

**Minutes of the Meeting of Selborne Parish Council held in  
Oakhanger Village Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7:30pm**

|          |   |       |
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| Present: | Mrs. H Carter<br>Mrs. M Palmer<br>Mrs. A Boase<br>Mrs. A Luty<br>Mr. S Cabrol<br>Mr. T McMeekan<br>Mr. P Ravenscroft.<br>Mr. S Goater<br>Mr. D Ashcroft<br>Mr. N James<br>Mr. P Dixon<br>Mrs. M Barnfield | Chair |
|          | Mrs. L Coney  | Clerk |

Also present were 5 members of the public (David Emmerson, Dr Edward Yates, Bob Thompstone, Sheila Goater and Patrick Benham Crosswell) and District Councillor Mrs. Comber,

**Item 1 - Apologies for absence.** None received.

**On completion of item 1 the meeting recessed to allow members of the public to speak on any matter prior to the re-commencement of the meeting.**

*Sheila Goater wished to let councillors know that she is the bookings officer for Oakhanger Village Hall for this year and she had heard that there was concern over the hall rental charge to the parish council. Cllr Mrs. Carter replied that yes there was concern that at £6.00 per hour the charge was very high compared to other halls and had not been budgeted for. (Blackmoor charge £5.00 per meeting and Selborne no charge for Parish Council meetings £5.00 for extra subcommittee meetings) Mrs. Goater said this was the cheapest rate she could charge and of anyone had further concerns they could speak to her about it.*

*Secondly she wished to speak about the application for a grant for Oakhanger Village Hall. (Given Mrs. Goater's presence it was decided to move this item up the agenda from Item 9c) The roof needs replacing as there is a hole in the roof of the main building. Water started coming through last November and a patch repair has been done for now but the tiles are the original ones from when the hall was built. Two estimates have been received so far one for just under £8000 and one for £6000. A set of account for the village hall had been given to councillors to consider the grant request. Cllr Ravenscroft congratulated the village hall on the amount of fundraising they have done to date.*

*Dr Yates wished to ask if something could be done about the hearing in all three village halls as he could not hear what was happening. He went on congratulate Cllr Dixon on the presentation of the results of the questionnaire and hopes that the Parish Council will follow up the letter sent at the last meeting with another as discussed with Cllr Mrs. Carter. There is damage to buildings as a result of the traffic and Plestor House is showing signs of deteriorating brickwork. He also wished to check that the clerk had been misquoted as he had spoken with Ruth Olczyk who has told him that the clerk had said that the village felt there was an improvement in road safety as a result of the traffic works. The clerk replied that Ms Olczyk had been given a set of the traffic survey results but no detail of the survey had been discussed. Cllr Mrs. Carter said she was currently in discussion with Cllr Thornber at HCC and so would like to further that dialogue and report back at the next Parish Council meeting rather than writing another letter at this time. Dr Yates understood this but did not agree. He further stated that the Parish Council should be demanding a 20mph not asking to be considered for one and that we should include both the Ham Barn Roundabout and pollution in the next letter. Cllr Goater said he would look at setting up the PA system for the next meeting at Oakhanger as they do not have a hearing loop as it was not suitable given the size of the room and the demand. Cllr Mrs. Comber said that there were grants available for new systems and would find out the details to pass t the council.*

*Going back to the issue of Oakhanger Village Hall grant request, councillors were concerned that the accounts did not show the expenditure on the new store and indeed the accounts looked as if the village hall had a sizeable surplus. Mrs. Goater said this was not the case; a loan was taken out to cover the cost of the store and all monies raised currently are going towards repaying that loan as soon as possible. Cllr Dixon said he might be able to shed some light on the accounts explaining that they were correct but charity accounting is produced differently to business accounting and all fixed assets are included in the accounts which is why the books look better that reality because value of the buildings are included.*

*Following further discussion it was decided to **APPROVE** a grant of 50% of the cost of the works to a maximum value of £3949.00. This money is to be taken form the Oakhanger Recreation fund. Mrs. Goater said that she would be getting a third quote and once a contractor is chosen then the council would know exactly the amount. The council was concerned that Mrs Goater seemed more willing to take the higher quote because the contractor had done work for them previously, rather than going with the cheapest which was significantly lower.*

**Item 2 – Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008.**

Cllr Mrs. Comber requested the following amendments. The first two sentences of Item seven vii to read “Cllr Mrs. Comber noted that the minutes of the Selborne PC dated 13th February 2008 recorded that “Cllr Ashcroft reported that he had attended a meeting with Phil Allen, Andrew Smith, Rob Thompson and the County bridge man, where both bridges at Dortons and on Footpath 29 were being discussed and progressed” She asked why neither she nor Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee had been informed let alone invited to that meeting.” The first sentence of Item 9 to read “Cllr Mrs. Comber said she would like to return to the matter of the footpath and asked for reassurance that the Parish Council would write asking the County for a quote/estimate for the work on FP505 near Dortons. She asked if the PC still intended to contribute financially to the proposed works. When it was indicated that this was the case she pointed out that the replacement of the bridge over the stream was a statutory duty of the County Council and asked if the Parish council understood that.” Finally the last sentence of Item 9 to read “Cllr Mrs. Comber confirmed that this was correct and the reason was that it was in order to raise extra funds but she would get confirmation that this was the case”. These were duly altered. Cllr Mrs. Comber also wished to add that the Parish Council had agreed to obtain three quotes from HCC for the cost of the bridge. Cllr Ravenscroft said he did not remember this and felt that if the clerk had not put it in the minutes then it was not actioned by the council. Other councillors concurred with this and the addition was not included.

There being no further amendments it was **AGREED** that these were accepted as a true record and signed accordingly.

**Item 3 - Disclosure of Pecuniary and other interests.**

The Chair reminded members who had an interest to disclose, in relation to any item included in the agenda for this meeting, that it was their duty to do so at the appropriate agenda item. (As required to be disclosed by Section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 1972; and in accordance with the Parish Councils Code of Conduct 2007)

**Item 4– Reports of Subcommittees and meetings where the parish council is represented.**

There were no meetings to report.

**Item 5 – Matters arising from these and previous minutes.**

- i) Selborne Councillors along with Cllr Ravenscroft and the clerk had attended the exhibition. 35 members of the public had also attended. The council now needs to consider getting quotes for village gateways. Cllr Mrs. Carter to action. Jo Clay had also approached her with regard to the disabled bay on Gracious Street. The clerk noted that a letter had subsequently been received from Mandy Ware which stated that the .. Other people at the exhibition had also commented on the speed of traffic on Sotherington Lane and on the bend into Honey Lane. The skip outside Tina Brown’s had also been mentioned as being unsafely marked where it was overhanging the pavement but this had now been removed. The clerk was asked to request another speed check in Selborne making sure that the bottom of the hill by the school was included. The clerk was also asked to arrange a meeting at Selborne Village Hall for people to put questions to the traffic police. Clerk to speak to PC Warwick, giving the Parish Council at least two weeks notice of the meeting to enable it to be publicized.  
It was noted that last week two gentlemen were sitting by Goslings counting traffic. When asked they said they had counted 25 HGVs at around 2:30pm and Cllr Mrs. Barnfield said she had noted 6 HGVs within 5 minutes. The clerk was asked to get the police to revisit at this time of day to monitor the situation. It was thought prudent to contact all the industrial units to the north of Selborne to ask if their lorries could deliver from the north. Councillors to compile a list of addresses and create a template letter for the clerk to send out.
- ii) Selborne Recreation Ground. The playground is due to be installed the last week of April. Cllr Mrs. Carter, together with David Ashcroft, David Emmerson and the Recreation Ground Committee met on the 17<sup>th</sup> March to go through the drainage issues at the Recreation Ground, and to look at the maps that Mr. Emmerson had made. This was followed up with a site survey the following week. Mr. Emmerson said that these results were now with Mr. Pead and he was putting them in a readable format and coming up with a proposal before sending to the Parish Council.
- iii) Selborne Allotments. The clerk reported that some fencing was urgently required at the Goslings site to enable plot holders to start planting. Without any fencing all work on site could be in vain as the deer are prolific on site and likely to eat anything they could get to. Given the legal issues on the site at this time it was felt financially prudent to erect “temporary” deer fencing for which the clerk had received a quotation from a company in Alton. The fencing is black plastic 6ft high and 100m long ( £129.00) This is attached to approximately 3” diameter 8ft high wooden stakes( £2.45 each) and attached with cable ties ( £4.50 for a bag of 100) It was agreed that given the advances on the site at the Recreation Ground the council need to do what it could to help the Goslings site at this time. It was therefore **AGREED** to purchase and erect the fencing as soon as possible. The clerk and Cllr Ashcroft checked the definitive map to make sure the fencing would not interfere with the footpath. It did not. The fencing should easily last for this season at which time it was hoped that all legal issues would have been resolved and permanent fencing could be installed.

The clerk had also received a quotation from RCD Hoare at the instigation of an allotment holder at the Recreation Ground for installing an underground pipe and connecting water tap on the allotments. The price quoted for this came in at £887. This was considerably less than previous verbal quotations received by the clerk, which were in the region of £1500 - £1800. It was decided that as there was a capital allowance in the budget this year for the allotments that the work should go ahead as soon as necessary. This was **AGREED** by all.

- iv) Parish Footpaths. Cllr Mrs. Barnfield had received an e-mail from Mr. Thompstone regarding the footpath at Nine Acres, which is blocked by a pile of manure. Cllr Mrs. Barnfield said she would go and look at the path and see what could be done. With regard to the Dorton footpath 505, Mark Kemp Gee, Dr Yates and Cllr Mrs. Comber went to look at the proposed bridge, which has moved somewhat. Cllr Mrs. Comber wished to note that the ground in between the sleepers on BOAT 68 at Dorton needs repairing as it is not horse friendly and young horses could stumble on them. Clerk to report to Rights of Way. Cllr Ashcroft said that HCC Rights of Way improvement plan, incorporating the "Finding Lost Ways" scheme is looking for volunteers for a course in Winchester towards the end of the month. Cllr Mrs. Comber said the Finding Lost Ways programme had been dropped by the Natural England.. Cllr Ashcroft replied that as an individual plan yes, but it was still part of the plan to improve the network as a whole. Cllr Ashcroft to e-mail details of the course to Cllr Mrs. Carter to pass to Dr Yates who might well be interested in attending.
- v) Selborne War Memorial. Mr. Emmerson updated councillors saying that the works should be undertaken in either June or July. He is just awaiting faculty permission and then he can apply to the War Memorial Trust for funding.
- vi) Parish Newsletter. The clerk had sent round by e-mail the third draft of the newsletter to councillors Cllr Ravenscroft had some additions to make for the Blackmoor section and Cllr Mrs. Carter asked that the Oakhanger section have some material added. The clerk asked than any further additions be submitted to her by Wednesday next week (16<sup>th</sup> April) to enable her time to get the printing and stapling done before the APM when bundles could be handed to councillors and hopefully other volunteers for distribution. It was pointed out that the layout looked a little bland and maybe some artwork or coloured paper could jazz it up a bit.

**Item 6 - The Butchers Shop, Selborne.** (Cllr Mrs. Barnfield declared an interest in this item as her property shares a wall with the shop) Cllr Mrs. Carter informed councillors that Mark Kemp Gee and Murph Morrison are trustees of the Wakes and looking to restore the Butchers Shop and wished to ask the Parish Council for their thoughts on what they would like to see done with the building. The previous Parish Council had expressed a wish for a tourist office. There has also been a suggestion that the second room in the building could be used as a clerks office (as the clerk is drowning in filing cabinets and paper) this means the office could be open during the week for members of the public to come and look at planning applications and so on. Cllr Mrs. Palmer supported that and said that a future National Park authority might well be keen to support its use as a tourist office also, (though, if a NPA is established, the responsibility for promoting tourism will remain with the District Council). Cllr Mrs. Luty said it would be lovely to have an office where the whole parish could be promoted and local history displayed. The newly formed Selborne Archive society would certainly be interested in displaying some of their material as well as having somewhere to store their papers. Cllr Ashcroft asked whether the Wakes might be persuaded to gift the shop to the Parish Council. It was **AGREED** to put forward to the trustees the Parish Council's idea of a tourist office with the possibility of a clerk's office as well.

**Item 7 - Local Development Framework Consultation.** Cllr Mrs. Palmer asked councillors to think about this document in a district wide sense. In examining it, councilors should look for consistency of policies and be on the look-out for contradictory policies. It is an 'Issues and Options' consultation paper; nothing suggested is set in stone but some of the suggested options differ from the approach taken by the Local Plan Inspector in his Report (2005) for the current Local Plan. Interestingly, last October EHDC did a Residents' Survey to seek people's views on what was most important to them about living in East Hampshire. From 11,000 responses, it emerged that people's top priority is that the District Council should protect the Countryside. The next four priorities were to work with Police to reduce crime; to involve residents in decision making; to ensuring that residents are treated fairly; and to maintain the freeze on EHDCs share of the Council Tax increases. Some councillors had completed the sections of the Core Strategy allocated to them but others had not, so it was **AGREED** to hold off formulating the Parish Council's response until the Extra planning meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Item 8 - District Councillors report.** Cllr Mrs. Comber had left the meeting shortly before her report was due to be given. The clerk was asked to write to Cllr Mrs. Comber expressing the Parish Council's disappointment that she had left before giving her report and to ask that in future could she please submit a written district councillors report in advance of the meeting. This would be helpful both in the event that she cannot attend the meeting but also, if she is attending, so that councillors can consider the report in advance in case they have any questions arising from it. Cllr Mrs. Palmer will also arrange to meet with Cllr Mrs. Comber to discuss her sudden departure further and work out how we might build a good working relationship with her. Cllr Goater wished to raise with Cllr Mrs. Comber the issue of increased litter in Oakhanger arising from the new waste laws. The clerk was asked to write to EHDC to convey this concern.

## Item 9 – Finance

a) Current financial position as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

Deposit Account £22,565.02cr

Current Account £1683.59cr

b) It was agreed that the following payments which had been requested since the last meeting be **APPROVED**.

- i) Xxx.xx Mrs. L Coney (Clerks wages Mar)
- ii) £2,500 Selborne School (Grant, already approved 07/08)
- iii) £60.00 Selborne Village Hall (Hall Hire)
- iv) £300.00 Oakhanger PCC (approved last meeting)
- v) £233.00 Selborne Village Hall (approved last meeting)
- vi) £238.93 HM Revenue & Customs (Tax & NI Q4)
- vii) £255.00 HALC (Subscription 2008/09)
- viii) £64.63 Mrs. L Coney (Clerks Expenses Mar)
- ix) £35.00 Bentley Parish Council (Clerks Cilca registration)
- x) £42.89 Dataprint (Printing for exhibition)

c) Grant Requests.

i) Oakhanger Village Hall £3949.00. Already considered above.

ii) South Downs Campaign. In accordance with standing order, and at the request of Cllr Mrs. Palmer, this item was to be revisited. Standing Order 31 states that a “decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 4 members of the Council.” Four members of the council had signed such a resolution to enable this item to be considered again on the grounds that insufficient evidence was given to the council to enable an informed judgment to be reached.

Cllr Mrs. Palmer stated that the reasons given for refusing the application in February did not stand up. The current status quo of the AONBs in Sussex and in East Hampshire is not an option, the Designation Order for the South Downs National Park was signed in 2002 by the designating authority, the then Countryside Agency (now Natural England), subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State. There is also a Revocation Order for the AONBs, subject to confirmation. Cllr Mrs. Palmer distributed to councillors a map showing, firstly, the proposed alternative boundary for the National Park, which was drawn up for the Inspector at his request by Natural England; secondly, the approximate area that is recommended by the Landscape Assessor for de-designation as AONB; and, thirdly, the Wealden area that the Assessor judged still to have outstanding natural beauty and that might therefore become part of a possible new AONB some time in the future. If the Secretary of State accepts the recommendation that the AONB land to the south of Blackmoor, known as the A3 corridor, and the land either side of the A272, known as the Sandy Arable Farmlands, have degraded to the extent that they no longer meet the natural beauty criteria, then this land will lose its AONB designation. Without national protection status, it will become vulnerable to development. Cllr Mrs Palmer said that the first intimation of such development had been submitted to the Inquiry; it is a good illustration of the impact that would be caused to the new National Park.

On behalf of the South Downs Campaign, (a network of 145 Parish and Town Councils and other organisations) Professor Robert Tregay will present his Proof of Evidence related to the Western Weald to the inquiry on the 22nd April. If the arguments that he presents prevail, and if the SDC is successful in persuading the Inspector to recommend to the SoS that the Designation Order should be confirmed, then the A3 corridor and the Sandy Arable Farmlands will remain as nationally protected landscapes and we will all benefit from the continued protection from development in those areas.

Councillors voted on whether to revisit the request for a grant towards Prof. Tregay's costs, which are £30k. It was AGREED that it was to be revisited (10 in favour, 1 against and one abstention)

Cllr Mrs. Barnfield said she was in favour of giving a grant to the campaign. Cllr Goater said he had previously voted against the grant application because an amount had not been specified and also he felt that the reduction in size of the SDNP was a good thing as it would push development into the larger area to be de-designated rather than towards places such as Oakhanger. Cllr Ravenscroft said he would have to disagree with Cllr Mrs. Barnfield as he feels the current designated SDNP is too big. Cllr Mrs. Palmer replied that the merits of whether or not to have a National Park is not in question; the National Park is happening, the signed Designation Order has legal status; the Public Inquiry is only looking into the question of where the final boundary should be. Cllr Mrs. Boase stated that the Parish Council is a member of the SDC, Cllr Mrs Palmer has done a great deal of work on our behalf and there are many people who do want Blackmoor to be included in the National Park and are concerned about the potential loss of AONB status. Indeed the Blackmoor Village Appraisal notes that Blackmoor should be included. Cllr Ashcroft disagreed that not being included in the National Park would mean automatic removal of AONB status. In fact he had spoken to James Arbuthnot MP and the current thoughts of MPs is that the SDNP won't happen. Cllr Mrs. Palmer replied to Cllr Ashcroft that Lord Rooker had said only that week in the House of Lords that it has taken since 1999 to get a South Downs National Park, and he regretted that no decision has yet been made but that an Inquiry is still underway.

The council voted on whether to give a grant to the South Downs Campaign. 8 councillors voted in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention. The council then voted on whether this grant should be £300 towards the campaign. 9 councillors voted in favour and 3 against. The grant was thus **APPROVED**.

An observation was made by Cllr Ashcroft that having contributed to a campaign (i.e a movement to affect a political change) the council has set a precedent for the future.

d) Internal Auditor 2008. The clerk proposed to engage the services of Mr. John Murray to undertake the internal audit for financial year 2007/08. He has quoted £150.00 to complete the work although the clerk suggested allowing a contingency as he has not yet seen the books and is basing this estimate on the size of precept. This was unanimously **AGREED**.

e) Grasscutting 2008 season Selborne. PJ Grace has quoted £40.00 per cut based on a cut per fortnight through the season of April to September. Mr. Ward has withdrawn his quotation. It was therefore **AGREED** to engage the services of PJ Grace.

**Item 10 – Correspondence.** The Clerk listed in the agenda all items of paper correspondence received since the last meeting.

**Item 11 – Any Other Business.** In accordance with Local Council Administration there will be no resolution made on matters arising from this item. If action is required the matter will be placed upon a future agenda.

*Cllr Mrs. Carter said that she had spoken to the landowner of the car park at Selborne who confirmed they had not objected to the proposal for the new toilet, merely asked a few questions following a complete change in design. This prompts the question as to what the current hold up is? Clerk to speak to Brian Redwood.*

**Item 12 - Date and Place of next meeting.** – Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 23rd April 2008 at Blackmoor Village Hall 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 10:32pm

Date.....

Chairman.....