

**Minutes of the Meeting of Selborne Parish Council held in
Blackmoor Village Hall on Wednesday 13th February 2008 at 7:30pm**

Present:	Mrs. H Carter	Chair
	Mr. P Dixon	
	Mrs. A Boase	
	Mrs. A Luty	
	Mr. T McMeekan	
	Mr. P Ravenscroft.	
	Mr. S Cabrol	
	Mr. S Goater	
	Mr. D Ashcroft	
	Mrs. L Coney	Clerk

Also present were 7 members of the public.

Item 1 - Apologies for absence. Received from Cllr Mrs. Palmer, Cllr Mrs. Barnfield, Cllr James and District Cllr Mrs. Comber.

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.

Item 2 – Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th January 2008.

Cllr Mrs. Comber wished to make a small alteration removing the word "suggesting" from the first page, second paragraph, second sentence. With 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 Order 2001)

Judy Thompstone wished to highlight to the council the volume of heavy lorries driving through Selborne. They have become more frequent and although many claim they are delivering in the village, they just drive through without stopping. The leader of Hampshire County Council Councillor Ken Thornber has asked that concerns over this should be raised to the parish council rather than to him. Cllr Ravenscroft said he agreed that it is disgraceful. He told councillors that in previous years there used to be a small group who would get together and note the registration numbers of offending vehicles and then write to the police and the relevant transport managers to try and get them to desist.

Mr. Davidson Houston said he had spoken to Simon Dear two years ago and all he can do is issue offender with a £30 fine. Cllr Mrs. Carter said that former councillor Bill Oliver had contacted a Sat Nav company to see if weight restrictions could be put on the navigation data as it is not currently. The parish council also get updates from Whitehill Police about the number of lorries that they stop and the number that are fined. They do not have to be delivering solely in the village to be exempt from a fine, so long as they are delivering within the parish they are allowed.

Mr Davidson Houston commented that much of the problem stems from the Ham Barn Roundabout (he then produced a copy of this weeks Petersfield Post, in which he has written an article on this very subject.) Cllr Cabrol suggested if the police are not effective then they might like to contact VOSA for further help. Cllr Ravenscroft suggested that maybe the Parish Council could lobby to get the fine increased to a level whereby it would have a worthwhile effect. This will be on the agenda for the Traffic Sub committee on the 25th February.

Dr Yates asked if the letter had been sent to Ken Thornber calling for a 20mph throughout the village, as motioned by himself and Mr. Wheeler at the last meeting. The clerk said it had not and Cllr Mrs. Carter said it would be sent soon.

Mr. Thompstone asked what had happened to the results of the traffic questionnaire. Hampshire County Council, especially Cllr Thornber, still continues to praise the merits of the work. By contrast he went to a meeting at West Meon, a village with a similar traffic volume to Selborne. Hampshire County Council have agreed to carry out extensive measures to calm the traffic, apparently prompted to do so by a report from the CPRE which commented upon the proliferation of signage in the village. HCC has to date spent £50,000 on deign fess for this project so a private consultant to come up with traffic calming measures which had been proposed by residents in Selborne six years ago!

He stated that the traffic subcommittee should pull its finger out and get on with working for the village. Cllr Mrs. Carter replied that the council is in the middle of analysing the results, which will be made public at a meeting in March which will be well advertised in advance. She asked people not to "get at" councillors who are doing this work as volunteers as and when they are able.

Dr Yates wished to add that the volume of traffic is the most important issue for the village of Selborne.

Dr Yates also wished to know where the bench is for The Plestor. Cllr Mrs. Carter replied that Paul Andrew is doing the bench, the work has been provided it is just a case of Mr. Andrew finding time to do the work.

Mr. Emmerson wished to comment that with regard to the item on the Recreation Ground he would be happy to sit on a sub committee to help resolve the drainage issues.

Mrs. Goater wished to address the council on the matter of the meeting arranged at Oakhanger Village Hall last week to consider the future position of Oakhanger within the parish and the option of creating a separate parish council. She said that 8 or 9 councillors attended although they were not invited and were not welcome. Although she was not at the meeting herself she said that councillors spoke at the meeting even though they were asked not to and they took over the meeting making it unnecessarily confrontational. She had received comments since the meeting wishing that a different outcome had been achieved and that all the meeting had done was create mistrust and resentment toward the parish council.

Cllr Mrs. Carter vehemently refuted this saying that they went to the meeting, yes to listen but also to answer questions that people had about the council, many did not know what its role is and what it does. As the current parish council has been elected to represent the interests of the whole parish it is only right that the council knows what peoples views are. Cllr Mrs. Boase who attended the meeting but did not speak said that was indeed the purpose of her attending even though she is a Blackmoor councillor. Cllr Mrs Carter also said that several people had approached her at the end of the meeting to thank the parish councillors for attending and for helping to answer their questions. They had been very positive about the outcome and felt it was great to have made some positive progress towards getting their views heard.

Cllr Cabrol added that the most important outcome of the evening was that it did highlight the huge gap in communication, which needs to be addressed.

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

- i) **Traffic.** Cllr Dixon reported that the committee is keeping an eye on the Gracious Street 30mph and the yellow lines. Some alteration have been made to The Plestor parking signs which will be given to the clerk, and as already mentioned work is still progressing on the analysis of the questionnaire responses. The clerk was also asked to speak to highways regarding the longer-term traffic plans for the A32 / A3. With regard to the village hall crossing point at Selborne it had been decided to write to HCC to ask what can be done about improving safety here as the hall is used by children, disabled people and the elderly. The clerk was asked to speak politely to highways to request that the ditch opposite the Lions Mouth is dug out given the continued flooding of the area. Cllr Goater asked that if there is to be no restitution of the surface of Latchford Lane could the clerk please request that the bridge by Springfield Nursery is repaired; there is a real bump in the road as vehicles drive over it. The ditch underneath it also needs clearing as it has flooded recently.
- ii) **The Plestor.** The Plestor works have now been done, the syon has been planted and it is now just the bench and the new litter bin to go in.
- iii) **Oakhanger Village Meeting.** Cllr Goater reported that about 10% of the village electors attended. In comparison when the Millenium event was first started only three people turned up but ended up with over 100 people, so this was a good turnout. Only one person voted in favour of creating a separate parish council, but he felt that the most useful thing to come out of it was the thought of creating a village sub-committee to carry forward the thoughts arising from the meeting. He wished to pose the question that although he has nothing against Selborne, why does the parish council want to keep Oakhanger?
Cllr Cabrol said that Cllr Goater had put a lot of work into this and as a result he was disappointed at the turnout, he felt there was confusion over the structure of the meeting, but the thing that was emphasized was the communication problem; the previous parish council suffered the same problem and that therefore something radical will need to be done to turn things around. On the other hand he said that residents should give the current parish councillors time to make things work (over 50% of the council are new to the role) before deciding whether to progress this any further. Cllr McMeekan wished it be noted that he did not attend the meeting; this was because he was unavailable not because he had no interest in the matter.
Cllr Cabrol said that many people wanted to know what it is the parish council does and so maybe an info sheet would be useful. In addition dates for parish council meetings can be put in the Kings Wold Magazine. Cllr Ashcroft commented that he recently saw a newsletter published by St Mary Bourne Parish Council. This is produced four times a year and is part of the requirement for their status as a Quality Parish. Councillors considered this to be an excellent idea and agreed to publish the first newsletter shortly after the APM in April. Councillors from each village will prepare a page and then e-mail to the clerk ready for collation. The first one will also have an information cover sheet with a brief description of the parish council, meeting dates contact numbers etc.. The cost of sending this to each household four times a year was roughly calculated at £800 plus printing costs. The clerk will see if there is any funding available to help offset the cost of this.
To conclude, it was recognised that there may still be people in Oakhanger who wish to pursue the idea of independence from Selborne Parish, however the council's job now is to move forward with efforts to increase communication. It was proposed by Cllr Cabrol that this issue is now removed from the parish council agenda and not discussed any further. This was seconded by Cllr Ravenscroft and agreed.
- iv) **Selborne Brickworks.** There had not been a liaison panel meeting however Cllr Ravenscroft said there had been some complaints regarding noise on site. Mr. Benham Crosswell said that these were vexatious complaints with no merit and had he been invited to the liaison panel meeting issues such as this could be addressed. Cllr Ravenscroft replied that he had proposed to HCC that Mr. Benham Crosswell be invited.
Cllr Ashcroft said he was pleased to see Selborne Brickworks back in business and hopes that it does well. Cllr Ravenscroft added that he has been a long-standing supporter of the manufacture of brick and tile on the site. Cllr

Cabrol commented that he has struggled with his knowledge of the history of the brickworks but hopes that now it has reopened, communications between all interested parties will be good.

Item 5 – Matters arising from these and previous minutes.

Selborne Recreation Ground. J) Drainage. The clerk reported that there had been a meeting at the Recreation Ground last Saturday with John Britten from Blackmoor Estate, Paul Till from the Recreation Ground Committee, Cllr Ashcroft, Cllr Mrs. Carter, David Emmerson and the clerk to try and solve the flooding problems at the Recreation Ground. The work that was done by Cllr Ashcroft in January was undertaken during an emergency flooding situation. He spent the best part of a day of his time relieving the floodwaters by the insertion of a large pipe under the entrance to the Recreation Ground and digging out the ditch along the Fountain Road side of the Recreation Ground. This was done under advice from Richard Hoare.

The outfall from the ditch on the Recreation Ground into the sewer below the Blackmoor access road should never have been put in place and certainly Blackmoor estate would not want it to do so again. It is illegal to mix fresh and dirty water, which is what has happened in the past, and the pipe under the road should therefore not be used. Mr. Britten commented that 20 years ago when it was probably installed the rules were not so tight and a blind eye was probably turned, however, the pipe is also too narrow to have worked effectively and would still have caused water to come over the top of the ditch and down the road

Because the rain we now get is more intense than in years gone by, an effective way of removing the water needed to be actioned. This will cost money but should solve the problem for at least the next 20 years. Mr. Britten recommended the following - erection of small stakes about 2 - 3 meters from the entrance to the newly installed pipe, installed in a row about an inch apart so that any debris collects there so as not to block the pipe and then the water will run over the top of the posts. Second, dig out a sediment pond where the old and new pipes are to alleviate the system in times of heavy flooding. On the Little Ketcher's side of the new pipe install an extra pipe to kick the water round to the right and stop splash back onto the cottage wall (the cottage is owned by Blackmoor Estate). Finally, enlarge the ditch on the Little Ketcher's side and bring it out slightly digging out a 45% angle on each side to enable water to flow smoothly and quickly away.

Mr. Britten has said he will contact the clerk via e-mail this week to go through the proposal and then a quote will be obtained from Richard Hoare to have the works done. Blackmoor Estate has generously said they will make a goodwill financial contribution to this work and may well be able to help with the removal of any spoil created. They are very clear that it is the responsibility though of those lower down to remove water from their land not those up above to prevent it coming down off the fields.

Mr. Emmerson said after the meeting that he felt this proposal is fundamentally sound but would like the neighbours consulted before it goes ahead as the ditch along their houses that has been dry for years will now have water in it. Looking at the system the ditch was obviously created to help move water away but as it had never been linked in to the drainage system it was staying dry. The meeting did not discuss in any detail the reinstating of the entrance, as this cannot be done until the drainage works are complete.

Cllr Ashcroft further explained that the ditch that causes the problem comes from Blackmoor Estate and prior to his installing this pipe in January, the water was going down the Blackmoor Estate road eroding the road and washing down on the B3006. The volume of water was such that the concrete was being rutted out and the tarmac around the manhole cover on the main road being washed away. The pipe he has installed has reconnected one side of the ditch to the other, which had been cut off by the Recreation ground entrance. The reason this other side of the ditch had been dry was there was no way for water to get in and as a consequence the ditch had been partially backfilled over the years.

The meeting with Blackmoor Estate has given the opportunity to create a longer-term solution. Mr. Emmerson wished to know if the water could be picked off elsewhere and hopes that the effect of the water on the properties nearby would be minimal. The clerk read out a letter from the Hudson's at Fountain House who were also very concerned about the work that already been done and future of the drainage and asked that the council carried out a risk assessment prior to works being done.

ii) Play Area. All the funding is in place and the clerk sent to councillors via e-mail in advance of the meeting a copy of the purchase order to check through before approving that it be sent to Playground Facilities. Councillors agreed to approve the purchase order however there was comment from a couple of councillors that the risk management sign seemed rather expensive. The clerk said she would ask the supplier to reconsider this item.

iii) Allotments. The Recreation Ground Allotments are now complete; all plots are being worked (except one and the clerk is assured work will start soon.) The next phase of work for the Recreation Ground plots is to get water to site, and the clerk is liaising with one of the allotments holders who may be able to do the work one weekend. The Recreation Ground Committee are happy to allow the water to come from the pavilion and we will agree at a later date whether the Parish Council will just pay the whole water bill or deduct from it the Recreation Grounds average use and pay the rest. (It is hoped that the allotment rentals will cover the cost of the water). The Herald came up last Thursday to take some pictures for the paper so look out for the article in the Herald soon! The allotments at Goslings are not looking quite so good; in fact to say it is a bit wet is an understatement. Cllr Ashcroft and the clerk went to site last weekend to see how this can be resolved and Cllr Ashcroft will go up to site with a plough towards the end of the week now it has had a few days to dry out. The plots can then be re-marked and possibly look to obtaining some temporary fencing to enable the plot holders to start work. The clerk proposed writing to the plot holders at Goslings to apologise for the delay to say that their

leases will be adjusted accordingly to the 1st March. It has been very unfortunate especially for Melody King who is up at Goslings who started the ball rolling in the first place. Cllr Ashcroft explained that the soil up at Goslings is malm and when it is workable it will work with you but if you try and fight it and work it when the ground conditions are unsuitable it will bite back which is what it has done at the moment. He was unsure if it was ready to be worked just yet.

Footpaths. Cllr Ashcroft reported that he had attended a meeting with Phil Allen, Andrew Smith, Rob Thompson and the county bridge man, where both the bridges at Dorton and on Footpath 29 were being discussed and progressed. He will also attend the Hampshire Access Forum next week and will update councillors once he has further news, but it is looking like both will be done soon.

Selborne War Memorial. Mr. Emmerson addressed councillors to say that, in case there were any concerns, he will not commit the parish council to anything to do with the memorial without prior consultation. He has asked for Listing Building Consent for permission to carry out the works and has also applied to the diocese for the same. He will obtain three quotes for the work and will also apply for grants, which should cover the cleaning and repair works. This means that any fundraising would be focused on the inscription works. He foresees the work being two stages; firstly getting the cleaning works and minor repairs done and then secondly the addition of the WWII inscriptions if the council agree to go ahead with this.

Parish Communications. Already covered above. Dr Yates wished to add at this point that a large number of people in Selborne do not think that the parish council represents their best interest. The most important issues are roads, traffic and flooding not The Plestor. He is not trying to cast blame but said there is a gulf and the parish council must improve communications. Many think that the parish council represents Hampshire County Council, not them. Cllr Mrs. Carter replied that the council had just spend half an hour discussing how to improve communications and had decided on a newsletter to keep people better informed, but she felt she had to point out that the Plestor had been done as a result of extensive public consultation and she therefore felt Dr Yates was being unfair to keep criticizing it. She added that if people do feel this way it would be good if they turned up to meetings.

Item 6 - Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed to move the annual parish meeting from the 9th April to the 23rd April to enable the public to stay and chat to councillors after the conclusion of the meeting. Cllr Ravenscroft asked if a guest speaker had been invited. The clerk replied that given the current issues over communication then maybe it would be more suitable to have the council themselves as the speakers to explain the role of the parish council in the community.

Item 7 - District Councillors report. No report.

Item 8 - Blackmoor Traffic. Cllr Mrs. Luty wished to raise two issues; firstly the bend by the church in Blackmoor just past the village hall, which is very dangerous for young children going to the hall for playschool, nursery and beyond the hall to the play area. Vehicles come round the bend far too fast. She has spoken to Simon Dear who is happy to do a spot check just to remind drivers of their speed but a more long term solution is needed. The clerk said she would speak to Simon Nightingale at HCC to see if he would like to come out to site visit with a view to suggesting a solution.

Secondly, she wished to ask the council to write to the owners of Priory Farm, Honey Lane, who regularly leave mud and muck all over the road and have gouged out the banks and also have a problem with the drainage which results in water often running down the road. This all makes it very difficult to drive down Honey Lane and gives drivers no chance of braking safely if a vehicle comes from the other direction. The clerk was asked to write a strongly worded letter to Mr. Merrvyn Roger-Smith at Priory Farm, giving him 10 days from the date of the letter to clean up the road or the parish council will be forced to report him to DEFRA. A copy of the letter to be sent to HCC.

Item 9 - Bus Shelters. Following Cllr Cabrol's e-mail to councillors on the subject, it was decided that the clerk should reply to EHDC to say that the parish council would be in favour of EHDC maintaining all bus shelters in the parish, as they are a feature of the villages and enhance the "village setting". Cllr Goater stated that he was only in favour of maintaining shelters where buses actually stop. He had checked and to his knowledge all the buses in Oakhanger either stop at the pub or the village hall.

Item 10 - Finance

a) Current financial position as of 31st January 2008.

Current Account £7,359.65
Deposit Account £38,839.17

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 Jan)
- ii) £300.00 Selborne PCC (grant approved Jan meeting)
- iii) £8,886.79 AGM Landscaping (1st Payment for Plestor)
- iv) £18.00 Oakhanger Village Hall (Hall Hire)
- v) £7,723.87 AGM Landscaping (2nd Payment for Plestor)
- vi) £78.82 Mrs. L Coney (Clerks expenses Jan)
- vii) £151.64 Farm and Country Supplies (allotments)
- viii) £40.00 First Gear Cycles (combination locks Selborne)
- ix) £15.00 Blackmoor Village Hall Fund (Hall Hire Oct – Dec)
- x) £650.00 Selborne Recreation Ground (Grasscutting 2007)

The clerk noted that following the previous meeting at Oakhanger Village Hall she was presented with a letter from Mrs. Goater which stated that the hall hire charge from now on would be £6.00 per hour, which, given that the council has not paid for the hire of Oakhanger Village Hall for over 18 months was unexpected. If councillors approved of this charge she would sign the new hall hire agreement. The charge was approved and the signed agreement was thus passed to Mr. McMeekan to pass to the village hall.

c) Grant Requests.

- i. **South Downs Campaign, Landscape Character Assessment.** Amount not specified. It was proposed not to support this application as it does not benefit the whole of the community in the way that a grants to other organisations do. Councillors were asked to vote on whether to support this application. 2 councillors voted in favour, 5 against and 2 abstentions. The grant request was thus refused.
- ii. **Selborne Village Hall.** £233.00 The clerk was asked to go back to Mr. Rouse to ask whether they had applied for any government grants and to request a copy of their latest accounts.
- iii. **Oakhanger PCC** £300.00. Upgrading of the Garden of Remembrance with paving and gravel. The clerk was asked to defer this item to enable Cllr Goater to speak to Mr. Kilner.

Item 11 – Correspondence. The Clerk listed in the agenda all items of paper correspondence received since the last meeting.

Item 12 – 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.

The clerk was asked to chase BT with regard to repairs of the parish telephone boxes, which have broken windowpanes and therefore must be a health and safety issue.

Cllr Ashcroft noted that he is attending the Bordon and Whitehill Opportunity meeting on the 20th February at 7:30pm to discuss transport and roads issues.

The clerk was asked to send the Code of Conduct CD round to all councillors to view.

The clerk urged councillors to ensure they are fully familiar with the LDF Core Strategy Consultation document, which will be considered at the next planning meeting and probably at the next full council meeting as well.

Item 13 - Date and Place of next meeting. – Wednesday 12th March 2008 at Selborne Village Hall 8:00pm

The meeting closed at 10:10pm

Date.....

Chairman.....