations under the separate Appendix documents for the receipts and payments since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the April, May and June bank reconciliations

***Cllr Turner having declared an interest under min 24.71 left the meeting***

c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following schedule of payments:

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
<b>Payments to be approved at Council Meeting 24/7/24</b>					
<b>Future payments</b>					
20/6/24	Selborne Recreation Ground	annual grass cutting charge 2024	1,575.00	-	<b>1,575.00</b>
28/6/24	Parish Council Websites	5 year domain renewal (to 7/9/29) - selborneparishcouncil.gov.uk	150.00	30.00	<b>180.00</b>
11/7/24	Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd	zipwire inspection and repairs	849.00	169.80	<b>1,018.80</b>
15/7/24	P J Grace	grass cutting June	480.00	96.00	<b>576.00</b>
18/7/24	E Ford	receipted expenses (Zoom subs to 16/7/25)	129.90	25.98	<b>155.88</b>
29/7/24	TGB Tree Consulting	July tree survey	600.00	-	<b>600.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL FOR 24th July 2024</b>	<b>3,783.90</b>	<b>321.78</b>	<b>4,105.68</b>

***Cllr Turner returned to the meeting***

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

**SDNP/24/02552/TCA, Estate Office Blackmoor Estate Church Lane Blackmoor, GU33 6BS**

Tree Works in Conservation Area Application. Oak (T1) Honey Lane, Blackmoor village - to remove dead limbs. Ash (T2), Blackmoor House driveway - to fell diseased tree.

The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the response of no objection.

***Cllr Grosvenor having declared an interest under 24.71 left the meeting***

**SDNP/24/02602/TCA, Nuthatch Plum, Fell Lane, Selborne, GU34 3JX**

Tree Works in Conservation Area Application. T1 Common Ash - Fell. T2 Field Maple - Fell.

The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the response to support the application and to note that it would be appreciated if the owner planted native species to replace the lost trees.

***Cllr Grosvenor returned to the meeting***

**24.79 To consider approval of the following updated policies and documents**

- a) Grant Policy
- b) Grant Application Form

The revised documents were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to approve both documents subject to deletion of “without giving reasons for its decision” under item 6 of the procedure for awarding grants under the Grant Policy.

**24.80 District Councillor Report**

Following the general election the approach to planning was “all up in the air” and EHDC planning officers were not yet in a position to update Councillors on future requirements. The EHDC Leader had sent a letter to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to argue that there was an unequal balance in the housing requirements for East Hampshire within and outside the National Park. The District Council was looking at all areas to save money. The Planning Department had been having issues which were being addressed at the highest level. There was a full Council meeting on Thursday 25th July. The Council had been giving money back to good causes, with £300K of community grants being awarded two weeks ago.

The Chair formally thanked the resident who had provided the flowers under the village gate to the south of Selborne village. Cllr Turner asked how the Parish Council could help to add to the improved appearance of the village and the Clerk and the Climate (&Nature) Working Group would look into how more flowers could be placed around Selborne and the other villages of the Parish.

**24.81** The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Selborne Recreation Ground. This was subject to review in light of two planning consultations having been received, one with a closing date of 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**

<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Chair of Selborne Parish Council</b>	
<b>Date</b>	