



**Minutes of a meeting of Selborne Parish Council
held in the Blackmoor Village Hall
on Tuesday 18th March 2025 AT 8.00 PM**

Present: Cllr. S. Bennett – Chairman

Cllr. D. Ashcroft

Cllr. C. Bridgier

Cllr. N. O'Donnell

Cllr. S. Hubert

Cllr. B. Roger-Smith

Cllr. D. Webster-Jones

Cllr Gren Earney

Also present: Anne Wilson Locum Parish Clerk

Two members of the public

24/224 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive apologies of absence for this meeting from:

- Cllr. H. Grovesnor – work commitment
- Cllr. M. Turner – work commitment

24/225 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcome everyone to the Parish Council meeting and made announcements including a fire safety announcement.

The Chairman informed Members that the appointed new Clerk, who was due to have all the paperwork handed over before the meeting, had let the Council know the week before that they would no longer be taking the job despite having accepted the role. They had taken another role nearer their home.

24/226 Executive Officer's Summary

The Interim Parish Clerk said that she was hoping to hand over all the paperwork the day of the meeting, as she was not in the area now, and would still look to leave on 31st March although she would not leave the Council without a Clerk and speak with the Chairman after the meeting. She intended to ensure that the accounts were up to date for each month and year end, the possible earmarked reserves and virements be ready for agreement at the April meeting and Members noted that bank access was working now.

24/227 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to receive the following interests:

- Cllr. Hubert – pecuniary interest in the grant application from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

24/228 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 18th February 2025 with a few amendments made in terms of typos.

24/229 Public Questions

RESOLVED that at this point in the meeting, it was adjourned to allow for public questions Members of the public are invited to speak for up to 3 minutes each.

There were no public questions.

24/230 Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Members were updated on the current situation with regard to the vacancy on the Parish Council and the next steps be it an election or co-option.

24/231 Financial Report

i) Members were asked to:

- a) note bank balances, earmarked reserves and payments and receipts since the meeting on 18th December 2024

RESOLVED to note that not all this information was available for this meeting due to access issues with the bank which have now been resolved, and the Interim Clerk would send all the information to Members when available.

The access to the bank was now working and Members noted the balances as at 18th March 2025:

- Deposit Account £99,197.00
- Current Account £28,365.46

b) approve bank reconciliations

RESOLVED to note that this was not available for this meeting due to access issues with the bank which have now been resolved, and the Interim Clerk would send all the information to Members when available.

c) approve the following payments made in between meetings:

RESOLVED to approve the following payments made in between meetings:

- Imperative Training Ltd – Defibrillator Batteries x 3 £858.60
- SLCC Parish Clerk advert £240.00

d) Approve the following payments to be made at the meeting:

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- BWP Creative Ltd – Website Hosting and support 8/1/2025-7/1/2026 £228 + VAT 45.60 = £273.60
- SLCC Locum Fees January 2025 £580.10 + VAT £116.02 = £696.12
- SLCC Locum Fees December 2024 £752.10 + VAT £150.42 = £902.52
- Selborne Recreation Ground 50% of the water bill for the Recreation Ground £128.09
- Idverde 01/01/2025 – 31/03/2025 bin emptying twice weekly £56.10 + VAT £11.22 = £67.32

- Ruskins Selborne Green tree works £2917.00 + VAT £583.40 = £3500.40

There were some questions as to whether this was the only work needed to these trees or whether this was the first steps. There were reservations about the scale of the works and the need to keep vehicles off this area. It was confirmed that three No Parking signs were no in situ.

There were questions about the Recreation Ground trees works invoices previously paid as to whether the work had been agreed by Council or by an officer. The Interim Parish Clerk was asked to look back through the minutes to see where the work was confirmed although a member at the meeting read a paragraph from the October 2024 minutes which appeared to clear the matter up in that it reads as if it was a Council decision.

e) Finance Committee

RESOLVED to note that the Finance Working Party will meet on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 8 p.m.

The Interim Parish Clerk expressed concern about the wish of Members not to have an agenda for this Working Party meeting, despite specific matters listed to be discussed by Members but was assured it was informal discussion forum, and an agenda was not needed. The Interim Clerk said that no decisions could be made at the meeting and asked who would be writing notes. Members were not clear of the process, and it was explained that notes should be taken of the informal meeting and matters brought to Full Council for a discussion and decision made on any points.

f) Grant Applications

- Application for grant for St. Matthews Churchyard

RESOLVED that a grant for £500 be given for work to St. Matthews Churchyard.

- Application for a grant for Oakhanger Village Hall

RESOLVED that Members considered the grant application for work to Oakhanger Village Hall and agreed that, noting the time constraints and the need to pursue the work, a decision be deferred until after the Finance Working Group meeting. This would be put back on the agenda of the Parish Council meeting due to be held on the 29th April 2025 for further discussion.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders.

Conversation took place about other grants available including SDNP s106 funding and Action Hampshire. Oakhangar Village Hall application for solar panel funding was much cheaper than Blackmoor Village Hall as the nature of the two venues was very different. Oakhangar had raised £5 from the Beer Festival, and it was noted that Planning Permission was not needed from EHDC.

RESOLVED to re-instate Standing Orders.

- Application for a grant for Selborne Recreation Ground

RESOLVED that Members further considered the revised grant application for work to Selborne Recreation Ground and agreed that subject to the accounts and bank information being sent to the Interim Parish Clerk, who would look at the paperwork, and if satisfactory then a grant of £3672 be made in between meetings, noting that this was a health and safety matter. The decision would then be ratified at the Parish Council meeting due to be held on the 29th April 2025.

- Application for a grant for Blackmoor Village Hall

RESOLVED that Members considered the grant application for work to Blackmoor Village Hall and agreed that, noting the time constraints and the need to pursue the work, a decision be deferred until after the Finance Working Group meeting. This would be put back on the agenda of the Parish Council meeting due to be held on the 29th April 2025 for further discussion.

- Application for a grant from the Citizens Advice Bureau

RESOLVED that Members considered the grant application from the Citizens Advice Bureau and agreed to give a grant of £500.

24/232 Planning

Members were asked to consider and note:

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

- SDNP/25/01047/APNB Park Farm Dairy, Blackmoor Road, Blackmoor
Prior approval for a proposed building for agricultural or forestry use – log drying kiln with enclosure

RESOLVED that Selborne Parish Council have no objections subject to:

- a) The hours of work are during normal working hours.
 - b) There are no chipping facilities on site - noise travels a great distance
 - c) Ideally the only ingress and egress from the site is onto the A325 only
- SDNP/25/00520/TCA Limes End Cottage, High Street, Selborne
T1 Ash – Fell T2 Beech – Fell

RESOLVED that Selborne Parish Council object to this application due to there being insufficient information to enable the Parish Council to make an informed decision. There are no supporting documents to show where the trees are on the property or why the trees need felling.

ii) Planning Applications Granted:

RESOLVED to note that the following applications had been granted:

- SDNP/24/05207/TCA Dortons Huckers Lane Selborne
Beech Tree A – Fell
- SDNP/24/04199/PA3R Chapel Farm Oakhanger Road Oakhanger
Conversion of agricultural barns and land within their curtilage at Chapel Farm to provide flexible commercial use of falling within Class E (commercial, business or service) pursuant to Class R(c) of schedule 2, part 4 of the Town and Country General Permitted Development Order 2015 (GDPO)

24/233 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 Parish Clerk was asked to give Cllr. O'Donnell the contact details of the contacts at the Environment Agency and the contact at Hants CC. The Clerk had contact both and sent reminders for an answer to endeavour to set up a meeting with them and residents in the near future. Cllr. O'Donnell offered to take this forward.

- Plestor Street flooding – there was no update, but the works had been completed.

- Gracious Street flooding – Cllr. Ashcroft would send the costs and recommendations to the Interim Clerk to circulate.

24/234 Ahmadiyya Muslim Community – Iftar for local people

Members were made aware of the event going on in the parish in the near future and the improvements and security arrangements made year on year. It was expected that the area would be very busy, and Members supported the event and organisation.

24/235 Drainage Channel Recreation Ground

The Parish Council have received the following complaint about the drainage channel at the Recreation Ground. Members are therefore asked to consider the complaint and agree the way forward.

Following the recent re-grading of the drainage ditch behind Fountain House I have checked the impact of the work on the flow of water down the ditch into the runoff towards the Oakhanger Stream. While the work has improved the water flow in heavy rain conditions, sadly it has not resolved the underlying problem of water retention behind Fountain House at the point where the recreation field drain enters the ditch. The re-grading still does not give adequate run away for the whole length of the ditch and in fact still can be seen to rise in the wrong direction further down the ditch.

Photo to illustrate the remaining problem will be circulated at the meeting, taken approximately 7 days after the last rain with the recreation field drain still running water into the ditch.

On inspection there appears to have been no deepening of the ditch to facilitate this run off. i.e. no visible sign of soil/earth on the banks of the ditch. The resident respectfully requests that the contractor be contacted to complete the work such that effective run off is evident for the full length of the ditch. In the event that the clearing of vegetation is delayed, for whatever reason, the resident respectfully requests that the routine re-grading is at least conducted, as a matter of some urgency, on the section that they have already cleared as indicated in the photos.

RESOLVED that Members noted that through the pictures sent to the Parish Council that it was obvious that the work was not as expected in the ditch along the entrance to the tennis courts along the road.

Further **RESOLVED** that the Interim Parish Clerk contact Dr Jones about the work and ask him about the work and ask for some remedial work to be carried out to help with the water flow.

An update would be given at the April Parish Council meeting.

24/236 Alton Ramblers Footpath Maintenance Team

Members are asked to note the information below from Paul Naish, Footpaths Secretary and consider the way forward:

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, I am Paul Naish the new Alton Ramblers Footpath Secretary and lead the Footpath Maintenance Team with my colleague Matt Flood, carrying out work in your Parish for Hampshire Countryside Service. We work in 20 Parishes around Alton, yours being one.

In my role as Footpath secretary, I am looking to take a proactive approach through regular communication so that we can work with you in identifying footpath maintenance and construction projects such as stiles to gates, steps and handrails, ditch crossings etc.

Our footpath maintenance team has around 20 members and is able to volunteer 650+ hours per year to our local communities. We want to make a real difference by creating wider awareness of the footpath network and improving the accessibility of footpaths for all in our area.

We would very much like the opportunity to meet and discuss how we might be able to support and assist you in executing your plans for the footpaths in your Parish. Some areas to consider:

- 1. What are your most used footpaths?*
- 2. What footpaths are often blocked by overgrown vegetation?*
- 3. What footpath furniture in need of repair or replacement?*
- 4. Is there an opportunity to establish identified walking routes to attract visitors?*

RESOLVED that Members noted that the footpath monitors were Ian Older and Ian O'Donnell. The Interim Clerk would forward the e mail from Paul Naish to Cllr. N. O'Donnell.

RESOLVED to extend the Parish Council by 30 minutes.

24/237 Discussion around VE day celebrations – what do we want to do?

VE Day was Thursday 8th May 2025 although it was acknowledged that most areas were celebrating on Monday 5th May 2025 as it was a Bank Holiday.

Following discussion, it was felt that each area of the parish had some ideas and plans as to what they were doing already and therefore the council would signpost groups to Hannah Robins at East Hants where there were grants available. It was felt that all three villages should have bunting in, and it was suggested that a date be looked into for picnic on the pitch. A licence would therefore be needed if alcohol or music is played.

Members spoke about the lighting of a beacon as part of the national beacon lighting.

RESOLVED that Councillors Hulbert, Bridgier and Megeney formulate a plan and get local people to help with the delivery of an event.

Further **RESOLVED** that Hannah Robins be contacted about a grant to buy bunting for all three areas of the parish.

The Interim Parish Clerk left the meeting at this point – 10.20 p.m. – due to the very long journey home which she had.

24/238 Updates from Working Groups

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

24/239 To receive District Councillor report

Members were asked to receive and note a report from the District Councillor, Cllr. David Ashcroft.

24/240 Date of next meetings

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

- Tuesday 29th April 2025 – Selborne Village Hall
- Wednesday 14th May 2025 – Annual Parish Meeting - in the school
- Wednesday 21st May 2025 - Annual Meeting – Oakhanger Village Hall

Signed Date

Chairman