

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN SELBORNE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 15th JULY 2026 AT 7.30PM



Present:

Cllr Seema Bennett (Chairman)
Cllr Gren Earney (Vice Chairman)
Cllr David Ashcroft
Cllr Charlie Bridger
Cllr Tom Marien
Cllr Wendy Megeney
Cllr Charlotte Pead
Cllr Rob Stephenson (arrived 7.54pm)

Also present: 3 members of the public were present

26/53 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sarah Hulbert, David Webster-Jones, Nikki O'Donnell. None received from 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.

26/54 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 Pead noted her interest as an allotment holder. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/55 Approval of Minutes: To approve the minutes of the full council meeting on 17th June 2026

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the minutes from 17th June 2026 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with three abstentions, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/56 Chairman's Announcements

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett noted that August was a recess so there would be no full council meeting. Cllr Megeney noted that there should be a Planning Committee meeting in August as developers may lodge planning applications in that time. Cllr Bennett noted that there would be a Planning Committee meeting on 11th August 2026 to discuss outstanding planning applications then.

26/57 Executive Officers summary

RESOLVED: The Locum Clerk noted that all documentation had been submitted to BDO for the external audit and that no questions had been returned at this point. Updates would follow but it was anticipated that, given the very positive audit outcome, the questions would be minimal and easily addressed. The Locum Clerk further noted that the Planning Committee had restarted, but it was unfortunate that the first scheduled meeting was a second Tuesday of the month with the preceding full council meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. The council would need to resolve this in the longer term, but the present suggestion from the Locum Clerk was to combine both meetings when this happens in the future, but with the knowledge that it only occasionally happens.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREEED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED AT 7.44PM.

CLLR PEAD LEFT THE ROOM FOR THE DURATION OF AGENDA ITEM 26/58 and 26/63 AT 7.46PM

26/58 Public Questions

RESOLVED: A resident spoke to the council about an eviction letter from a parish council allotment in July 2025. He noted that he had not received the previous letter, but had received a hand-delivered letter from the parish council earlier this year noting his eviction and wished to raise concerns that he was not given any right to respond before the parish council unanimously resolved to evict him in 2025. The resident noted that he had used rat poison on his allotment which had lead to a dog ingesting the poison and subsequently requiring veterinarian care but denied subletting his plot to a non-parish resident. The resident requested that the parish council considered it's decision to evict the resident from his allotment plot.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE RESUMED. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 7.49PM

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT ITEM 26/63 BE MOVED UP THE AGENDA FOLLOWING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PUBLIC SPEAKING SLOT. SECONDED BY CLLR MARIEN. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED.

26/63 To discuss allotment upkeep

Cllr Bennett noted that a statement had been received from the allotment holder who's dog was poisoned in March 2025 which reported that rodenticide had been scattered around the plot in question, rather than in bait boxes and that the family had visited the plot holder to attempt to identify what poison was used to assist the vet in the dog's treatment.

The Locum Clerk confirmed the action of the council following the meeting in April 2025 and subsequent reports to EHDC to seek advice from the Neighbourhood Quality team on next steps, as well as a report to Hampshire and The IOW Police on the non-emergency number given the danger to children and pets as instructed by the council.

Cllr Earney noted that the situation was badly handled and that there was no discussion between parties. Rodenticide may be used by the parish council and not allotment holders if reports of rats were received. Cllr Earney suggested that the letter of termination served on the allotment holder be rescinded and an apology issued to the plot holder to address the way the parish council approached the situation.

Cllr Ashcroft noted the Nolan Principles of Public Life and felt that the parish council had failed in their obligations to the allotment holder by electing to evict without giving the allotment holder a chance to address the complaint. Cllr Ashcroft also objected to dogs on allotments due to hygiene reasons and suggested regular monthly visits to monitor allotments.

Cllr Megeney agreed with Cllr Earney's point to rescind the letter of eviction, and noted that the contract terms of allotment holders should be reviewed to set clarity of expectation on allotment holders. Terms of inspections and how they should be carried out needed to be set, including how to deal with breaches of allotment agreements/contracts.

Cllr Ashcroft proposed that the motion in April 2025 be reversed to rescind the eviction letter. Seconded by Cllr Earney, agreed with one abstention, motion carried.

Cllr Megeney proposed that the council revisit the terms of the allotment tenancy agreement, to be reissued to all allotment holders and for SPC to organise the terms of inspections (monthly). Seconded by Cllr Bridger, agreed unanimously, motion carried. (N.B. Goslings Croft allotment contracts had been issued at this point).

Cllr Bridger proposed that the allotment holder subjected to the termination letter's fees for 2025/26 be waived, and given the lateness of time in the growing season, have his 2026/27 fee waived too. She further proposed that the parish council send a full apology to the allotment holder for the parish council's handling of the situation. Seconded by Cllr Ashcroft. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried. Locum Clerk to note for the record and issue a letter of apology.

CLLR PEAD RETURNED TO THE ROOM FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING AT 8.33PM

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED ONCE MORE TO HEAR FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. SECONDED BY CLLR ASHCROFT. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED AT 8.34PM.

26/58 Public Questions (resumed)

A member of the public noted flytipping on Shoreheath Common and that there had been continual emails to Hampshire County Council's Environmental team. Reports had also been made to EHDC; Cllr Ashcroft requested that the resident contact him directly so as to assist as Ward Councillor for the area. The resident further noted that there was a bollard erected which is restricting access to Moorlands Cottage in Oakhanger. Concerns had been raised about restriction to access to the cottage (despite it being uninhabited) as it was not allowing the leasee access to their own property. The council noted for the record and suggested that the resident make contact with the Countryside team at Hampshire County Council.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE RESUMED. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 8.41PM

26/59 Statutory Documents: To discuss, agree and approve the Standing Orders for the council year.

Councillors discussed modifications to the model NALC Standing Orders. The Locum Clerk noted significant concerns about conflating terms of job descriptions/specifications in the Standing Orders which is not what their purpose is.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed that the Standing Orders for Selborne Parish council for 2026/2027, as agreed and amended agreed as discussed. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed unanimously, motion carried. The Locum Clerk noted for the record, and to make amendments accordingly on the electronic copy.

CLLR BENNETT PROPOSED THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO ALLOW FOR EXTRA TIME. SECONDED BY CLLR EARNEY. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS, MOTION CARRIED, STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED TO EXTEND THE MEETING TIME BY HALF AN HOUR.

26/60 To note and update the Village Action Plan

RESOLVED: Item deferred due to time constraints.

26/61 To note any potential conflicts of interest with BDO, our external auditor

RESOLVED: Item deferred due to time constraints.

26/62 To update on Blackmoor matters

- Village Hall solar pane installation
- Blackmoor K6 phone box repairs

RESOLVED: Item deferred due to time constraints.

26/64 Planning:

- [SDNP/25/03874/HOUS](#) - Kingsfield Cottage, Kite Hill, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3LA. Proposed excavations and formation of retaining walls to create a tiered garden. Decision Due 13th July 2026, extension granted to 17th July 2026.

RESOLVED: Cllr Earney proposed that the parish council object to the application on the principle of a tiered garden; SPC understand that works had already been commenced and that the parish council have concerns about the loss of ecology and damage to the surrounding area. Further, that SPC hope that the senior ecologist will endorse conditions for appropriate mitigation works to prevent further loss/damage. Seconded by Cllr Bennett. Agreed with one abstention, motion carried.

- [SDNP/26/02437/DCOND](#) - Nuthatch Plum Fell Lane Selborne Alton Hampshire GU34 3JX. Discharge Condition 5 Timber Framing of approved application SDNP/25/02397/LIS - General repairs/improvements to building fabric and conversion of potting shed to home office (Amended plans 18.12.2025). Decision Due 14th July 2026, extension granted to 17th July 2026.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed no objection to the application. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with 3 abstentions, motion carried. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

26/65 Financial Report:

- a) To note bank balances, earmarked reserves and receipts since the meeting on 17th June 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 17th June 2026.

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed to agree and sign April and May's bank reconciliations. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with two abstentions. Motion carried. Locum Clerk to retain for the record.

- c) To approve the proposed schedule of payments

RESOLVED: Cllr Bennett proposed to agree the payments list for July. Seconded by Cllr Earney. Agreed with two abstentions. Motion carried. Locum Clerk to may agreed 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 – June 2026		DD	8.20
EE Limited	Telephone Charges		DD	21.15
For approval				
Julie Flenley	Locum Fees and expenses June/July 2026	Inv. 54	BACS	2,899.53
PJ Grace	Monthly grass cutting – June 2026	Inv. 08222	BACS	TBC
Charlotte Pead	Refund, Neighbourhood Watch posters	Receipts	BACS	38.00
Id Verde	Bins emptying	Inv. 10971075	BACS	294.89
Trusted PC Man	Clerk's new laptop setup	Inv.	BACS	371.19
Receipts				

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

RESOLVED: Item deferred due to time constraints.

26/66 To receive District Councillor report

RESOLVED: Item deferred due to time constraints.

26/67 Date of next meeting:

- AUGUST RECESS
- 8th September 2026, 7.30pm Planning Committee Meeting – Selborne Recreation Pavillion
- 15th September 2026, 8.00pm – Selborne Village Hall

MEETING CLOSED: 10.48PM

Signed Date

Chairman