



**Minutes of a meeting of Selborne Parish Council held in Blackmoor Village Hall  
on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 8 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. S. Bennett – Chairman

Cllr. D. Ashcroft

Cllr. C. Bridgier

Cllr. G. Earney

Cllr. S. Hulbert

Cllr. W. Megeney

Cllr. N. O'Donnell

Cllr. B. Roger-Smith

Cllr. D. Webster-Jones

**Also present:** Anne Wilson Interim Parish Clerk

5 members of the public

**24/208 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive apologies of absence for this meeting from:

- Cllr. M. Turner – work commitments
- Cllr. H. Grovesnor – work commitment
- Cllr. S. Haeslegrove – personal commitment

The Chairman read out a letter from Sam Haeselgrove who had resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments and he felt he could not justify being a Parish Councillor. Members thanked her for his work for the community.

**24/209 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting and make any announcements including a fire safety announcement.

**24/210 Executive Officer's Summary**

The Interim Parish Clerk gave a report at this point in the meeting:

- Appointment of the new Parish Clerk
- Resigned with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Other items I would speak about are already on the agenda.

## **24/211 Declarations of Interest**

*Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest as defined in the Code of Conduct which they have in any item on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and some other interests. You must withdraw from the room/meeting when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.*

**RESOLVED** to note that there were no declarations of interest declared.

## **24/212 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## **24/213 Public Questions**

Members of the public raised the following:

- There was a question from representatives of Blackmoor Village Hall about the use of CIL Funding for solar panels on the roof of the hall, noting that the electricity bill was now upwards of £10k per annum and they are looking for the hall to be carbon neutral. The Interim Parish Clerk explained about how CIL Funding worked. The representatives from the hall had a meeting booked with SDNP about possible CIL Funding. Oakhangar Village Hall was looking to do the same too. The Interim Clerk asked if the Council was part of a Place Plan for the area where local priorities are put in and these can dictate what the CIL Funding is spent on – the answer was no.
- SDNP/25/00013/LDE The Oast House Wick Hill Farm Hartley – the neighbouring landowner came to the meeting about his concerns about the misrepresentation on the planning application submitted and had sent dated pictures of the site to the Council which showed that there was aspects of the application which he felt were not factually accurate.

## **24/214 Financial Report**

- i) Members are asked to:
  - a) note bank balances, earmarked reserves and payments and receipts since the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The Interim Parish Clerk reported that there had been access issues to the bank and therefore cheques had had to be used to pay everyone. This meant that there was no other financial information available at this meeting, but it was hoped that this information would soon be available and then the finances can be updated and circulated.

- b) approve December bank reconciliation

Please see above.

c) approve the following payments February 2025:

Cllr. S. Bennett would not take part on any approval of her payment.

**RESOLVED** to confirm that the following payments be made:

- i) Seema Bennett – sending special delivery letter containing the Parish Council cheque books to the Interim Parish Clerk Total: £14.22
- ii) Anne Wilson – 7 envelopes @10p each = 70p, 1 large envelope@15p, 19 copies @10p each = £1.90, 6 stamps @ £2.20 each = £13.20 and special delivery postage £9.35 – to send the written cheques to Seema Bennett to obtain the signatures and for the cost of posting cheques Total: £25.30
- iii) PJ Grace January 2025 £648.00

The Interim Clerk was asked to confirm that the works carried out were in line with what had been agreed and invoiced for. Cllr. Ashcroft asked for the evidence from the minutes as he felt that the Clerk may have authorised the works not the Parish Council. The Interim Clerk had not yet established whether the works which were queried at a previous meeting should have been carried out and again Cllr. Ashcroft felt that the work may have been authorised by the Clerk not the Council.

d) Finance Committee

Members noted that the Finance Committee was not able to meet on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 due to access issues to the bank accounts and finance package. More information was given at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that Members agree a new date of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The Locum Clerk would attend by Zoom.

e) Application for grant for 2025 St Marys Selborne

Information about this grant application had been circulated to Members before the meeting.

Members considered the grant application from St. Marys for £700 towards the maintenance of the Churchyard and **RESOLVED** that a grant of £550 be made.

## 24/215 Planning

Members are asked to consider and note:

i) To consider and agree a response to the following planning application(s):

- SDNP/25/00013/LDE The Oast House Wick Hill Farm Hartley  
Lawful Development Certificate – for repair and maintenance of an existing private way.

Cllr. Megeney said that she knew the applicant of this application as a member of a local organisation.

**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders.

The resident at the meeting said they were speaking on behalf of the neighbouring landowner.

**RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** that Members felt that they could not comment on this application as there was not enough information available and there was a possibility that misinformation was also available on the planning portal.

- SDNP/25/00153/FUL Old Thatch, Gracious Street, Selborne  
Relocate the front door to the window opening to the right side of this door, and move that window to the original front doorway.

**RESOLVED** that Members had no objections to this application.

- SDNP/25/00154/LIS Old Thatch, Gracious Street, Selborne  
Listed Building Consent - Relocate the front door to the window opening to the right side of this door, and move that window to the original front doorway.

**RESOLVED** that Members had no objections to this application.

ii) Planning Applications Granted:

**RESOLVED** to note the following applications had been granted:

- SDNP/24/05049/TCA Blackmoor Hours Sotherington Lane Alton

1 and 3 Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) – Remove dead limbs over drive. Remove mature specimens with dead limbs. Adjacent to track/drive and access to dwelling. 7 – Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) – Remove dead branches in upper crown. Two dead branches close to refuse area. Medium Risk. 8 – Douglas Fir – bodies to east at stem base consistent with *Phaeolus schweinitzii* (brown cubic rot). To west of stem base is an area of necrotic bark and dysfunctional cambium. Tree is weighted to east away from garages. Given prevailing winds the tree's bias away

from areas of increased occupancy risk of harm should the tree fail is comparatively low. However, the presence of the fungi and the necrotic bark risk features increase the risk of this tree being windthrown in storm weather. Medium risk Propose to replant identical species. 9 - Sawara cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*) - Remove Tree. 90% defoliated. In decline Remove tree. Low risk. Marked with orange paint Propose to replant identical species. 12 - Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) - Remove poorly attached deadwood over amenity area. Mature oak tree with dead wood over amenity area. 14 - Mixed Species - Remove poorly attached dead wood over path, Group of two oaks and one false acacia. Deadwood over path. 15 - Poplar (*Populus* sp) - Remove Tree - Mature specimen with very limited safe useful life expectancy. Habitat holes on stem consistent with some level of internal decay. Broken branches in upper crown. Inappropriate for attention in current condition within domestic and garden setting. 16 - Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) - Remove poorly attached dead wood. Westernmost tree in a group of three. Large quantity of dead wood. 17 - Magnolia - cut back pruning. Large leaning magnolia that is blocking light and possibly contributing to damp/retaining moisture against stone wall of house. 18 Yews - Reduce height, cut back from overhanging shed. Several trees overhanging sheds.

iii) Solar Farm

Members were asked to discuss an item about the Solar Farm.

RESOLVED that there was no information at this stage.

#### **24/216 Update on the Recruitment of a Parish Clerk**

Members were asked to receive an update on the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk.

**RESOLVED** to note that interviews were taking place for the post of Parish Clerk and RFO on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Members noted that the Interim Parish Clerk had informed the Chairman that she is not able to work for Selborne Parish Council beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

#### **24/217 Plestor and Gracious Street flood**

Members were asked to receive and update on work taken place on this matter since the last meeting from the Interim Parish Clerk and Members.

The Environment Agency (EA), East Hants Council (EHC) and Hants CC (HCC) had been contracted to attend a meeting either in the last week of February or first two weeks of March. East Hants Council have said it is nothing to do with them and the Parish Clerk, although having chased the other two has not yet had a substantive response, only an acknowledgement from each.

Cllr. O'Donnell informed Members that the Gracious Street Working Party had met on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and a summary report had been circulated to those who attended and Parish Councillors. There was a concern about the increasing frequency of flooding. Some landowners and business owners had been spoken to and more residents wanted to join the working group. Pressure should be put onto the EA and HCC to take this matter seriously and as a priority. The Interim Parish Clerk

was asked to forward the telephone numbers of the EA and HCC to Cllr. O'Donnell. Co-ordination was needed when there was flooding including the Police closing the road.

Cllr. Earney spoke about the flooding in Plestor and was yet to arrange a meeting with the residents. There was concern about the aerating under the Oak Tree where a quote had been sent through. There was a quote already received of £2917 and the company give the impression that they know what they are doing. This work needs to be done by the end of March before the tree becomes alive again. It was noted that the tree was showing considerable signs of stress and would probably need felling within ten years.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk contact Hilliers Trees about the quote received and if all was well then, the Council should go ahead with the work proposed.

**Further RESOLVED** that Members agreed that only obtaining one quote was not in line with Financial Regulations but on this occasion felt that this was the right action given the need for the work to be carried out very soon.

Cllr. Earney said that he hoped to hold a meeting with Plestor in the next couple of weeks.

Further **RESOLVED** that a list of contacts in times of flooding be added to the website made up of local contacts as well as statutory contracts.

#### **24/218 Community Infrastructure Levy Funding**

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has opened the call for projects for the 2024/25 round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. The window for submission of Expressions of Interest will be open from 16th January 2025 until 25th April 2025. Please note, any decisions on CIL funding will not be made before Autumn 2025. CIL funding is intended to be spent on infrastructure to support growth within the National Park. Our corporate plan priorities are 'Nature Recovery', 'Climate Action' and 'A National Park for All', and we will be recommending bids that support these priorities.

Members had been sent information by e mail before the meeting and were asked to make any comments.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted this information and the Interim Clerk would obtain further information from SDNP about the CIL Funding available and the ability to allocate the local funding for the parish.

#### **24/219 Community Emergency Plan - Planning and Emergency Resilience East Hants (EHDC)**

Alongside other Local Resilience Forums across the south coast, EHDC have been creating a public information booklet which explains key risks and what the general public might need to do to prepare, respond and recover from them.

We've created a first draft, and we're keen to get feedback before we share it wider. If you have 10 minutes and want to brush up your understanding of some of the key risks in Hampshire, check out the attached document.

Members had been sent information by e mail before the meeting and were asked to make any comments.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the information and felt it may be useful for the parish.

### **24/220 Local Plan Review: Have Your Say Now**

An eight-week consultation on the Local Plan Review had begun on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as the National Park invites people to have their say on how and where development takes place.

The award-winning South Downs Local Plan is being reviewed to ensure it is up-to-date and addresses important issues such as nature recovery, climate change, affordable housing and helping local communities thrive.

The public consultation of the Local Plan Review starts on 20 January and will run until 17 March. This is the main opportunity for people to help shape the final Plan, so the National Park Authority is inviting comments from local communities, stakeholders and the development sector. This feedback will then help shape the next version of the Local Plan, which will be published in 2026 ahead of its submission for examination by an independent Inspector. Once the new Local Plan is adopted in 2027, it will be used to help decide all planning applications in the National Park.

Members had been circulated before the meeting with the consultation information and were asked to make any comments.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted this information.

### **24/221 Items deferred from the last meeting**

Members were asked to consider the following items:

i) Grant Application from Selborne Recreation Committee

This item had been deferred previously to allow further information to be obtained regarding further quotations (as required by grant policy) as well as bank statements and a financial report. The committee should provide confirmation that the zip wire is closed and unusable in the interim for safety reasons. Cllr Webster-Jones is to confer with the committee to pursue these points. A revised amount is now sought of £2682 +VAT and give an update at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that a new Grant Application will need to be submitted due to the updated quotes and information available.

ii) Deferred items

Members are asked to note and discuss the items below and prioritise the work for the Parish Council.

*The deferred items are:*

*21 June:*

*23.49 Parish council debit card, which was then resolved to apply 13 Sep meeting, but we still don't have one – this will be applied for by the new Parish Clerk.*

*23.49(b) Policy review deferred. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Management Schedule resolved to accept 20/3 but then on 15 May meeting it states that a policies working group will be formed at a later date to review them. No policies working group formed – some policies had been amended and adopted but this would be left to the new Clerk.*

*23.49 (b) reporting requirements for website to be checked - no further information on this – the website was very clunky and difficult to use – perhaps a new one was needed. The new Parish Clerk would be asked to organise the website ensuring that all the legal information was on there and there was ease of access and use of the site.*

*23.56 (g) Queen Elizabeth II legacy & Coronation Commemoration – deferred – felt to be too late to do anything now. The WI had already put a bench into the parish.*

*23.59 Action List - no further information it was felt that some items were on this deferred item list.*

*26 July:*

*Can questionnaire approved, circulation to be approved at next meeting. At 9 Aug meeting, circulation deferred until PPS completed so to go onto agenda for November - has not come back onto agenda. The engagement with the public superseded it.*

*13 September;*

*24.117 consideration of a 2nd disabled parking space at the Plestor - no further information – It was suggested that the Interim Clerk write to HCC Highways about a disabled parking space outside the museum but there were also suggestions about the space being put on the Wakes as it was by a busy main road or by the village shop. The Plestor Working Group was asked to speak to the resident who had asked about the additional space.*

It was also felt to be an opportunity for the Clerk to work with the Transport Committee to look at a complete package of parking and other transport matters in the parish.

*18 October:*

*23.135 to consider the adoption of a privacy statement for councillors - deferred until 8 Nov - this has not come back onto an agenda – this would be a job for the new Parish Clerk.*

*8 November.*

*23.148 - resolved to carry out live streaming of meetings - we still do not have this – the new Parish Clerk would be asked to look into this.*

*10 January.*

*23.204 new tree planting in parish - for discussion at February meeting - this has not been on the agenda – this was going to be a community project for the Coronation – yet to be discussed.*

*21 February:*



23.232 white lines - clerk to contact HCC to revisit addition of white lines - no update received on this – this could be looked at by the Transport Committee.

23.236 Clerk to check on land registry - no update on this – land ownership for Gracious Street and the Plestor.

23.236 clerk to forward info from SDNP & EHDC to residents - has this happened? – item to be deleted from list.

17 April:

24.8 approval of Asset List - deferred, on May agenda states policy working group will look at at a later date, no set date for this – it was thought that the previous Clerk had updated the Asset List and this would be taken to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

## **24/221 Updates from Working Groups**

Members are asked to receive and note updates from the Chairman of the Working Groups on the work of their group.

**RESOLVED** to receive the following updates:

- The Community Engagement Working Party was looking to meet and be available on a set day each month – one in Selborne and one in Blackmoor/Oakhangar. Councillor Hulbert, Earney, Megeney and Bridger offered to help but all Councillors would be sent the dates in case they were able to attend. The dates would be put on the website, village noticeboards and Facebook.

## **24/222 To receive District Councillor report**

**RESOLVED** to receive and note a report from the District Councillor Cllr. Ashcroft:

- Devolution and abolish of Easington Hants Council – it was thought that there would be three areas following reorganisation and the setting up of Unitaries in Hampshire but there was some concern about the disproportion of size of them. He felt that we were fortunate in East Hants as the current Monitoring Officer had been through this process before in Cheshire and had a lot of knowledge about the situation to assist in trying to ensure the area gets a good deal. The District Plan would see through any retrospective applications and the waste contract would continue until reorganisation takes place. EHDC staff are being kept up to date at each stage.
- There is a new planning website and 25 years of applications have been put onto it. Cllr. Ashcroft asked if anyone found any problems with it to let him know.
- EHDC was a wealthy council and he encouraged the council to let him know of any projects of where the money they had could be spent as the Council did not want to hand over their funds to a Unitary as it would be lost and not spent specifically on this area. This is a really good opportunity for us to improve the parish.

## **24/223 Date of next meetings**

**RESOLVED** to note that the Parish Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 - Annual Meeting

Members are asked to note that the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will be held in the school on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Members are asked to agree who they would like to speak at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Monitoring Officer be invited to the APM to give an insight into devolution and the changes to the area in terms of councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner too.

The Interim Parish Clerk state that part of the mandate of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to ensure that the Police come at least once a quarter to Parish Council meetings.

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....

**Chairman**