

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN SELBORNE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 2026 AT 8.15PM



Present: Cllr Seema Bennett (Chairman)
Cllr David Webster-Jones (Vice Chairman)
Cllr David Ashcroft
Cllr Charlie Bridger
Cllr Gren Earney
Cllr Wendy Megeney
Cllr Nikki O'Donnell
Cllr Sarah Hulbert

Also present: 3 members of the public

25/161 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Howard Grosvenor and Cllr Tom Marien. No apologies were received from Cllr Rob Stephenson.

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

25/162 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 Webster-Jones noted an interest in the Blackmoor Estate planning applications at item 25/180. Cllr Ashcroft noted his position as Ward Councillor for East Hampshire District Council. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

25/163 Approval of Minutes: To approve the minutes of the full council meeting on 21st January 2026 and 18th February 2026

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes from 21st January 2026 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

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

25/164 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 resignation and requested that councillors look for candidates.

25/165 Executive Officers summary

RESOLVED: The Locum Clerk noted that the allotment tap at Goslings Croft was on track; there had been a team to finalise the connection from South East Water at the start of March but the asset was noted as being recorded in the incorrect place from SE Water's mapping so a return visit was required to complete the connection on the mains at Goslings Croft. The allotment contracts were being prepared for the year for both sets of allotments and would be sent out shortly.

Additionally, it was noted that the Recreation Ground Pavillion storage space licence agreement was on the agenda for agreement following agreement from the Recreation Grounds Committee. Once agreed by the council the Locum Clerk would liaise with the Recreation Committee to secure moving in dates.

The Locum Clerk further reported that there had been a meeting between Councillors Earney, Megeney, Marien and Bennett and representatives from Hampshire County Council Highways on the CFI funding bid for highways safety

works in Selborne and Blackmoor. A bid to the SDNPA for safety works was being drafted by the Locum Clerk for works in Selborne and a further bid will be drafted for submission to EHDC for safety works in Blackmoor. Costs were awaited from HCC Highways to support the bid going forward, once received, applications would be submitted.

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 parish litter pick was scheduled for 21st March and was being arranged by Cllr O'Donnell and £5,000 of allocated NCIL funding has been sent to Oakhanger Village Hall for solar panel installation (which was agreed in September 2025 at agenda item 25/60) following the installation of their solar panels. A street clean had been booked in for EHDC to attend Selborne in December which the Locum Clerk would chase to see whether EHDC had been in attendance. The Charity Commission Return was due on the Recreation Grounds by 31st March 2026 and the annual pension return for LGPS was due at the same time which the Locum Clerk was to complete. The Locum Clerk also noted that the council should fall into its regulated requirements under The Smaller Authorities' Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP, formerly JPAG) of 3-12 months of ratio'd precept to general reserves was in target range, and that the internal audit was booked in with Do The Numbers on 5th June 2026.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED AT 8.33PM.

25/166 Public Questions

RESOLVED: None received.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE RESUMED. SECONDED BY CLLR BRIDGER. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 8.35PM.

CLLR BENNETT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT THE AGENDA ITEMS 25/168, 25/179 AND 25/180 BE MOVED UP THE AGENDA TO BE HEARD AT THE SAME TIME. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED.

25/168 To note progress/discussions on the proposed multigym installation in Oakhanger and Selborne and set a date for engagement with interested parties

Two representatives from the Recreation Ground Committee, Selborne were in attendance and noted that dates for meeting with parish council representatives were being agreed on, with Cllr Hulbert noting the same in Oakhanger. It was noted that whilst the projects for both would potentially deliver the same outcome, that the method of dealing with both applications was manifestly different and that they should be considered as two separate projects by the parish council, with grant funding being considered separately too.

It was noted that a village consultation would take place on both projects and a system would be deployed to manage public expectations on both sites, including deliverability, timeframes and costings.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney would update councillors on meetings with Selborne Recreation Committee and Cllr Earney would update on meetings with Oakhanger stakeholders. Updates to follow.

25/179 To note the licence agreement for renting storage space in the Recreation Pavillion commencing 1st March 2026

Councillors noted the licence agreement for storage space (and potentially office space) at the Recreation Ground Pavillion. Cllr Megeney suggested an amendment to Clause 1.2 to clarify that the parish council would only have access to the front room via the agreed licence rather than the whole pavilion area.

RESOLVED: Councillors noted the amendment, and the agreed licence agreement. The Locum Clerk agreed to update the council on moving dates.

25/180 Planning: To consider and agree a response to the following planning application(s):

- [SDNP/26/00333/FUL](#) - Land East of Ketchers Field Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3DB. Erection of five dwellings and associated carports, accessed via Fountain Road (following demolition of existing buildings). Decision Date: 26th March 2026.

RESOLVED: Cllr Megeney proposed that the parish council write to express that they were supportive of the design and principle of 2/3 bedroom dwellings. However, SPC wished to object to the proposals on the grounds of site access, safety, site accessibility and drainage as there was known flooding in the area. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed by six councillors with two abstentions. Locum Clerk to write.

- [SDNP/26/00223/FUL](#) - St Matthews Church, Church Lane, Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6BN. Interior Works to include the removal of all late 20.C partitions, fixtures and services from the existing south porch, and the introduction of a sloped floor. Relocation of the existing font and associated making good of the floor tiling to the nave. Removal of stone to create 2no. proposed door openings into the north wall of the nave and associated making good of the lower level wall tiling. Removal of the existing timber screen between the tower and the nave and its replacement with a folding oak door panel system. Proposed external pitched roof extension to north of the nave, with glazed link back to 2no. door openings in north wall of nave. Glazed link glass to be site-cut to match external profile of existing stone buttresses. Relocation of existing RWP to adjacent window bay in order to accommodate new glazed link. Proposed relocation of one existing external drainage pipe to accommodate proposed extension. Decision Due: 26th March 2026 (extension granted).

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the parish council write and express their support for the vision of the church and community. However there were concerns about the size and scale of the extension in relation to the adjacent yew tree, and disabled access requirements being compliant with the DDA. Seconded by Cllr Hulbert. Agreed by five councillors with three abstentions. Locum Clerk to write.

CLLR WEBSTER-JONES LEFT THE MEETING FOR THE NEXT ITEM AT 9.57PM.

- [SDNP/26/00665/TCA](#) - Estate Office Blackmoor Estate Church Lane Blackmoor Liss Hampshire GU33 6BS. Oak (T1) - Removal of dying roadside tree Oak (T2) - Whole crown reduction of roadside tree further to storm damage Reason: safety - risk of falling on road. Decision Date: 31st March 2026

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the parish council write and express their support for the application subject to comments from the EHDC Tree Officer. Seconded by Cllr Megeney. Agreed by seven councillors with one abstention. Locum Clerk to write.

CLLR WEBSTER-JONES RE-ENTERED THE MEETING AT 9.59PM.

- [SDNP/25/04465/LIS](#) - 4 Wakes Cottages High Street Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3JL. Listed building consent - To replace the thatched roof. Decision Date: 3rd April 2026.

RESOLVED: Cllr O'Donnell proposed that the parish council does not object to the application. Seconded by Cllr Bridger. Agreed by seven councillors with one abstention. Locum Clerk to note for the record.

25/167 To note updates on VAS signage in the parish

Councillors noted that the VAS sign needed to be collected and moved to a more suitable location and that a new, charged battery was required which the Locum Clerk could order once battery specifications had been noted.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that the item be deferred to a future meeting and Locum Clerk to obtain battery information. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

25/169 To agree the quotes received for grass cutting works in the parish for 2026/27

Councillors noted that the second quote, without street cleaning reduced the overall total to £4,104 + VAT for the year, which would be invoiced monthly.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the second quote be accepted with the removed street cleaning and the contract be reviewed in July/August 2026 when grass cutting maps had been finalised. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed by 7 councillors with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record and to instruct PJ race to undertake the village maintenance contract for the parish going forward.

25/170 To agree the Investment Policy as recommended by the Internal Auditor

CLlr Earney noted amendments to the circulated policy, which were agreed by the council; Locum Clerk to amend the Investments Policy to reflect the councillors agreement.

RESOLVED: CLlr Earney proposed that the Investments Policy be adopted with the agreed amendments. Seconded by CLlr Ashcroft. Agreed by seven councillors with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record and to circulate agreed policy and add to the parish council website.

25/171 To discuss and update the CFI Funding application to SDNPA for traffic works in Selborne following on from discussions with HCC Highways

Councillors noted the paper which had been circulated by CLlr Earney following the traffic meeting which was held in

RESOLVED: CLlr Earney noted that the application for grants was being drafted and that updates would be provided at a future meeting.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO ALLOW FOR A FURTHER 15 MINUTES. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED BY 6 COUNCILLORS WITH TWO OBJECTIONS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED AT 10.16PM.

25/181 Financial Report:

- a) To note bank balances, earmarked reserves and receipts since the meeting on 18th February 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 February 2026.

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

Councillors acknowledged that the bank reconciliations showed the correct position.

RESOLVED: CLlr Earney proposed to agree and sign February's bank reconciliations. CLlr Bennett seconded. Seven 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 (£)
Paid – expenditure previously approved at Council meeting/regular payments/payments under Clerk's/Chairs delegation				
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge – March 2026		DD	6.60
EE Limited	Telephone Charges		DD	17.54
Oakhanger Village Hall	Solar Panel Grant	CIL Grant – item 25/60	BACS	5,000.00
For approval				
Julie Flenley	Locum Fees January – February 2026	Inv. 46	BACS	2,899.53
Selborne Recreation Pavillion	Annual water charge (50% of bill)	Inv. SRG2027-01	BACS	240.29
Receipts				
N/A				

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

CLLR HULBERT LEFT THE ROOM AT 10.24PM

25/172 To discuss and agree a grant for St. Mary’s Church, Selborne for 2024/25 and 2025/26

Councillors noted that the application for the 24/25 grant was received when there was a staffing change, so the grant application for 24/25 was outstanding, and the grant for 2025/26 had now been received.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the grant be agreed a £500 for 2024/25 and a further £500 for 2025/26 be agreed by the council. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed, with two abstentions - motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record and to pay the outstanding grant applications.

25/173 To discuss and agree a grant for Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for 2025/26

Councillors noted that the annual grant request from the CAB had been received requesting £500 from the parish council. Councillors noted the ongoing service provided to residents by the organisation.

RESOLVED: Cllr Megeney proposed that the grant be agreed a £500 be agreed by the council. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed, with one abstention - motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record and to pay the outstanding grant application.

CLLR HULBERT RETURNED TO THE ROOM AT 10.28PM

25/174 To discuss and agree a letter of support to Whitehill Town Council for their CIL bid for a new MUGA

RESOLVED: Councillors noted receipt of the letter.

25/177 To discuss and agree to obtain quotes for tree works to the sycamore tree on the Plestor

RESOLVED: Cllr Ashcroft proposed that quotes be obtained for remedial tree works to the Plestor sycamore tree. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to seek quotes from local tree surgeons.

COUNCILLORS NOTED THAT TIME HAD EXPIRED AND AGREED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR DEFERRAL TO THE APRIL AGENDA

25/175 To discuss and agree improvement works at the Lions Mouth

25/176 To discuss excavation works outside Grance, Gracious Street to alleviate flooding

25/178 To discuss recovery works to the Oak tree on the Plestor

25/182 To receive District Councillor report

25/160 Date of next meetings:

- 15th April 2026 - Full Council – Oakhanger Village Hall

MEETING CLOSED: 10.30PM

Signed Date
Chairman