

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN SELBORNE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2026 AT 8.00PM



Present:

Seema Bennett (Chairman)
Cllr Gren Earney (Vice Chairman)
Cllr David Ashcroft
Cllr Charlie Bridger
Cllr Howard Grosvenor
Cllr Sarah Hulbert
Cllr Tom Marien
Cllr Nikki O'Donnell
Cllr Charlotte Pead
Cllr Rob Stephenson
Cllr David Webster-Jones

Also present: 6 members of the public

26/1 Election of a Chairman of the Council for 2026/27

Cllr Bennett noted her wish to stand once again as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2026/27, and proposed herself. Seconded by Cllr Marien.

Cllr Hulbert proposed Cllr Earney for Chairman of the parish council for 2026/27. Seconded by Cllr Bridger.

RESOLVED: A vote was taken, Cllr Earney received 5 votes in favour of his election as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year. Cllr Bennett received 6 votes in favour of her election as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year. Cllr Bennett was duly elected as Chairman of Selborne Parish Council for 2026/27. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by Chairman

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of the Parish Council. Locum Clerk to retain document for the record.

26/3 Election of a Vice Chairman for 2026/27

RESOLVED: Cllr Bridger proposed Cllr Earney for Vice Chairman of the parish council for 2026/27. Seconded by Cllr O'Donnell. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wendy Megeney.

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

26/5 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. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/6 Approval of Minutes: To approve the minutes of the full council meeting on 15th April 2026

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes from 15th April 2026 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/7 Chairman's Announcements

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett noted that training could be offered to all councillors as a refresher. A number of councillors agreed that planning training would be useful. Cllr Ashcroft noted that with changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, training would be helpful for councillors. Locum Clerk to look into HALC and Mulberry for training opportunities.

26/8 Executive Officers summary

RESOLVED: The Locum Clerk noted that the allotment tap at Goslings Croft was almost resolved, the connection would be completed very soon and the tap would be fully working. The Locum Clerk also noted that the move to Selborne Recreation Pavillion was scheduled for 31st May 2026 – all office paraphernalia would be moved over at this point and the invoice had been raised by the Recreation Ground Committee for office space for the year.

The Locum Clerk further reported that in addition to the funding application to the SDNPA totalling £98,000 for safety works, a funding application had been submitted to EHDC for highways safety works in Blackmoor at a total cost of £112,000. Hampshire Highways have supported both applications and the Locum Clerk remains in contact with Alistair McAdam to update on the situation. The Locum Clerk has also noted that she had been in touch with the s151 Officer at Hampshire County Council on s106 funds allocated to Oakhanger for highways safety works and would update councillors when a response was received.

The Locum Clerk noted that the lengthsman was had visited at the end of April and a request was made to clear ditches at Gracious Street and Gally Hill. The next scheduled visit was in July; if councillors wished to raise jobs, please let the Locum Clerk know, and a request will be made to the lengthsman.

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 but there had been no response to several emails to date.

The Locum Clerk noted that she had been in touch with contractors with regards to works to the sycamore tree on the Plestor, and mulching works to the oak tree. Once quotes had been received, the council can move works forward.

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 8.31PM.

26/9 Public Questions

RESOLVED: A member of the parish raised concerns about the planning application for the Oast House, in Hartley Mauditt (SDNP/26/01577/FUL and requested that the parish council address their concerns when considering the application at agenda point 26/22.

Cllr Earney also noted that he had had an email from a concerned resident about Selborne Church of England Primary School parent parking where an elderly resident had received verbal abuse when requesting considerate parking. Issues had been raised with the school but the problems persisted. Councillors noted the comments and noted that the issue was to be considered at the next Board of Governors meeting. Cllr O'Donnell requested that the parish council await a response from the Governors meeting before addressing school parking with the local ward councillor and Hampshire Police.

A resident requested an update on the Blackmoor telephone kiosk which caused injury recently. The Locum Clerk noted that she had been in touch with BT to find the owner, and if none was found, that repairs would be booked in to prevent the situation from occurring. Locum Clerk to update going forward.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE RESUMED. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 8.43PM.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT ITEM 26/22 BE MOVED UP THE AGENDA FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED AT 8.44PM.

26/22 Planning: To consider and agree a response to the following planning application(s):

- [SDNP/26/01251/HOUS](#) - White Hart House High Street Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3LQ. A two-storey extension to the house with a single storey dining room extension connected by a glass link, and external landscaping including a terrace and natural pool, and relocated garage. Decision Due 25th May 2025 (extension granted).
RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that the parish council do not object to the application. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.
- [SDNP/26/01469/HOUS](#) - Orchard Mead Hastards Lane Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3LB. Erection of porch; erection of x2 first floor front dormer windows, alteration of rear windows into patio doors onto decking, and replacement of other existing windows and doors; conversion of garage into habitable room with pitched roof. Decision Due 27th May 2025.
RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the parish council supports the application. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.
- [SDNP/26/01577/FUL](#) - The Oast House Wick Hill Farm Lane Hartley Mauditt Alton Hampshire GU34 3FB - Formation of reinforced grass parking area and access track opposite existing agricultural barn, with associated native hedgerow planting for screening, to support vineyard operations. Decision Due 4th June 2026.
RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the parish council objects to the application based on traffic concerns and the impact on dark night skies. Seconded by Cllr Marien. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk to write.

26/10 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 council defer the item to the June full council meeting in order to review the documents fully. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Locum Clerk to add to the June agenda for agreement.

26/11 General Power of Competence: To minute the continued Parish Council eligibility to hold the General Power of Competence

RESOLVED: It was noted that the parish council has lost its General Power of Competence due to the number of co-opted representatives, with seven of the current councillors being co-opted to the parish council. It was noted that there was an election in 2027. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/12 Planning Committee: To appoint members to form a planning committee (maximum 11 members).

All councillors noted that planning was important in the parish. The application for the village shop was noted as submitted with the deadline due soon. The Locum Clerk also noted that following the Internal Auditors comments on the most recent Internal Auditor's report, the introduction of a list of Planning Committee dates could be introduced.

RESOLVED: All councillors agreed to form part of the Planning Committee of Selborne Parish Council, with a meeting to be arranged to discuss the validated shop application on the Pumfle. Locum Clerk to arrange a date, venue and agenda for the meeting accordingly.

26/13 Staffing Committee: To appoint members to form a staffing committee (maximum 5 members).

RESOLVED: Cllrs Bennett, Earney, Grosvenor, Marien and Webster-Jones were duly noted as members of the Staffing Committee of Selborne Parish Council.

26/14 Representatives on Outside Bodies/Committees: To appoint members to the following groups:

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the following parish council representatives would represent SPC as follows:

- **Recreation Ground Committee** - Cllr Webster-Jones
- **Blackmoor Village Hall** – Cllr Megeney
- **Oakhanger Village Hall** – Cllr Hulbert

- **Selborne Village Hall** – Cllr Bridger
- **Selborne Primary School** – Cllr O'Donnell
- **St Matthews Primary School** – Cllr Megeney
- **East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils** – Cllr Earney
- **Jalsa Salana** – Cllr Hulbert

26/15 Council Leads: To appoint members as leads in the following areas:

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the following parish council representatives would represent SPC as follows:

- **Spring and Autumn Litter Picks**- Cllr O'Donnell
- **VAS** – Cllr Grosvenor
- **ASW** – Cllr Earney
- **Oakhanger Playground** – Cllr Stephenson
- **Footpaths** – Cllr Megeney
- **Trees** – Cllrs Pead and Stephenson
- **Defibrillators**- Cllr Hulbert (Oakhanger), Cllr Megeney (Blackmoor) and Cllr Bridger (Selborne)

26/16 To note the CFI Funding application to EHDC for traffic safety works in Blackmoor for £102,000 (decision due in the Summer)

RESOLVED: Councillors noted for the record. The Locum Clerk thanked Cllr Earney for his assistance in drawing the application together. The Locum Clerk also noted Lord Selborne's interest in making available some land for overflow parking in Blackmoor, which Cllr Megeney was to note at an upcoming meeting with St. Matthew's School, Blackmoor and HCC Highways representatives.

26/17 To note the Annual Parish Meeting date of 28th May and to agree a budget for refreshments

RESOLVED: Councillors noted the meeting date. Cllr Bennett proposed that a budget of £100 for refreshments on the evening be set aside. Seconded by Cllr Marien. Agreed with one abstention. Motion carried. Locum Clerk to arrange refreshments and venue for the meeting and liaise with speakers.

26/18 To note and update the Village Action Plan

Cllr Bridger updated the council on her intentions to revise the parish action plan and send the draft document to the Locum Clerk for distribution.

RESOLVED: Locum Clerk to distribute Village Action Plan once received from Cllr Bridger.

26/19 To note and agree the quote from DJ Pipework for additional works to the Goslings Croft Allotments tap/connection

Councillors noted the quote for the works which has been carried out by DJ Pipework to further the pipe at Goslings Croft for the allotment tap. The invoice had been received for a total of £2,730 (inc VAT).

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the quote for the completed works be accepted, and the invoice settled. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with one abstention. Motion carried. Locum Clerk to settle invoice and send completion certificate to South East Water and instruct them to complete the connection.

26/20 To discuss the potential start-up of a Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Pead noted that given the recent spate of thefts in the parish, she felt that setting up a Neighbourhood Watch would help residents be vigilant and keep residents safe. Funding was available and it would take a couple of weeks to set up. Neighbourhood Watch have suggested that the parish council coordinate the effort between Selborne, Oakhanger and Blackmoor. Signs/stickers would be checked for legality and erected if compliant with the large number of listed buildings in the parish.

RESOLVED: Cllr Pead proposed that she start the process with the Neighbourhood Watch team for the parish. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. Cllr Pead to update the council on progress.

26/21 To discuss, note and agree a response to the Alton Solar Farm application

RESOLVED: No response was needed at present – the application was at pre-application stage at EHDC.

26/23 Financial Report:

- a) To note bank balances, earmarked reserves and receipts since the meeting on 15th April 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 15th April 2026.

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

Councillors acknowledged that the bank reconciliations showed the correct position.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed to defer and sign April's bank reconciliations. To the June meeting. Cllr Earney seconded. Agreed unanimously, Motion carried. Locum Clerk to retain the signed bank reconciliation for the record.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE EXTENDED BY 30 MINUTES TO FINISH THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, 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 – April 2026		DD	8.05
EE Limited	Telephone Charges		DD	24.37
For approval				
Julie Flenley	Locum Fees and expenses April/May 2026	Inv. 50	BACS	3,664.72
Selborne Recreation Ground	Annual Room/Storage Space rental, May 2026-May 2027	Inv. SRG 2026-02	BACS	600.00
Selborne Recreation Ground	Annual grass cutting Costs	Inv. SRG 2026-02	BACS	1,885.00
Arthur J Gallaghers	Hiscox Insurance Renewal 26/27	Inv. 1614173	BACS	3,608.62
DJ Pipework	Extension works, Goslings Croft Tap	N/A	BACS	2,730.00
PJ Grace	Monthly grass cutting – April 2026	Inv. 08174	BACS	489.60
Receipts				
N/A				

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

26/24 To receive District Councillor report

Cllr Ashcroft noted that the Local Plan for EHDC was with the Inspector. If the plan was not agreed, it would put the district in difficulties in terms of housing allocations. Food waste bins remained on schedule for delivery and emptying by the end of 2026. The Local Government Reorganisation elections had taken place on 7th May 2026 with a new Ward Councillors elected for Alton Rural (Antonia Cox). A shadow authority would be in place until full mayoral elections would be held in 2028. It was noted that the large distances covered by the new unitary authorities in Hampshire would cause increased social problems.

26/25 Date of next meetings:

- 17th June 2026 - Full Council – 8pm Selborne Village Hall

MEETING CLOSED: 10.09PM

Signed Date

Chairman