

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN OAKHANGER VILLAGE HALL**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM**



**Present:** Cllr Seema Bennett (Chairman)  
Cllr David Webster-Jones (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr David Ashcroft  
Cllr Gren Earney  
Cllr Sarah Hulbert  
Cllr Tom Marien  
Cllr Wendy Megeney  
Cllr Nikki O'Donnell  
Cllr Rob Stephenson

**Also present:** Julie Flenley, Locum Parish Clerk, 6 members of the public

**25/120 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Charlie Bridger, Cllr Howard Grosvenor, and Cllr Matt Turner.

**RESOLVED** Cllr Earney proposed that all apologies be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Hulbert. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

**25/121 Declarations of Interest**

*Councillors are 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:** No declarations of interest were received. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

**25/122 Approval of Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the full council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. 8 councillors agreed, with 1 abstentions, motion carried. Locum Clerk to retain signed minutes for the record.

**25/123 Chairman's Announcements**

Cllr Bennett welcomed councillors back for the first meeting in 2026 and extended her best wishes to Cllr Bridger in her recovery.

**25/124 Executive Officers summary**

The Locum Clerk noted that a clean of the High Street was due and normally undertaken by PJ Grace, but a clean request had been raised with East Hants District Council and was yet to be undertaken. Cllr Ashcroft agreed to chase it up in his capacity as Ward Councillor. The Locum Clerk noted that the works had been completed by DJ Pipework on Goslings Croft and paperwork was to be sent to South East Water to complete the connection.

The Locum Clerk also noted that the St. Thomas's Day bread donations had been completed for 2025. There were a number of residents missed, but the list had been updated to show the new additions and they would receive their bread in 2026. The invoice was due to be raised and sent to Magdalen College for payment.

It was also noted that a volunteer resident who completed the regular playpark inspections in Oakhanger was not available for the next 3 months and a request for a councillor to temporarily stand in was made; training would be provided. Cllr Stephenson agreed to volunteer. The Locum Clerk noted that the licence agreement from Lord Selborne had been received for the year for the Peppercorn Plot and would be noted/agreed at the February full council meeting.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PUBLIC SPEAKING SLOT AT 25/125. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED AT 7.47PM.

#### **25/125 Public Questions**

**RESOLVED:** Residents raised concerns about the planning applications to introduce parking charges at the Selborne Arms. Councillors noted the concerns and agreed to address them at item 25/132. A resident also noted that the village shop, which was subject to an Asset of Community Value as applied for by the parish council in 2021, was to be put on the market for sale. Councillors noted the situation, and that the item would be updated on at 25/126.

CLLR ASHCROFT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE REINSTATED FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF ITEM 25/125. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY, STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED AT 8.06PM.

#### **25/126 To discuss the Old Post Office and it's ACV status**

The Locum Clerk reported that she had had conversations with the Community Development and Engagement team at EHDC with regards to the situation, and had received a letter from the EHDC legal team noting that the asset was partially listed which meant that it fell into the exemptions category of the legislation, and the moratorium did not apply. The ACV listing would be carried forward with the sale of the property.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Earney proposed that the letter from EHDC's legal team be acknowledged and the contents noted. Seconded by Cllr Ashcroft. Agreed with 3 abstentions, motion carried. Locum Clerk to action.

#### **25/127 To note progress/discussions on the proposed multigym installations in Oakhanger and Selborne**

Cllr Earney noted that there were a number of practical steps to be taken in order to implement the proposals and that the steps needed to be followed. Public engagement was key, as was liaising with the landowners/stakeholders and a proper consultation would need to be undertaken. Cllr Webster-Jones thanked Cllr Earney for the work which had gone into the document so far, and noted that discussions could be initiated with the Selborne Recreation Committee and Oakhanger Village Hall.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that Cllr Webster-Jones progress discussions with the Selborne Recreation Committee and noted that Cllr Hulbert had already initiated discussions with Oakhanger Village Hall Committee. Seconded by Cllr Megeney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record, Cllrs Webster-Jones and Hulbert to update at a future meeting.

#### **25/128 To agree the quotes received for grass cutting works in the parish for 2026/27**

The Locum Clerk noted that quotes were difficult to receive with no definitive grasscutting maps of the parish and requested that councillors assist with mapping the areas which were under the remit of Selborne Parish Council. Councillors Ashcroft and Megeney agreed to meet and map out areas, assisted by EHDC maps which would be copied by Cllr Webster-Jones.

**RESOLVED:** Following a site meeting by January end with Cllrs Ashcroft and Megeney, the maps would be demarked with Selborne Parish Council's grasscutting responsibilities and sent to the Locum Clerk who would approach interested parties with the intention of gaining further quotes. Cllrs Ashcroft and Megeney to update alongside the Locum Clerk.

#### **25/129 To agree the Financial Risk Assessment and Investment Policy as recommended by the Internal Auditor**

Councillors noted that the Investments Policy was not attached to agenda pack, and requested deferral to the February 2026 meeting. Cllr Megeney noted that the Financial Risk Assessment adequately covered the council's risk profile in financial matters but requested that a line be inserted about agenda pack circulation before the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the council defer the agreement of the Investments Policy to the February full council meeting to give councillors time to read and suggest amendments. Seconded by Cllr Megeney. Agreed by 8 councillors with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk to bring the item to the February full council agenda.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Ashcroft proposed that the council follow best practice and adopt the Financial Risk Assessment (FRA) with Cllr Megeney's suggestion at the Minutes/agendas/Notices & Statutory Documents section of the FRA. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to make amendments and post on the parish council website.

### **25/130 To update on parish flooding issues, including discussions with the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council on Gracious Street and Galley Hill flooding.**

The Locum Clerk noted that a meeting had been held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 with representatives from Hampshire County Council (HCC), the Environment Agency (EA), parish councillors and a resident on the ongoing flooding issues. The meeting noted that residents were facing many issues with fluvial flooding in the area, and that there were some works which required urgent attention by HCC, including repairs to an undercut bank, ditching works and fence repairs. Longer term works would be required to alleviate high risk flood times, and natural flood risk management strategies would be considered in the new funding window which was opening in April from the EA. It was noted that the works would be at least 2 years into the future as the EA would be concentrating on currently approved works, but the intention was to work with the parish council to get plans in train.

**RESOLVED:** Locum Clerk to update councillors on the urgent works going forward, and to engage with interested parties in a meeting at the end of April once the new grant funding scheme is in operation. It was requested that the Locum Clerk inform local residents of the meeting outcome, and add information about reporting to the EA/HCC on the website and social media. It was noted that Cllrs Ashcroft, Bennett, Hulbert and O'Donnell to be involved in future meetings.

### **25/131 To discuss and agree resubmitting the CFI Funding application to SDNPA for traffic works in Selborne following on from discussions with HCC Highways**

The Locum Clerk noted that the grant application window for CFI funding at SDNPA was due to close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. A meeting to discuss the scope of works in line with the Atkins report from 2016 was proposed to be held with an engineer from HCC Highways department. It was agreed by councillors that the whole parish would be considered. The Locum Clerk noted that the SDNP would make an award based on other applications, and the funding pot open to them and that it was possible to ask for an increase in funds from the original £40,000 in 2022. Cllrs Earney, Bennett, Megeney and Marien to be involved.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr O'Donnell proposed that the Locum Clerk complete the grant application form to SDNPA, omitting the figure to be applied for until the meeting takes place with HCC – the grant application would be submitted following the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to arrange meeting and start drafting the grant application. Updates to follow.

### **25/132 Planning:** To consider and agree a response to the following planning application(s):

- **SDNP/25/04373/FUL** - Selborne Arms High Street Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3JR. Installation of 1 x ANPR camera on a wooden column. 1 x cabinet. 1 x payment machine. Decision date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed to object to the application based on highways safety, traffic displacement, effect on access to the public toilets, unrealistic expectations for 43 car parking spaces and noted that should the application be granted, the car park surface would need to be maintained. Furthermore, residents were not properly informed so a request for consultation by SDNP was required on the proposals. Seconded by Cllr O'Donnell. 8 councillors in favour with 1 abstention. Motion carried, Locum Clerk to write.

- **SDNP/25/04374/ADV2** - Selborne Arms High Street Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3JR. 2 x Sign 1 600 x 800mm - wooden pole, 2 x Sign 2 600 x 800mm - wooden pole, 1 x Sign 2 600 x 800mm - camera column. Decision date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed to object to the application based on highways safety, traffic displacement, effect on access to the public toilets, unrealistic expectations for 43 car parking spaces and noted that should the application be granted, the car park surface would need to be maintained. Furthermore, residents were not properly informed so a request for consultation by SDNP was required on the proposals. Seconded by Cllr O'Donnell. 8 councillors in favour with 1 abstention. Motion carried, Locum Clerk to write.

### **25/133 Financial Report**

- a) To note bank balances, earmarked reserves and receipts since the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and to discuss and agree the balances for the remainder of the council year

The Locum Clerk noted that current bank balances are £31,780.18 (current account) and £101,531.31 (deposit account) with EMR's at £43,967.52. There were no payments other than what was agreed in the previous meeting (nothing made under delegated powers), and no receipts were reported. The Locum Clerk noted that the council would need to ensure that the general reserves balance was within the 3-12 month precept range as set out in the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG).

**RESOLVED:** Councillors noted the bank balances, EMR balances and receipts since 17th December 2025.

b) To note and approve December 2025's bank reconciliation

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed to agree and sign December's bank reconciliations. Cllr Earney seconded. Seven councillors voted in favour, with two abstentions. Motion carried. Locum Clerk to retain the signed bank reconciliation for the record.

c) To approve the proposed schedule of payments

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Earney proposed that the payments list be approved. Seconded by Cllr Marien. Six councillors voted in favour, with three abstentions. Motion carried, Locum Clerk noted for the record and to pay invoices.

#### Receipts and Payments for Approval at Full Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Payee	Description	Invoice no.	Method of Payment	Gross Invoice Amount (£)
<b>Paid – expenditure previously approved at Council meeting/regular payments/payments under Clerk's/Chairs delegation</b>				
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge – January 2026		DD	8.25
EE Limited	Telephone Charges		DD	17.54
<b>For approval</b>				
Seema Bennett	Chair's expenses – flowers	Receipt	BACS	34.50
Julie Flenley	Locum Fees October - November 2025	Inv. 38	BACS	3,033.48
<b>Receipts</b>				
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Interest – Deposit Account	N/A	BACS	556.47

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO ALLOW FOR TIME FOR THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY, MOTION CARRIED. STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED AT 9.28PM

#### 25/134 To receive District Councillor report

Cllr Ashcroft noted that local government reform was ongoing and that EHDC were also proceeding with their new Local Plan, and approaching Regulation 18. Concerns had been raised over the volume of houses the district was expected to yield, over the plan period to 2045. EHDC waste collection (food bin) was an ongoing issue but collections were scheduled to commence in late 2026 as new waste collection lorries had been purchased by EHDC.

Cllr Ashcroft also noted the death of Simon Jenkins (EHDC Planning Department) and passed his condolences on to the family.

**Exclusion of Press and Public. Pursuant to Procedure Rule 20 and in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

#### 25/135 Staffing and Recruitment

Councillors discussed issues around staffing and recruitment and noted that they were happy with the status quo for a further 6 months, where the situation would be reviewed. The Locum Clerk noted that she was happy to remain in post until the recruitment process had been concluded by the council.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that a Staffing Committee be held to discuss the issue in more detail. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to secure date and meeting location and update councillors.

**25/136 Date of next meetings:**

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

- 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Full Council – Selborne Village Hall

**MEETING CLOSED: 9.56PM**

Signed ..... Date .....  
Chairman