

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN SELBORNE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE 2026 AT 8.00PM



Present:

Cllr Seema Bennett (Chairman)
Cllr Gren Earney (Vice Chairman)
Cllr David Ashcroft
Cllr Charlie Bridger
Cllr Sarah Hulbert
Cllr Charlotte Pead

Also present: 5 members of the public, including Antiona Cox, Shadow Unitary Councillor and Dominic Martin, prospective parliamentary candidate for Liberal Democrat, for East Hampshire.

26/33 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tom Marien, Wendy Megeney, Nikki O'Donnell, Rob Stephenson and David Webster-Jones. Cllr Howard Grosvenor resigned before the meeting.

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

26/34 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 Ashcroft noted his position as Ward Councillor for East Hampshire District Council and abstention from planning decisions. Cllr Pead noted her interest as an allotment holder and requested dispensation to speak which was agreed. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/35 Approval of Minutes: To approve the minutes of the full council meeting on 20th May 2026 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 3rd June 2026.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes from 20th May 2026 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes from the extraordinary meeting on 3rd June 2026 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/36 Chairman's Announcements

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett noted that training could be offered to all councillors as a refresher and for councillors to make contact with the Clerk should they wish to avail of any. Cllr Bennett also noted that the auditor had pointed out to the Locum Clerk that all statutory documents should be approved expediently. A local historian wished to carry out archaeological scanning at the Plestor, which was agreed by the parish council (it was noted that it would be surface scanning only).

26/37 Executive Officers summary

RESOLVED: The Locum Clerk noted that Howard Grosvenor had resigned from the council and that she had made contact with EHDC Electoral Services to notify them of the vacancy. The planning application for the village shop on the Pumfle was also resolved, with the council submitting an objection letter to SDNPA.

The Locum Clerk further reported that the paperwork had been prepared for the AGAR submission and would be sent through as soon as practicable.

A meeting to discuss flooding and safety issues at Gracious Street had been organised; the Locum Clerk was chasing Hampshire County Council on remedial 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 but there had been no response to several emails to date and this was going to be raised at the meeting with the HCC representative.

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 8.14PM.

26/38 Public Questions

RESOLVED: Cllr Antiona Cox introduced herself as the Member for Alton Rural in the recent County Council elections. She noted that the Conservative Party was the largest party and had formed an alliance with Independents to work through the transition period to the formation of the new Unitary Authorities which are mandated by Central Government. Cllr O'Donnell requested Cllr Cox's assistance in traffic and parking issues around Selborne Primary School which was confirmed.

A further resident noted his thanks for the installation of the Goslings Croft Allotments tap, and provided a meter reading to the council. A request was also received to replace the boundary posts. Cllr Ashcroft agreed to liaise with the allotment holder.

Dominic Martin also introduced himself as the prospective parliamentary candidate for the Liberal Democrat Party for East Hampshire and offered his assistance in matters should they be required.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE RESUMED. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 8.23PM.

26/39 Statutory Documents: To approve the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Financial Risk Assessment for the council year.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that the Standing Orders for Selborne Parish council for 2026/2027 be deferred to allow for further scrutiny. Seconded by Cllr Hulbert. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record and to add to a future agenda.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that the Financial Regulations for Selborne Parish council for 2026/2027 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Ashcroft. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that the Code of Conduct for Selborne Parish council for 2026/2027 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Ashcroft. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/40 Planning Committee: To agree the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee

a) To note and agree the meeting schedule for the Planning Committee for 2026/2027

Cllr Bennett noted that the Planning Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated by the Locum Clerk in advance of the meeting. Councillors discussed a schedule of meetings for the remainder of the council year.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hulbert proposed that the Planning Committee Terms of Reference be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that Planning Committee meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month in the Selborne Recreation Grounds Pavillion. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record and would make arrangements to book the meeting venue, and add the Planning Committee meetings to the meeting schedule for recirculation, and the website.

26/41 To note the traffic safety meeting in Blackmoor following the CIL funding application to EHDC (decision due in the Summer)

In Cllr Megeney's absence, Cllr Earney noted that a constructive meeting had been held between parish councillors, Lord Selborne, Hampshire County Council and representatives from St. Matthew's Primary School, Blackmoor. A number of issues were discussed as well as the potential for Lord Selborne to set aside some land for school parents to use for school parking to increase safety in the area which was received positively by school representatives. Traffic issues including speeding past the school has long been a problem and the CIL funding sought from EHDC would seek

to reduce speed limits and introduce road markings, etc. in the vicinity to address cars travelling at consistently high speeds. It was agreed at the meeting that school representatives would revisit the proposals when staff returned in September which would also be dependent on the funding outcome of the grant application from EHDC. Updates to follow.

26/42 To note and update the Village Action Plan

Cllr Bridger noted her village action plan, which was discussed by councillors. It was noted that some tweaks would be required and some additions but the aim was to share council responsibilities out and ensure that the council was aware of what tasks were required to be completed at various times of the year.

26/43 To discuss and resolve an approach to Selborne Allotment upkeep

Cllr Bridger noted that she had visited the allotments with Cllr Ashcroft and noted that there were a number of allotments which were not being maintained which had been photographed. She also noted that some of the allotments were in such a deteriorated state that they would require digging out and it was unfair on allotment holders who had committed to maintaining their allotments. 4 plots at the Recreation Grounds required letters, and 3 at Goslings Croft required letters to remind plot holders of their duties to maintain their plots.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bridger proposed that allotment holders who had unmaintained plots be given 4 weeks to clear up their plots, otherwise they will be required to surrender them back to the council and reallocated to the next person on the waiting list. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk to write.

26/44 To note and discuss traffic issues at Selborne School and agree a response to Hampshire Police

It was noted that the school no longer had a crossing patrol as previous school crossing patrol employees had been subjected to abuse from drivers coming through the village and regular speeding vehicles. Selborne Primary School were currently looking at potential areas to use for parent parking at pick up and drop off times, to alleviate issues.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the Locum Clerk write to Hampshire Police regarding the traffic/parking issues at Selborne Primary School. Seconded by Cllr Earney, agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to write.

26/45 To note and agree recommendations from the Staffing Committee meeting – 11th June 2026

Cllr Bennett noted that the Staffing Committee had met on 11th June to discuss and agree amendments to the Locum Clerk's contract.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett reported that the Staffing Committee had agreed to accept the amendment to the Locum Clerk's hourly rate, and noted that the contract would need to be reissued with the amended rate, and a note that the rate would remain fixed for 12 months. Locum Clerk to action.

26/46 Planning: To note that there are no new planning applications since the last meeting

26/47 To discuss and resolve a response to the South Downs National Park Local Plan Submission

Cllr Earney noted that there was no provision for affordable housing in the Submission, where it had previously been recognised that it was a requirement. Unaffordable houses also had an impact on school places which was of concern.

RESOLVED: It was noted that the consultation was at Regulation 19; this was the final stage of public consultation before the Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. Locum Clerk to write.

26/48 To discuss and instigate recommendations from Selborne Parish Council's Internal Auditor's report

Councillors noted the improvements from last years internal audit – the council's compliance with governance and financial requirements had increased significantly.

RESOLVED: Councillors noted recommendations including regular reviews of reserves and data retention. Locum Clerk to start instigating recommendations.

26/49 To agree responses to Section 1 of the AGAR (Governance)

RESOLVED:

- Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 – Section One of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return was AGREED by all present
- It was AGREED by all present that the Chairman sign the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026

26/50 To agree Section 2 of the AGAR (Accounts)

RESOLVED:

- Accounting Statements 2025/2026 Section Two of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return was AGREED by all present.
- It was AGREED by all present that the Chairman sign the Annual Accounting Statements 2025/2026, following the RFO's signature.
- The additional information to be sent to the External Auditor in support of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/2026 by the submission date of 1st July 2026 was NOTED by all present
- The public inspection period for the 2025/2026 Annual Governance & Accountability Return, that is, Wednesday, 24th June to Tuesday, 4th August 2026, was NOTED by all present.

26/51 Financial Report:

- a) To note bank balances, earmarked reserves and receipts since the meeting on 20th May 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 20th May 2026.

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed to defer and sign April and May's bank reconciliations as the Locum Clerk's laptop was in the process of being replaced. Cllr Earney seconded. Agreed unanimously, Motion carried. Locum Clerk to add to a future agenda.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE EXTENDED BY 30 MINUTES TO FINISH THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED BY COUNCILLORS WITH ONE OBJECTION, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS EXTENDED AT 9.59PM.

- 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 – May 2026		DD	0
EE Limited	Telephone Charges		DD	21.15
For approval				
Julie Flenley	Locum Fees and expenses May/June 2026	Inv. 52	BACS	3,338.59
Julie Flenley	Clerk's Laptop (HP)	Receipt	BACS	638.98
Julie Flenley	Refund – Annual Parish Meeting refreshments	Receipt	BACS	47.97
RoSPA Playsafety	Annual Playground Inspections, Selborne and Oakhanger	Inv. 98108	BACS	256.80
Hampshire ALC	Annual Subscription/LCPD Membership	Inv. 8454	BACS	216.00
Hampshire ALC	Affiliation Fees for 2026/27	Inv. 8179	BACS	504.00
DoTheNumbers	Annual Internal Audit	Inv. 2036	BACS	475.00
PJ Grace	Monthly grass cutting – May 2026	Inv. 08222	BACS	603.60
Receipts				
Unity Trust Bank	Charges reversal	N/A	BACS	8.20
Allotment Rents	Various	N/A	BACS	18.75

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

- d) To discuss and resolve Ear Marked Reserves movements for the financial year

RESOLVED: Deferred do to the Locum Clerk's laptop being replaced.

26/52 To receive District Councillor report

Cllr Ashcroft noted that the Local Plan for EHDC was with the Inspector – spatial reviews of Alton and Bordon were ongoing in line with District requirements. The planning system was also under review to speed up the process and allow more houses. Food waste bins remained on schedule for delivery and emptying by the end of 2026 and contracts for removal of food waste were being drawn up.

26/53 Date of next meeting:

- 15th July 2026, 8.00pm – Oakhanger Village Hall

MEETING CLOSED: 10.11PM

Signed Date
Chairman