

**Minutes of the Meeting of Froxfield & Privett Parish Council
held at Privett Village Hall on
Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr David Rymer, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr John Ellis, Cllr Norman Pitman, Cllr Chris Skinner, and Cllr Vanessa Christie. In attendance: Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, the Clerk and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Brown and Cllr Hiscock
2. **Approval of the minutes** the of Minutes of 5th October 2023 were approved and signed
3. **Matters Arising** there were no matters arising
4. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interests** there were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest
5. **Comments from the Public or Press** Kate Ashfield spoke to re-iterate concerns, emailed previously, that there was an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of 21st September concerning the boundary between Soal Pond and Soal Pond Cottage. She said that they, the Ashfields, do not wish for the boundary of Soal Pond Cottage to be defined by wording in the minutes. The Ashfields acknowledge that the land around the pond and the pond itself do not have a registered title but historically have been controlled and managed by Hampshire County Council Highways Department. The previous Minutes remained in draft form and would be amended to reflect the foregoing inaccuracy.

Councillors were in agreement that the new fence gives the impression that the pond is in the ownership of Soal Pond Cottage, as, the newly erected fence follows the line of the pond adjacent to the highway of the property and continues around the pond to the field at the back whereas previously it was obvious that the pond was not within the curtilage of the house. The new fence also fully encloses the pond therefore cutting off access to members of the public which existed immediately prior to the new fence being erected.

Early photos showed a hedge dividing the house from the pond and the pond having been fenced separately with a standard HCC concrete post and metal fence allowing access to the pond by the public. Kate agreed that this had been the case under the previous ownership but they did not want a hedge or fence between the house and the pond. The Councillors suggested reverting to the original metal and concrete fencing around the Soal Pond, but Kate was against this.

It was agreed that a copy of the land registry plan ought to be annexed to the minutes to provide further clarity.

6. **Consider purchasing and agreeing the cost of Christmas Trees for Froxfield and Privett** the Councillors agreed to a purchase a local Christmas Tree at cost of up to £125
7. **To agree to repair or replace 2 items of playground equipment** The playground inspection report had highlighted as dangerous the uprights on the climbing frame that had rotted below the ground surface. A quote to repair the posts and a further quote to replace the equipment had been received. Based on these quotes the preference was to replace rather than repair. A decision would be made following the receipt of further quotes.

8. **County Councillor's Report** Cllr Oppenheimer referred to these points from his written report.

- a) Hampshire has an historic and long-standing close relationship with the Armed Forces. We have substantial military facilities and training grounds from all three services in our county. Hampshire is, I believe, the only county in the UK that can make that claim.
- b) The Government is still releasing details of how funding from the cancellation of the Northern leg of HS2. Highways are hoping to receive somewhere between £7-12m extra each year for the next three years, starting in April 2024.
- c) HCC has circulated two standard template letters for Councils to send to homeowners and landowners regarding vegetation and ditch clearance.
- d) HCC welcomes new Government plans on Smoking and Vaping. The Local Authority's Trading Standards Officers regularly visit businesses to check measures are in place to prevent the sales of cigarettes and vapes to underage children.
- e) SDNP has created a brokerage service named ReNature Credits which will connect landowners and developers to create areas of land for nature recovery.
- f) Highways is suffering from problems with utility companies, consequently they are endeavouring to find ways of charging them properly and to prevent Highways own works being disrupted. Where the road surface reconstruction has been poor, they are looking to force the Utility Companies to return and finish the work properly.

9. **District Councillor's Report** Cllr Drew was unable to be present

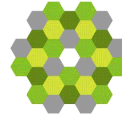
10. **Finances**

- a) **The financial statement** the financial statement was approved
- b) **The future payments** were approved
- c) **The Draft Budget 2024/25** was discussed. Some amendments were made to take into account: the potential spend to replace the climbing frame which is suffering from rot: to maintain the budget of £12000 for BOAT renovation to continue repairing Green Lane.
- d) **To approve the Precept for 2024/25** It was agreed to raise the precept by 10% to £29700.
- e) **Financial Risk Assessment 2023/24** the financial risk assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed approved.

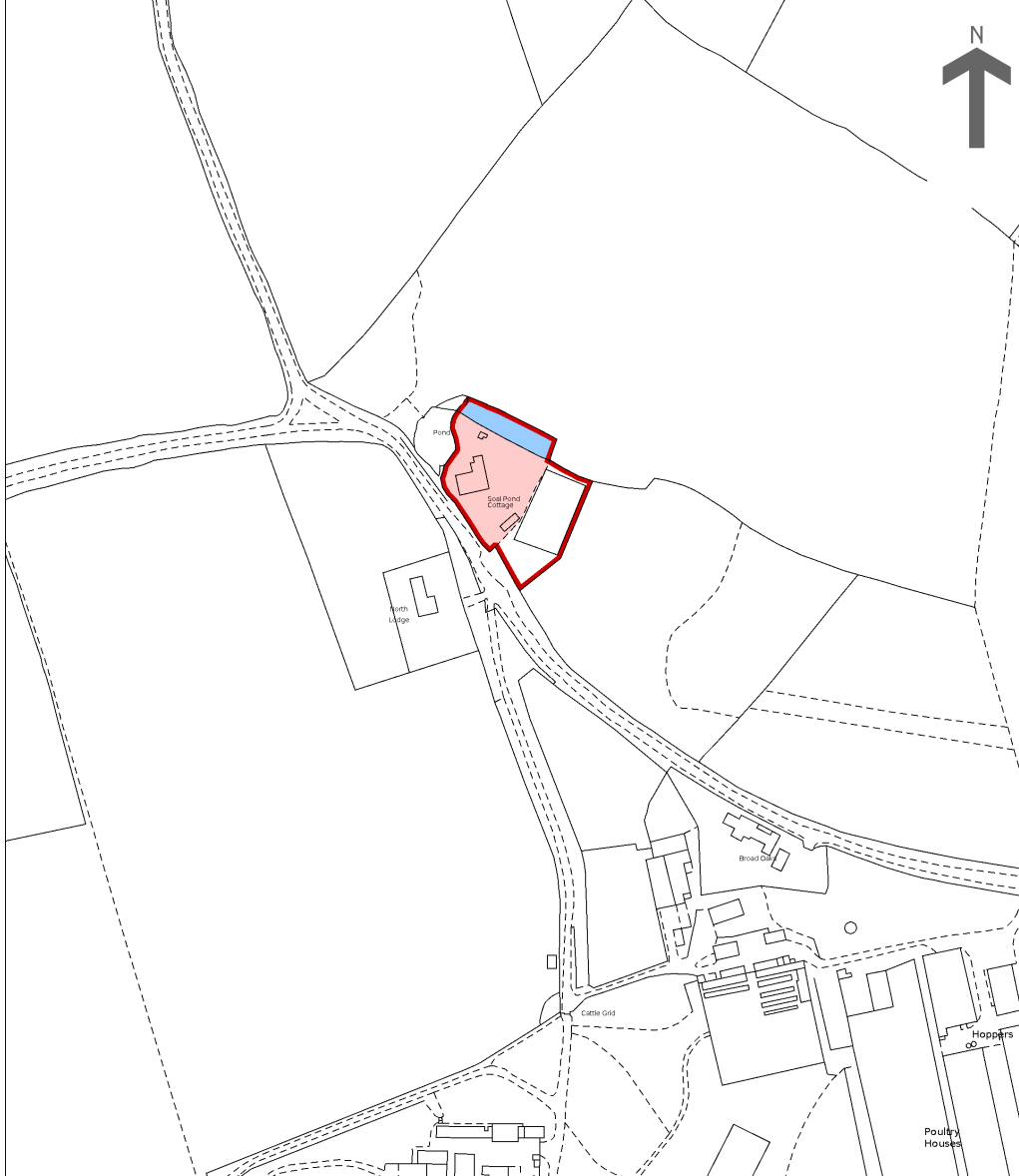
Signed Dated

HM Land Registry
Current title plan

Title number **SH29500**
Ordnance Survey map reference **SU7126SW**
Scale **1:2500**
Administrative area **Hampshire : East
Hampshire**



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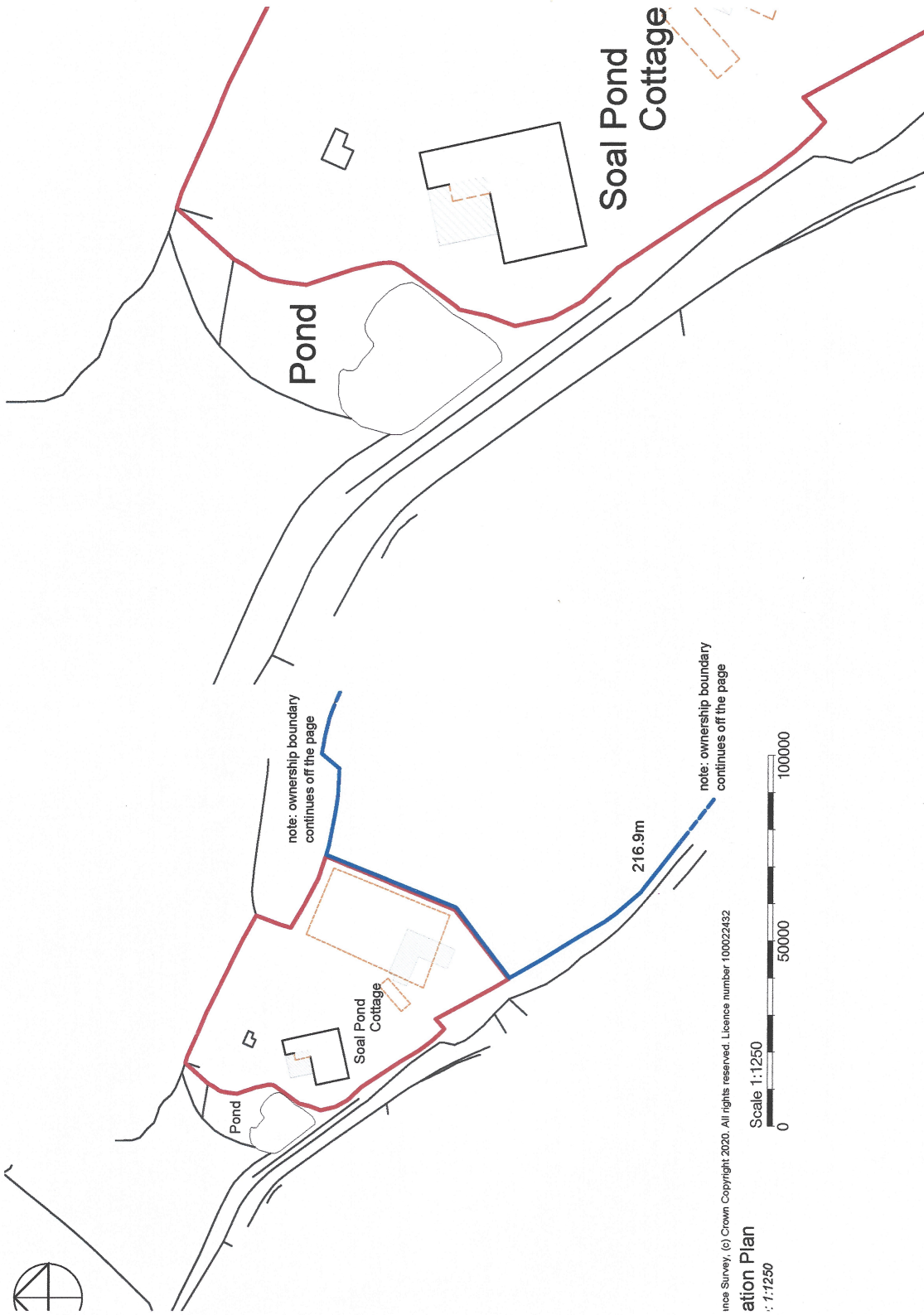


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Soal Pond
Cottage

Pond

Soal Pond
Cottage

Soal Pond
Cottage

Pond

216.9m