

**Minutes of the Meeting of Selborne Parish Council held in
Selborne Village Hall on Wednesday 12th March 2008 at 8:00pm**

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| Present: Mrs. H Carter Mrs. A Boase Mr. T McMeekan Mr. P Ravenscroft. Mr. S Goater Mr. D Ashcroft Mr. N James Mrs. L Coney | Chair Clerk |
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Also present were 63 members of the public, District Councillor Comber, County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee, PC Simon Dear and 1 member of the press.

Item 1 - Apologies for absence. Received from Cllr Mrs. Palmer, Cllr Mrs. Barnfield, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Cabrol and Cllr Mrs. Luty.

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.

Dr Yates addressed the council to say that he had invited people to the meeting this evening to show support for the village with regard to traffic and the incessant flow of vehicles. His letter to the Times was dismissed by many including Hampshire County Council. His petition to the Prime Minister has not received a response and he wrote to Mr. Thornber who eventually replied stating "the myth of child deaths" on the roads. 3,200 people were killed on the roads last year 60% on rural roads. At 30mph 85% of people struck are killed but at 20mph this falls to just 15%. With regard to child injuries, the U.K is as the bottom of the European league with 820 children either killed or seriously injured (although he believed these figures to be massaged.) Anyone who thinks that 30mph is a suitable speed limit should try walking with small children, wheelchairs, or in the rain. He proposed that the Parish Council write to the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council and copy to James Arbuthnot MP to ask that Selborne have a 20mph speed limit. Legislation has enabled the County after April 2007 to inert 20mph limits in rural area to preserve villages. This was seconded by a number of the public present and agreed by all.

Mr. Davidson-Houston wished to second everything that Dr Yates had said and would like to ask if the results of the traffic survey had been analysed yet and a meeting set. Cllr Mrs. Carter replied yes to both and said that the meeting was scheduled for Monday 31st March at Selborne Village Hall and would be publicized well in advance.

Mr. Davidson-Houston went on to state that the village is welcoming of visitors but with 10,000 commuters a day passing through this is not of benefit to the community. Indeed if a cost benefit analysis were done it would probably show the commuters to be of no benefit at all. The Ham Barn roundabout was installed for the benefit of a defence programme that is no longer in use (to facilitate the movement of Cruise Missiles traveling north) and there is now no need for vehicles to be able to come off the A3 at that point. His requests therefore are firstly that the Parish Council writes to Stuart Jarvis, Deputy Director of Environment HCC. In response to his statement that 'We are aware that commuters drive through Selborne, and that there was an initial increase in traffic flow on the B3006 following the opening of the A3 Trunk Road Petersfield bypass in July 1992. However, subsequent traffic growth has been in line with that experienced on other local roads in Hampshire.' What were the immediately pre- and post-1992 traffic-flow figures on the B3006, and what has been the subsequent traffic growth on other local roads? With this information, it will be possible to calculate the effect of the Ham Barn link on traffic through Selborne. Secondly, the Ham Barn Roundabout will have to be altered with the completion of the A3 Hindhead tunnel. This was also referred to Ken Thornber who passed it to his Route Performance Manager without success. Therefore could the Parish Council write to the Highways Agency Paul Benham, Route Performance Manager for this section of the A3 at the Highways Agency to ask what plans are in hand for the future of the Ham Barn roundabout in the light of the expected increase in the volume and speed of traffic after the opening of the Hindhead tunnel? The Parish Council approved these requests.

Mrs. Aston wished to make two statements and four requests. We support the campaign for a 20mph speed limit through all villages. The first request is that the following three requests be minuted and put on public record. 1) That we ask Mark Kemp Gee to address a public meeting in Selborne as soon as possible, on his study of the Ham Barn Roundabout, the cause of up to ten hours commuter traffic a day through this village on a "B" road. 2) That a survey is conducted of opinions specifically from those households actually on the main road here i.e close to it, level with it, facing it (not behind other houses, sideways on or high on slopes.) This survey can elicit evidence of damage to health, property, safety and quality of life. 3) That we ask for an official measure of pollution levels on this stretch of road (i.e micrograms per cubic metre of Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and fine particles. As a motto for all Selborne traffic moves, we suggest "In Our Lifetime" we have already tolerated danger and pollution for years.

Mr. Wodehouse added that if you take the stretch of road from Alton to the Ham Barn Roundabout and made Selborne a 20mph limit you would only lose 44 seconds over a 10.5mile journey, it would reduce pollution and ease the traffic flow.

Mr. Gibson stated that Selborne has a disadvantage as a parish over places such as Headley, Whitehill and Petersfield who have devolved powers given to them from the County because they are Quality Parishes. What measures are being put in place for Selborne to become a Quality Parish. The clerk replied that a "professional" clerk is required; the clerk would need to undertake her qualifications outside of her clerking hours. Cllr Mrs. Carter added that there are a number of additional requirements including having a parish newsletter, which is currently under development ready for the first issue in April.

Mr. Blythe agreed with other speakers that there should be a 20mph through the village and cut off the traffic at the Ham Barn Roundabout. Indeed when the road works were undertaken last year and the road closed, the traffic soon found alternative routes. He said that he had been to East Meon where a presentation had been made by HCC leading traffic management consultants to the Parish Council on traffic easing plans for the A32, which carries the same volume of traffic as the B3006. By a show of hands it was agreed to undertake to obtain detailed plans for this scheme. Cllr Ravenscroft felt this would be very selfish; the other routes that would take the burden of the traffic would be Oakhanger and Blackmoor. Mr. Benham Crosswell agreed saying that he would like to see the parish council asking specifically that in any future plans traffic is not re-routed through Blackmoor and Oakhanger. Mr. Blythe countered that the remark was a red herring.

Mrs. Aston stated that the council has to understand that with 35,000 visitors to the Wakes, we are a welcoming village but as such must be seen as a unique village. Mr. Gibson commented that the council could purchase a handheld speed camera and if Selborne is a Quality Parish can get it paid for.

Item 2 – Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th February 2008.

There being no 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 – Selborne Village Hall Grant. (This was moved up the agenda by the chair as Mr. Rouse had come to present this item to the council). Mr. Rouse was requesting £233.00 from the Parish Council to help fund Cavity Wall insulation in the hall. The need to undertake this project stems from an increasing environmental awareness from within the community, plus a need to reduce the halls running costs and subsequent reduction of energy usage. This will help sustain low rents for users of the village hall, thereby encouraging more use. The hall has a policy of encouraging new groups to become established by providing initial rent free periods, and help with management if required. The charity will consequently have lower outgoings, leading to low rents and enabling regular maintenance to be more comfortably undertaken. The Village Hall aims to undertake a continuing review of energy efficiency with the long-term aim of reducing the overall cost of energy used and reducing the Halls Carbon Footprint. Further projects will follow on from a consultation exercise being undertaken by The Centre for Sustainable Energy. The Village Halls accounts are available to view on the village hall website and in answer to a question from the council, the village hall does not qualify for a grant for this from the government as it is a community building not a domestic one. The village hall is not putting any money towards this themselves as their money is being used to have the consultation work carried out and any remaining funds will be used towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the consultation which is likely to be many thousands of pounds. Councillors then voted on the proposal to grant £233.00 to Selborne Village Hall (5 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) Grant approved.

Item 5 - Selborne 20mph request letter to HCC. This was moved up the agenda by the chair to enable all members of the public present to hear the item before departing. The Chair read out the final draft letter to HCC which had been formerly circulated to councillors for suggested alterations (See Appendix A) It was unanimously agreed to approve the letter and request that the clerk sends it to the Chief Executive of HCC, Ken Thornber and James Arbuthnot MP.

Item 6– Reports of Subcommittees and meetings where the parish council is represented.

- i) Selborne Brickworks Liaison Panel. Cllr Ashcroft reported that the brickworks current proprietors were present at the meeting, which was helpful, and he is addressing any issue pertaining to noise and pollution. His wish is to "get on with" his neighbours and is encouraging customers to use sensible routes to get to the brickworks. There is sufficient clay on site for now but once this is used up it will need to be imported.
- ii) Selborne Recycling Liaison Panel. Cllr Ashcroft said there was not much to report, the levels have been reduced in height a bit, but other than that it is reasonably quiet.
- iii) Bordon and Whitehill Opportunity. Cllr Ashcroft attended the inaugural meeting which stated that the MOD is to start leaving in 2011 with only tank recovery and training to remain, some of the accommodation will be retained by the army for personnel in Aldershot but overall there will be a large hole left in the community. This is the opportunity to create a new town on both Brown and Greenfield sites. If all the brown and green field sites available were used it could accommodate up to 8000 houses. If 5,500 were built it could be an eco-town, which would enable more funding and thus better infrastructure. The council is now looking to employ a consultant to take these ideas forward. They need to look to create a community centre for all age groups. If they don't manage to create a good centre the area could become another Leigh Park. Cllr Ashcroft was keen to promote the idea that you cannot build houses until you have a decent road in place. At the moment there are no plans to alter the A325 and this type of proposal cannot

happen without changes to the infrastructure. Others at the meeting agreed with this. Because this is going to be next to this parish we have to be totally involved.

Item 7 – Matters arising from these and previous minutes.

- iv) Selborne 20mph request letter to HCC. Already considered in item 5.
- v) Selborne Recreation Ground. The playgrounds have been ordered and should be installed during April. The clerk will update councillors further once a date is known. The clerk is still awaiting the quotation from Richard Hoare for the drainage at the Recreation Ground and another meeting has been scheduled for next Monday to go through the options with Mr. Emmerson and the Recreation Ground Committee.
- vi) Selborne Allotments. The Recreation Ground Site is looking very good with all plots being worked. A couple of allotment holders have asked about water. The clerk is still awaiting a quotation but the cost of putting water on is likely to be around £1000. In the meantime if the council is happy to approve a spend of just under £50.00 the clerk can purchase a very long hose together with attachments which Mrs. Oliver is happy to hook up once a week to the tap in the pavilion to enable plot holders to fill their water butts. The clerk has asked the Recreation Ground Committee if this is acceptable but has not yet had a reply. The site at Goslings is now workable thanks to Cllr Ashcroft's plough, which has enabled the water to soak away. The plots have been re-marked out but the installation of the fencing has been put on hold as a claimant has come forward regarding ownership of the site. The claimants Land Agent contacted the clerk this afternoon stating that he was recommending to his client that the old lease on the site be reinstated. The clerk and Cllr Mrs. Carter have engaged our solicitor to write to the claimant on behalf of the council stating the councils claim to the site and copy to the land agent. The letter will be circulated via e-mail for approval prior to being sent.
- vii) Parish Footpaths. 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 Dorton 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. Cllr Ashcroft replied that he had just reported that a meeting had taken place; he was not in attendance himself either. Cllr Comber wished to have the meeting reconvened with herself and Cllr Kemp Gee included and asked that a proper costing for the bridge be requested. It was reported that there will be a footpaths and Rights of Way seminar for parish councils later in the year and that all Rights of Way are now available to view digitally on the HCC website, including descriptions. With regard to the Discovering Lost Ways project, this has now been tied in with looking for improvements to Rights of Way. They are looking for volunteers to go to Winchester Records Office to look for old routes to see if they could be added to the existing network. If anyone is interested please contact Cath Hart at HCC.
- viii) Parish Communications. Cllrs Mrs. Boase, Cllr. James, Cllr Cabrol and Cllr Mrs. Carter will meet after the next planning meeting on the 26th March to discuss the content and layout for the newsletter. Councillors will also consider dates for village drop in surgeries so that these can be put into the newsletter.

Item 8 - Selborne War Memorial. To confirm the scope of the Selborne War Memorial project. Mr. Emmerson addressed the council to inform them that permission has now been given for the works from EHDC. He understands that there has been some discussion about adding to the Memorial the names of those Selborne people killed in WWII as one councillor in particular thought it inappropriate. That is fine, but he does need to have an agreed scope for the Project to move ahead, as the bids for grants currently assume that the updating is included in the Project. His proposal remains to have the Memorial cleaned, repaired and also add the names of those Selborne men killed in WWII. This would allow the village to recognise in public the sacrifices made for their country by those killed in WWII. The names of those killed in both WWs are read out at the Memorial on each Remembrance Sunday. The War Memorial Trust encourages updates of the type suggested, and will normally contribute towards any costs.

Cllr Ashcroft asked if it would be right to add the names of any serving soldier who has been lost since WWII? Mr Emmerson said he has tried to find out if anyone from Selborne has been killed on active service since 1945 but without success. Nationally many are formally remembered at the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum opened by the Queen in October 2007. Located near Lichfield, this impressive and moving Memorial lists the 16,000 military killed since 1948. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to allow the updating of the memorial to include the names of those lost in WWII and thanked Mr. Emmerson for all his work to date on the project.

Item 9 - District Councillors report. 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 Dorton. 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.

Cllr Mrs. Comber asked if the Parish Council had written to Mel Kendall and Alison Quant about the feasibility study for the B3006, copying Mark Kemp Gee and James Arbuthnot. Apart from that there was little else to report. Cllr Ravenscroft asked if she could tell the parish council what has been happening at the District Council. She replied that she had been to a seminar in London on trains and attended Think Safe, organised by the Hampshire road safety people who put on a show about what being in an accident is like. Cllr Ashcroft asked her who is leading for the council on roads. She did not know but would find out and let councillors know. Cllr Ravenscroft said he understood that EHDC were to charge people to park in Alton and Petersfield on Sundays. Is the case and why?

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.

Item 10 - Police

PC Dear had attended the meeting and had listened to residents concerns over transport issues. He said he totally sympathized with peoples concerns but he cannot deal with speed enforcement issues. He does however stop and ticket overweight lorries and contacts managers at transport companies to try and prevent them using the B3006 if they are not delivering within the parish. He does advocate average speed cameras but again he cannot do anything personally to help with them. He suggested contacting Karen Dawes at the Community Safety Team at EHDC who may be able to help. He also suggested inviting the Community Reassurance Team to a Parish Council meeting and they can probably answer more questions than he on traffic issues.

Mr. Benham Crosswell said that he has had £15,000 - £20,000 of copper wire stolen at various times over the last 6 months. PC Dear asked that Mr. Benham Crosswell reported it to him so he knows when it is happening.

Another resident asked whether it is an offence to park within 10m of a junction and if so do the police tend to turn a blind eye. PC Dear replied that no they don't turn a blind eye but he is not always in the village, so if you see persistent offenders phone the details through to him and he can ensure he goes out at the right time. He is also very aware of cars obstructing the pavement by the shop. If he is in his office and someone has completely blocked the path he will ask them to move.

The Parish Council was keen to acknowledge that the presence of a police office in the village hall is very desirable and having the police car outside is also useful! The council wished to thank PC Dear for having such a presence in the village and the Parish as without him crime would surely be higher. He thanked the council for their comments and remarked that he has about three and a half years left before retirement and he and many other rural officers are spread very thinly (Indeed he is likely to take over at Bentley when PC Gray retires this year) They are in danger of being taken off community beats and he would be unlikely to be replaced when he retires. He concluded that if you the village is keen to keep its beat officer then letters to the Chief of Police would be encouraged! The audience and councillors gave PC Dear a round of applause in appreciation.

Mr. Blythe asked if PC Dear could act as a conduit at a separate meeting on traffic as the police know the volume of vehicles that come through Selborne.

Item 11 – Finance

a) Current financial position as of 29th February 2008.

Current Account £4,757.25cr

Deposit Account £16,839.17cr

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 Feb)
- ii) £40.00 HALC (Clerks Conference)
- iii) £9630.62 AGM Landscaping (Final Payment Plestor)
- iv) £39.05 Farm & Country Supplies (Allotments)
- v) £99.88 Drainfast (Pipe at Recreation Ground January)
- vi) £100.00 EHDC (Litter Bin Plestor)
- vii) £500.86 TerraFirma (Consultancy Fees Plestor)
- viii) £63.91 Mrs. L Coney (Clerks Expenses February)
- ix) £139.83 Action Digging Services (Digger Hire January)
- x) £42.72 Viking Direct Ink Cartridges & Paper

c) Grant Requests.

- i. Selborne Village Hall. £233.00 Already considered in Item 4.
- ii. Oakhanger PCC £300.00. Cllr Goater stated that following a very generous bequest from Mr. Benham Crosswell he would like the parish council to reconsider the letter from Mr. Kilner last month requesting money toward the remembrance garden at Oakhanger Church, which can now go ahead. It was AGREED by councillors to approve the grant request.

Item 12 – Correspondence. The Clerk listed in the agenda all items of paper correspondence received since the last meeting.

The clerk noted that PJ Grace had quoted for grasscutting on the Plestor. She had in turn spoken to the current contractor Mr Ward to ask him to quote for this year. PJ Grace has come in at £40 per cut and Mr Ward at £60 per cut. It was noted that the clerk was not sure what level of insurance cover PJ Grace has and how often he was planning to cut the grass to determine a like for like comparison. Clerk to find out and present at the next meeting. In the meantime if the grass needed cutting Mr. Ward would be asked to give an interim cut.

The clerk also read out an additional letter received from the parents of children at the Pavilion Nursery concerned about the condition and maintenance of the Recreation Ground. The clerk was asked to write to Caroline Rye and answer her questions and the parish council would liaise with the Recreation Ground Committee with regard to maintenance.

It was also noted that at the Recreation Ground AGM the committee decided to remove the concrete cricket strip. This is to help the footballers as they can move the pitch up slightly. Cricket has not been played for a long time where as there are now two football teams using the recreation ground on a regular basis. The season is coming to an end but the teams will want to practice and play non-league

friendly games throughout the summer. This is going to continue with the enthusiasm the teams are showing. Councillors noted this commenting that it is a shame cricket is not played and they would be upset if in the future there was an application for cricket nets as a perfectly good strip is being removed.

Item 13 – 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.

County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee said that he had fixed a date (19th May) to lobby our MP in Parliament regarding a feasibility study on the B3006. He asked that 2 members of the Parish Council accompany him. Cllr Mrs. Carter said she would like to attend and suggested Cllr Ashcroft might also like to attend. He will also invite two members of the public as well. He will be asking for funding from the Highways Agency for the study and also obtain a time line to work from with regard to the A3 Hindhead Tunnel.

Cllr Ashcroft added that the South Downs Advisory Forum also looks to address transport issues especially in relation to speeds on roads and they could be useful to the Parish Council in this respect.

Item 14 - Date and Place of next meeting. – Wednesday 9th April 2008 at Oakhanger Village Hall 7:30pm

Item 15 – Closed Session. (The minutes of this item are confidential and not in the public domain) The chair minuted this item as the clerk had left the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:25pm

Date.....

Chairman.....

Appendix A. Copy of Letter to Hampshire County Council.

Andrew Smith
The Chief Executive Department
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
WINCHESTER
SO23 8UJ

Date: 12th March 2008

Dear Mr Smith,

Following a request from residents, Selborne Parish Council wishes to express its desire to be considered for a 20mph speed limit throughout the stretch of the village, which was the subject of the pedestrian safety scheme carried out by Hampshire County Council this time last year.

Supporters of this request include the WI, PTA, School Governors, Gilberts White's House and the Oates Museum and the Selborne Association. These people, along with the Parish Council, recognise that the volume of traffic using the B3006 through Selborne is seriously detrimental to the quality of life of residents, the historical buildings close to the road, and the village's role as a major tourist attraction within the proposed South Downs National Park.

The Parish Council's approach has always been to work with Hampshire County Council. This has achieved the measures to increase pedestrian safety that have been put in place over the last 12 months. We now seek to have a dialogue with the County Council to look at a long-term solution to Selborne's traffic speed problems.

The unique position of Selborne as a rural "B" road, which carries the volume of traffic experienced by many "A" roads makes the use of standard traffic calming solutions impractical and the imposition of a 20mph limit would appear to many villagers to be the only viable option. Indeed in a recent traffic survey to assess the pedestrian safety scheme carried out last year 88% of those that replied wanted a 20mph speed limit for the village.

For the majority of residents in Selborne, traffic has become the major issue within the community. We would be extremely grateful if you could let us know how Selborne Parish Council can assist in the County Council in progressing this request for a 20mph speed limit as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Leah Coney - Clerk
For and on behalf of, Selborne Parish Council

c.c Rt Hon James Arbuthnot MP, Ken Thornber Leader of the Council (HCC).