

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN OAKHANGER VILLAGE HALL**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM**



**Present:** Cllr Seema Bennett (Chairman)  
Cllr David Webster-Jones (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr David Ashcroft  
Cllr Charlie Bridger  
Cllr Gren Earney  
Cllr Howard Grosvenor  
Cllr Tom Marien  
Cllr Nikki O'Donnell  
Cllr Sarah Hulbert

**Also present:** 8 members of the public

**25/183 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Wendy Megeney and Cllr Rob Stephenson.

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

**25/184 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:** Cllr Marien noted an interest in the Chapel Farm planning applications at item 25/201. Cllr Ashcroft noted his position as Ward Councillor for East Hampshire District Council and abstention from planning decisions. Cllr O'Donnell noted an interest in Goslings Croft allotments following noted in the Locum Clerk's report at item 25/187. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

**25/185 Approval of Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the full council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes from 18th March 2026 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

**25/186 Chairman's Announcements**

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett noted that the council were now in a position to co-opt for the vacant position created by Matt Turner's and noted that the current applicant was in the public gallery. It was also noted that the Locum Clerk was looking into the Annual Parish Meeting venue.

**25/187 Executive Officers summary**

**RESOLVED:** The Locum Clerk noted that the allotment tap at Goslings Croft had hit a snag with South East Water and whilst a further quote had been sought from DJ Pipework for an extension to the pipework laid in early January, the work had been completed without the Locum Clerks instruction and an invoice had been received, which the Locum Clerk would add to the May payments agenda for agreement. In the intervening time, a complaint had been raised by the Locum Clerk with South East Water noting the significant inconvenience to Goslings Croft allotment holders which had been caused by their mapping issues. Compensation to the value of £275 had been offered; Cllr Bennett proposed that the Locum Clerk push for more and report back to the council. Seconded by Cllr Earney, agreed by 8 councillors, with one abstention. Motion carried, Locum Clerk to action.

Additionally, it was noted that the Recreation Ground Pavillion storage space move date was to be confirmed when all parties were able to meet on a free weekend. Once agreed by the council the Locum Clerk would notify the Council on moving in dates.

The Locum Clerk further reported that the CFI funding application to the SDNPA totalling £98,000 for safety works had been submitted the Locum Clerk, with input from Cllr Earney. Traffic/highways safety works in Blackmoor would be subject to a further bid for submission to EHDC at a total cost of £112,000 with a deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026. Borden and Whitehill s106 historic funding was also being investigated which would contribute to the works costs. The Locum Clerk extended her thanks to Cllr Earney for his assistance with the completion of the CFI Funding application.

Flooding at Gracious Street remained an issue for residents and the Locum Clerk was chasing Hampshire County Council on remediation works to the undercut bank at Gracious Street, footpath clearance and fence fixing in the school/Gracious Street area. When works were scheduled in, updates would be provided to the council.

The Locum Clerk noted that the lengthsman was due to visit at the end of April; any outstanding works should be informed of, for the Locum Clerk to schedule them.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED AT 7.46PM.

### **25/188 Public Questions**

#### **RESOLVED:**

A member of the Selborne Stores Committee noted that there was a pending planning application for a new shop in the village which was hoped would be a social hub in the village. Surveys had been conducted which demonstrated large support for the initiative and support had been sought from the Plunkett Foundation. It was felt that the community benefit would be substantial, and local produce would be stocked with excess profits reinvested into the parish/community.

A resident noted that she had been injured whilst using the BT Phone Box in Blackmoor and requested that the owners remedy the situation. The parish council noted that it was unclear who owned the phone box, but a sign would be fixed to warn residents and a fix organised.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE RESUMED. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 7.56PM.

### **25/189 To note updates on VAS signage in the parish**

Cllr Grosvenor noted that a new battery had been purchased for the VAS sign and it had been located on Fountain Road. A schedule of locations had been shared with Hampshire County Council Highways for locations going forward. Cllr Grosvenor also agreed to circulate the new schedule to the council for information. Cllr Ashcroft agreed to assist Cllr Grosvenor to move the village VAS sign to the next location.

It was noted that the school VAS signs belonged to Scottish and Southern Electricity. Some conversations had been had around adopting the VAS sign but have not reached a conclusion yet. It was agreed that the council would liaise with Hampshire County Council on the pole the Scottish and Southern VAS sign was installed on, to request whether the parish can take it on too.

### **25/190 To note the CFI Funding application to SDNPA for traffic safety works in Selborne for £98,000 and update on the EHDC traffic safety funding application**

**RESOLVED:** Councillors noted that the application for traffic safety works in Selborne had been submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority to the value of £98,000 with support from Hampshire County Council. It was noted that the second application for traffic and highways safety works in Blackmoor was underway, and that it would be submitted in advance of the 1<sup>st</sup> May deadline. Updates to follow.

### **25/191 Co-option**

Charlotte Pead attended the parish council meeting and spoke from the public gallery about her history and interest in both the parish and the local area. A number of questions were asked by parish councillors which were addressed accordingly.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that Charlotte Pead be co-opted on to Selborne Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Marien. Agreed with two abstentions, motion carried. Charlotte Pead was duly co-opted onto Selborne Parish Council. Locum Clerk to send statutory paperwork for completion.

**25/192 To note that RP Commercial Services have been secured by Hampshire County Council for the lengths man scheme for a further 2 years.**

**RESOLVED:** Councillors noted the appointment for the record.

**25/193 To note and resolve a residents request of broadband roll out in the parish**

**RESOLVED:** Councillors noted that an email had been received by the Clerk requesting that the parish council support the roll out of full fibre in the parish. It was noted that residents could petition Openreach and Hampshire County Council individually on the installation in the parish.

**25/194 To note the Jalsa Salana traffic updates for 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July 2026, Oaklands Farm, East Worldham**

Cllr Hulbert noted the dates for the Jalsa Salana for 2026. Cllrs Hulbert and Ashcroft had attended the recent External Liaison Group meeting. Traffic problems for Blackmoor and Oakhanger from 2025 were noted there and Cllr Hulbert had again requested that the organizers use traffic marshals as well as signage to redirect traffic away from the A325/Blackmoor Lane turning and Templars Way/Oakhanger turning to ensure that traffic follows the prescribed route instead of narrow lanes, and had raised concerns about another event to be held in Oakhanger on the same weekend, potentially posing traffic/safety issues. Cllr Ashcroft had also requested the Jalsa organizers provide marshals and clearer signage near the Round House for turnings off the B3006. Cllr O'Donnell noted that traffic had also been severe in Selborne last year.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Hulbert noted that she would send another note to the Jalsa Salana organisers about the parish council concerns.

**25/195 To discuss and agree a grant for St. Matthews Church, Blackmoor for 2025/26 for £500**

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the annual grant of £500 for St. Matthew's Church be approved. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to notify the Church and pay the grant award for 2025/2026.

**25/196 To discuss and agree improvement works at the Lions Mouth**

Cllr Ashcroft noted that works needed to take place at the Lion's Mouth to improve the area. He further noted that it could be done with the works dedicated to the Queen Elizabeth II. It was noted that works would need to take place outside the bird nesting season, with the possibility of the works being approved by council in early Autumn, and commencing in late winter to be completed in early spring 2027. Cllr Ashcroft noted that works could include vegetation clearance and some hard landscaping which would make the area more attractive and open to residents and visitors.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the council take the project forward, with Cllr Ashcroft and the Locum Clerk producing an action plan for full council agreement later in the year. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Cllr Ashcroft and the Locum Clerk to liaise on quotes over the summer for production to the council in Autumn.

**25/197 To discuss excavation works outside Grange, Gracious Street to alleviate flooding**

Cllr Ashcroft noted that the ditch was silted up and required actioning. He noted that a no-dig excavation would be possible in the area and that the council should consider this, given the lack of action from Hampshire County Council's Highways department on the matter.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that quotes be sought for jetting the silted pipe. Seconded by Cllr Bridger. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk and Cllr Ashcroft to liaise on quotes.

**25/198 To discuss and agree to obtain quotes for tree works to the sycamore tree on the Plestor**

**RESOLVED:** Locum Clerk to obtain quotes for pollarding the sycamore from Dr. Jones Tree Surgeon who had completed satisfactory tree works in the parish previously, and was felt to be good value for money. Locum Clerk to instruct accordingly if the quote was acceptable and within the Clerk's and Chairman's delegated allowance under the Financial Regulations.

**25/199 To discuss recovery works to the Oak tree on the Plestor**

Cllr Ashcroft raised concerns about the left-hand side of the Oak Tree on the Plestor which had been exposed to the elements. It was noted that the grass cutting contractor had been instructed not to cut beneath the tree to avoid root damage. Cllr Ashcroft noted that the root system required aeration following on from works in March 2025 by Ruskins to aerate the roots and stop compaction.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Ashcroft proposed that Ruskins return to advise on next steps of works to protect the Oak tree. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, Locum Clerk to action.

#### **25/200 To note an update from the Staffing Committee meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Cllr Grosvenor noted that a Staffing Committee meeting had taken place on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to discuss the council's intention to recruit a new Clerk. Following on from discussions, it was agreed that the council were happy with the level of service and support they were receiving from the current Locum Clerk who had confirmed that she would stay on as long as required by the council. Costings for the Locum Clerk were in line with the staffing costs for a Clerk which was noted for the record.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the council agree the recommendation from the Staffin Committee to pause recruitment for a further 6 months, and return to the decision later in the year. Seconded by Cllr Marien. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to diarise a Staffing Committee meeting for November 2026.

#### **25/201 Planning:** To consider and agree a response to the following planning application(s):

CLLR MERIAN LEFT THE MEETING FOR THE NEXT ITEM AT 9.08PM.

- [EHDC-26-0180-FUL](#) - Chapel Farm, Oakhanger Road, Oakhanger, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 9JB. Change of use of agricultural buildings (Barns 5 and 7) to five residential dwellings (Use Class C3), together with associated operational development including partial demolition work, external alterations to the buildings, installation of fenestration, roof alterations incorporating photovoltaic panels and other ancillary works, following the Class Q Prior Approval dated 20 July 2023 (LPA Ref: 21878/024). Decision due 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the parish council strongly objects to the application with the Locum Clerk to write to express that they should note concerns in inaccuracies in the submitted documentation, there was a lack of clarity in the information provided to support the application and that this was a significant overdevelopment of the site and disproportionate in the area. Flooding and amenity space were also concerns to be noted. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed by seven councillors with one abstention. Locum Clerk to wite.

CLLR MARIEN RE-ENTERED THE MEETING AT 9.20PM.

- [SDNP/26/01194/LIC](#) - Blackmoor Estate, Church Lane, Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire GU33 6BS. New Premises Licence - Blackmoor Estate, Blackmoor, Hampshire GU33 6BS. Decision Due: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** It was noted that this application had already been determined. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

- [SDNP/26/01076/TCA](#) - Plum Tree House, Huckers Lane, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3JN. 1. Common Walnut - Reduce external canopy by within 1-2m, leaving a finished canopy spread of approximately 4-5m, with a finished height of between 14 and 15m. 2 - Weeping Beech - Raise canopy to 4m from ground level in the SE radius over the garden. Decision Due: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Earney proposed that the council do not object to the application. Seconded by Cllr Marien. Agreed with 1 abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

CLLR GROSVENOR LEFT THE MEETING FOR THE NEXT ITEM AT 9.23PM.

- [SDNP/26/01063/TCA](#) – Nuthatch, Plum Fell Lane, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3JX. Eucalyptus tree - Fell. Replace with a native Silver Birch. Decision Due: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

- **RESOLVED:** Cllr Earney proposed that the council do not object to the application. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed with 1 abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

CLLR GROSVENOR RE-ENTERED THE MEETING AT 9.24PM.

#### **25/202 Financial Report:**

- a) To note bank balances, earmarked reserves and receipts since the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and discuss and agree the balances for the remainder of the council year

**RESOLVED:** Councillors noted the bank balances, EMR balances and receipts since 18th Marh 2026.

- b) To note and approve March 2026's bank reconciliation

Councillors acknowledged that the bank reconciliations showed the correct position.

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

- c) To approve the proposed schedule of payments

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 – April 2026		DD	7.60
EE Limited	Telephone Charges		DD	17.54
Citizens Advice Bureau	Annual Grant 2025/26	S137	BACS	500.00
St Mary's Church, Selborne	Annual Grant 2024/25 and annual grant 2025/26	S137	BACS	500.00 (2024/25) 500.00 (2025/26)
<b>For approval</b>				
Julie Flenley	Locum Fees – March to April 2026	Inv. 48	BACS	2,899.53
ID Verde	Quarterly bin emptying fee	Inv.10964506	BACS	142.73
PJ Grace	March grass cutting fee	Inv. 08128	BACS	244.80
AdvantEDGE	Annual accounts package subscription	Inv. 39334	BACS	410.40
<b>Receipts</b>				
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Interest	N/A	BACS	523.65

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Bennett proposed that the payments list be agreed by the council. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Eight councillors voted in favour, with one abstention. Motion carried, Locum Clerk noted for the record and to pay invoices.

#### **25/202 To receive District Councillor report**

Cllr Ashcorft noted that waste bins were on schedule for delivery and emptying by the end of 2026. The Local Plan for EHDC was underway and will be with the Planning Inspector in due course for Regulation 18 consultation and response. The Local Government Reorganisation elections were scheduled to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 with a new Ward Councillors standing for Alton Rural. A shadow authority would be in place until full mayoral elections would be held in 2028.

#### **25/203 Date of next meetings:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - Full Council –8pm Selborne Village Hall

**MEETING CLOSED: 9.30PM**

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