

ANNUAL REPORT

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

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2023

2024



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Foreword

Located on the south-west side of Ashford, Great Chart with Singleton Parish is home to 6801 residents (2011 Census)¹. The parish borders several other parishes; Betersden to the west, Hothfield to the north, Kingsnorth to the south and Shadoxhurst to the southwest. On the east is South Ashford which is currently an un-parished area. The Parish Council works in close partnership with neighbouring parishes as well as Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council to improve the area for its residents.

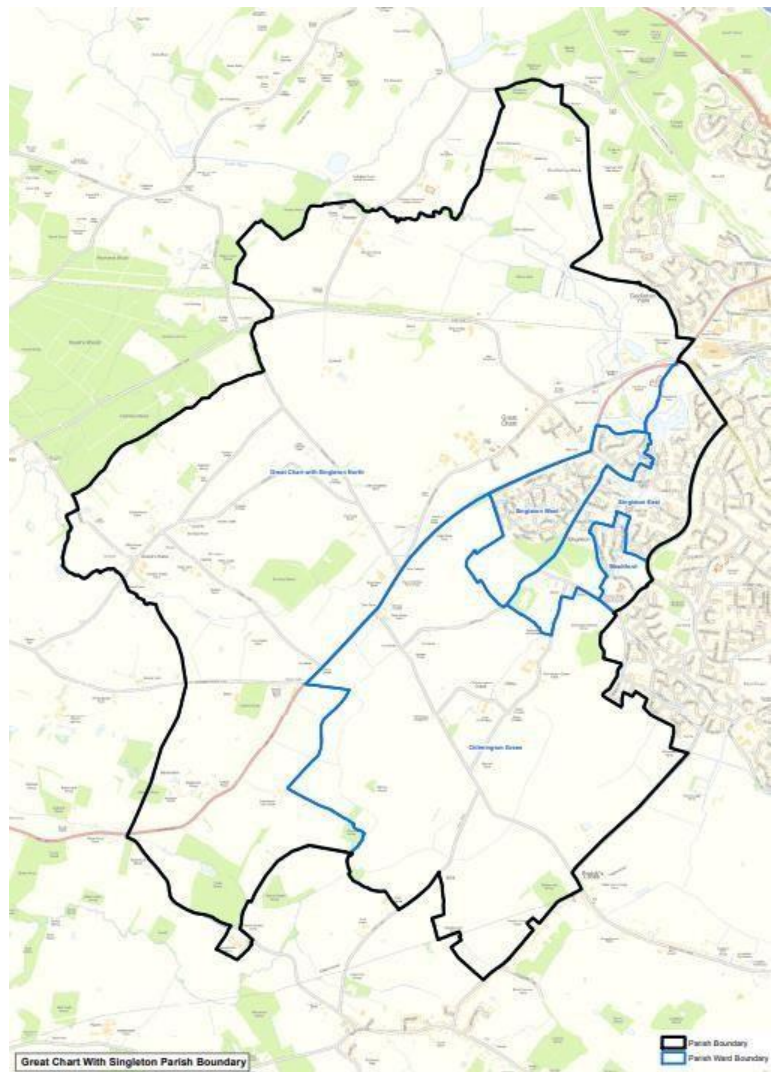
In 2023 local elections took place, and we are pleased to inform you that all of our Councillors have been reelected to continue in their roles. This continuity means that it's business as usual for the council, allowing us to maintain our focus on serving the community effectively.

We are pleased to report that we've had another great year, despite facing some challenges related to staffing. Throughout this period, we have continued to provide our services to the best of our abilities and maintained our local amenities.

The parish council held several community events to bring the community together. Some of these events are familiar to you as they are a regular fixture on

the Parish Council's events calendar.

This report is a good opportunity to look back on the past year's activities, beginning with reports from the Chair and Clerk. The report will include an overview of the parish's finances and provide a summary of the activities of some of our local clubs, societies, and organisations.



You can view the large [map](#)

1 GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH

¹ Ashford Borough Council Yearbook



Chair's Annual Report

FOREWORD

As chair, I'm delighted to write the foreword for this year's annual report from Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council.

We are a very old Parish Council (PC), established in 1894. We try our best to be a progressive council and are proactive in our involvement with parishioners and the wider community. We have our own website www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk which contains loads of up-to-date information about the council and the things we do, as well as the formal business of committees and meetings.

As you read through the report, you will discover the many activities undertaken by the PC during the year. I am not going to precis them here, but I am going to focus on what I believe are the council's main asset, our staff.

The team consists of just four members who between them, are responsible for running the entire parish. Chief amongst these is our Parish Clerk, Ani, without whom I am confident in saying, the council wouldn't have the reputation it has today. Ani is wonderfully proactive and has forged a plethora of links with outside organisations, which has been of significant benefit to both parties.

Our Deputy Clerk, Paula, works part-time, and deals with some specific areas of council business, notably the quarterly parish magazine, delivered to every household in the parish. Paula also covers Planning and Stronger Communities.

Late last year Peter, one of our long serving parish stewards, retired. In recruiting his replacement, it was recognised that we could offer an extended service to our local community, so this year we have recruited Rhys to replace Peter. Rhys is full-time, where Peter used to work 25 hours per week. This allows us extra capacity to look after the parish and respond quickly to jobs that need doing.

Our fourth staff member is Rob, who, like Paula, is part time and helps Rhys with various jobs around our parish.

We are indebted to all of them.

Malcolm Wiffen
Chair, Great Chart with Singleton PC
August 2024



Clerk's annual Report

Welcome

Welcome to the Clerk's annual report. I hope you will enjoy reading this report on 2023-2024 year. We will look back at some of the highlights and celebrate the Parish Council's achievements. Before delving into it in more detail, I'd like to start the report with a review of the council and council's team.

The Council

In May 2023, nine councillors were elected, leaving two of our eleven seats vacant. Later in the year we were able to co-opt two councillors, but shortly after, two councillors resigned, taking us back to square one. We were again twice able to co-opt, first in April 2024, and again in June, resulting in a full council once again. We are pleased to have a complete council and look forward to continuing our work for the community.

Parish Council meetings and Committees

The Parish Council meets once a month to discuss and decide on key issues affecting our community. In addition to these meetings, our committees regularly convene to work on various topics and projects.

The main committees include:

- Finance
- Staffing
- Environment
- Planning
- Stronger Communities

These committees work tirelessly to bring projects to fruition that benefit our community. Their dedication ensures that the council continues to make positive changes and support the needs of all our residents.

The Team

The Parish Council employs a small team dedicated to carrying out its services and statutory duties, as well as maintaining the local area and amenities. Our team currently includes the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and two Parish Stewards. In April 2024, we welcomed Rhys as the new full-time Parish Steward, as Peter had retired from his role as Steward after eight years of dedicated service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter on behalf of the council for his hard work, commitment, and the positive impact he has had during his time with us. His contributions have been invaluable, and he will be greatly missed. We wish Peter all the very best in his retirement and hope that he enjoys this new chapter of his life.

We are excited to have Rhys on board to help with our ongoing efforts to keep the parish well-maintained and vibrant.

Additionally, the Parish Council supports the education team at Singleton Environment Centre, forming a partnership that provides educational activities to our parishioners, and allows us to support various activities across all age groups.



Improvements around the parish

The Parish Council is responsible for managing several key areas and amenities within the parish, including:

- **Cuckoo Park**
- **Great Chart Play Park**
- **The Viewing Point**
- **Various street furniture**, including benches and dog poo bag dispensers

Our Parish Steward, Rhys, is still settling into his new role and familiarising himself with the parish. However, since starting, he has already made significant contributions. Notably, he played a key role in:

- **Installing new goal posts** on the small field in Great Chart
- **Establishing a Tree Trail** to encourage residents to explore the parish while learning about trees and their importance

There are several other projects in the pipeline that the Steward will be working on to further enhance our community.

Unfortunately, we are still experiencing issues with vandalism, particularly to the noticeboards. While we are actively exploring ways to prevent this, we request residents to report any incidents of vandalism as soon as they see them.

As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing biodiversity within the parish, the Parish Council continues to collaborate with The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Ashford Borough Council, and the Aspire team. We are excited to expand the successful biodiversity project to other parts of the parish.

A key element of this plan, supported by Ashford Borough Council, involves designating specific areas as meadow zones. These areas are mowed only at the end of the cutting season, ensuring that all cuttings are collected. This approach helps to create a more sustainable environment that supports local wildlife, particularly bumblebees and other pollinators.

We are proud of the progress made so far and look forward to seeing the positive impact of these efforts on our local ecosystem.

Continuing the theme of community collaboration and environmental improvement, the Parish Council has maintained its partnership with the Barrow and Spade Brigade. Last year, we welcomed a new committee that has made notable progress on the allotments.

Key achievements by the committee include:

- **Installation of new containers** to collect rainwater, enhancing their sustainability efforts.
- **Construction of a new roof**, providing better rainfall collection for allotment users.

The Parish Council conducted its annual inspection and was pleased to observe that most

plots were maintained to a high standard. This reflects the hard work and dedication of our community members involved in the allotments. We appreciate the continued efforts of the Barrow and Spade Brigade and look forward to further improvements and work together.

The number of Community Heroes who help keep the parish area clean and litter free is growing steadily. The Parish Council is pleased to support residents who wish to give back to the community.

The Singleton Community Fridge project, funded by the Parish Council, has now successfully passed its one-year milestone. While there are still some teething issues to address, the overall impact of the project has been positive for several residents.

The Community Fridge has:

- Helped reduce food waste by redistributing surplus food.
- Provided access to free food for residents in need, fostering a sense of community support.

We are committed to resolving the initial challenges and improving the project's efficiency to better serve our community.

Community Engagement Events

Community engagement events are an integral part of the Parish Council's role. It gives the council an opportunity to learn more about the community and their needs/wants, helping the council to shape the services they offer. It also allows the council to bring people together, forging a cohesive community.

Bike theft remains an issue in our community. To address this, the Parish Council organises regular bike marking events. These events provide residents with the opportunity to bring their bicycles and have them security marked. Security marking helps to deter theft and makes it easier to recover stolen bikes. We encourage all residents to take advantage of these events to protect their bicycles.

The Pop-Up Café is a monthly event where residents can enjoy a slice of homemade cake along with a nice cup of tea. Now in its fifth year, the Pop-Up Café is an important information hub where residents can learn about local services available to them. To reach a wider audience and ensure residents in Singleton can access information, we have introduced a double session. The second session is held at Lily's Café, and to encourage attendance, we have started offering craft activities. These activities have proven to be highly popular. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this wonderful project, including parish councillors and the Singleton Environment Centre for providing delicious cakes for each event.

The Big Lunch event at Great Chart Playing Fields was held for the third year running and was a great success. The event featured the usual bouncy castle and soft play for the children, as well as stalls and performances by local groups. Additional activities for children included football organised by Pilgrims Football Club and Cricket run by Great Chart Cricket Club. Attendees also enjoyed ice cream, donuts, and hot dogs and burgers with all the garnishes provided by the Parish Council. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Paula, our Deputy Clerk, for organising yet another fantastic event. We also would like to thank all the councillors and volunteers who helped on the day.

Other News

The annual KALC Community Award has been presented to Peter New, our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, in recognition of his relentless efforts to prevent crime and ensure the safety of our residents. The Parish Council is proud to acknowledge Peter's dedication with this special award.

In addition, the Parish Council has agreed to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the Grade II listed war memorial in Great Chart. This task, previously managed by volunteers, will now be overseen by the Council to ensure the continued care and upkeep of this important historical site. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who have dedicated their time over the years to keep the war memorial in excellent condition.

Furthermore, the charity associated with the war memorial has successfully transferred funds to the Parish Council, enabling essential maintenance work, including the cleaning of the memorial and the repainting of the lettering.

Five years ago, the Parish Council introduced tablets to support councillors in their roles. These tablets have now been upgraded to laptops, providing access to a broader range of Microsoft Suite applications, thereby facilitating more integrated and efficient work.

Thank you.

I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Every Councillor brings unique skills and qualities that help the council achieve its objectives, and your contributions are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our Council employees for their commitment and hard work. Your dedication plays a crucial role in the smooth functioning of our council and the betterment of our community.

Aniko Szocs

Parish Clerk & RFO



Great Chart Village Hall- Chairman's report 2024

It is pleasing to be able to report that the hall has seen an increase in children's party bookings along with an increase in regular hirers booking the hall for their meetings and social activities. The kitchen has proved to be very popular with hirers requiring catering facilities for party bookings at the weekend, helping to maintain and increase the number of weekend bookings. This has had a beneficial effect of allowing the trustees to maintain very reasonable hiring fees for local community groups using the hall.



During the year, the trustees were busy tackling maintenance and updating tasks to ensure the hall was welcoming for all users. Before Christmas the roof was repaired when previously undetected vegetation in a roof valley had grown and cracked several 'Kent peg' tiles causing damage and a leak through to the ceiling inside. Fortunately we able to secure the services of Steve Prior (the 'Kent peg' tile roofing expert) to successfully sort the problem.

As the hall parquet floor is unique feature and adds to the character of the hall the trustees arranged for the surface to be professionally prepared and resealed again to preserve the flooring for the forthcoming year. This was completed during the summer holidays when the hall could be closed for several days with minimum disruption.

Other smaller projects have been undertaken by the trustees: Providing the Cubs with a quality flag pole and wall bracket plus new flag to allow them to easily raise the union jack at their meetings. A large notice board has been provided, divided up to allow all the regular hirers a space to display their activities and information. The kitchen lights are to be replaced with brighter more efficient LED lights and a replacement fan in the disabled toilet.

The finances are looking secure, we are starting to be able to build up some reserves, as with any older building repairs tend to be more expensive to rectify.

I would like thank my fellow Trustees, the parish council and ABC, along with the local community for their continued support to allow this Great Chart Village Hall to be so successful.

Paul Tate
Chairman GCVH

Great Chart Playing Fields Association

It's been a busy 6 months.
We have a new committee.
A new kitchen



The storeroom has been shelved out



New goal posts have been installed in the small field



The rear fire door has been replaced with a more functional one.
The height barrier has been replaced with a new low level barrier.
The external lighting has been set up so that someone leaving the pavilion in the dark can have ten minutes

light to lock up and get to their car at the push of a button.

We have hosted a Colour Run, a Big Lunch, The Gurkha Walk, and a Volleyball Tournament. With our primary hirers, Pilgrims Football Club, we have enjoyed supporting a very successful 2 day tournament, their annual presentation day, and weekly weekend football matches and evening training session for the ever-growing number of young people that get to enjoy some outdoor activity in a lovely setting. Pilgrims are always looking to expand, but often need more adults to coach and manage their growing number of teams.

Great Chart Playing fields would also like to expand the number of people using the pavilion, but have been struggling to find a new cleaner after all the refurbishment, so if you know anyone.....

Next year we intend to work on the existing car park, and provide an all-weather path from the car park to the pavilion, providing we can tap into some grant pots as this is likely to be expensive. And next summer is already looking busy with another presentation day and 2 day tournament for Pilgrims, another Colour Run and Big Lunch with the Parish Council, another Gurkha Walk, another Volleyball tournament, and a Nepalese Food and Music Festival all penciled in for the summer months. Full details will be available on our website.

And as always, Great Chart Playing Fields Association would like to thank the Parish Council for all your help and support, we couldn't have done it without you.

Dave Gathern
Chair – Great Chart Playing Fields Association

Toke and Streeters Almshouse Charity - Chairman's Report 06/2024

We have had a busy year with maintenance for the outside of the buildings.

The leylandii hedge has been removed from the side of the field entrance following the recommendation from the structural engineer. This has been replaced with a full height arris rail fencing.

The other side boundary has been replaced with a lower arris rail fence following the boundary as stated on the OS map.

The front gates were removed and taken for shot blasting to remove the many layers of old paint. These were then repainted in black and refitted with security fittings to deter theft.

The garden maintenance for all three properties has been taken over by the resident of No 2. I am sure that you will agree that the gardens now look excellent and hopefully will continue to be for the future.

We have had some rainwater entering No 3. This has been caused by some poor roof installation work by Regal Rooflines. Despite having a multiple year guarantee, they are yet to rectify their work and have failed to attend and stop the leak despite many requests to them. We have now asked for this work to be undertaken by another builder.

There are some signs of plaster cracking around the entrance door to No 3. We are awaiting the builder to come and repair this along with giving the kitchen ceiling a skim of plaster. A new light fitting will be provided by us.

**PROFESSIONAL
CLEANER
WANTED**

www.greatchartplayingfields.org.uk @greatchartplayingfields

Great Chart Playing Fields Association are looking for a self-employed, insured cleaner to clean our pavilion at the start of each week with the potential for additional hours during busier weeks.

If you are interested, please email
chair@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk

We won't necessarily see replies or tags on shared Facebook posts

Tony Tolhurst has kindly taken on the job of making replacement keys for No 2 and 3. These are large locks and the original size key blanks are not easily available.

The field is being well maintained by the present renters. They recently arranged for the edge of the field to be strimmed. Unfortunately, this caused the trees planted by the Trustees to be cut down. The renters have now replanted about 50 new hawthorn plants to replace the damaged ones.

Paul Tate managed to get a company to quote for cutting the hedges and trees around the whole of the fields. This was due to take place before the bird nesting season but sadly the company did not turn up. We now need to wait until September until this issue can be looked at again.

All the residents seem to be happy without any major issues to report.

I would like to thank all the trustees for their hard work over the last year

Garry Perry
Chair

Friends of Singleton Lake (FoSL)

FoSL is a residents' group with the purpose of enjoying the Lake and surrounding area and ensuring it is maintained to a high standard. The Lake area is managed by Aspire Landscape Management for Ashford Borough Council and, with Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council, we refer matters of concern and suggestions for improvement. There are regular walkabouts with officers and councillors, and FoSL hosted an information table to meet other local users. With Keep Ashford Clean, FoSL also organises group litter-picks. Visitors will have seen the replacement bridge between the lake and the Bucksford Lane car park, and the replacement bench in North Field. Discussions have taken place about the need to replace the boardwalk and funding has been agreed by ABC and GCwSPC. This should take place in the autumn of 2025. FoSL looks forward to supporting all interested parties.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsingletonlake>



**Friends of
Singleton
Lake**

Angus Willson
Secretary, FOSL

Great Chart Primary School

Since I presented at the last Annual Community Meeting, we had a visit from Ofsted in June 2023. We were expecting a visit, but the timing was slightly earlier than we had thought. We had worked really hard to enhance our curriculum offer, and this was very well received by the team. We had some wonderful comments from the team which were then reflected in our report and the final judgement of 'Outstanding.' With the current negative comments surrounding Ofsted, we were lucky to have a supportive team who were constructive and challenging in a sensitive way. It's a shame not all teams are like this.

Since then, we have continued to ensure we are doing the best we can for our children, families and community. Our focus for this academic year has been to continue to develop:

- Writing
- Maths
- Curriculum
- SEN provision
- EYFS outside area

Our whole team is focused on these areas, and we are already seeing some positive outcomes.

With the many challenges schools are facing, the governors have had to make some difficult financial decisions which will continue to impact us over the coming years whilst we are still trying to provide the very best education for the children. Budgets are being restricted in Kent at a time when mainstream schools are expected to support more and more children with complex needs. Whilst we are a very inclusive school and I'm very proud of how effectively we support our SEN pupils, this is becoming more and more challenging with less resources to be able to do this.

However, Great Chart Primary School continues to thrive and be a happy and secure place for our children and the community we serve.

Wendy Pang
Headteacher

The Repair Café at The Singleton Environment Centre (SEC)



It's been a busy year for Repair Café Ashford! In addition to our regular sessions where we take on items for repair, we've contributed to a national campaign aimed at reducing the number of electrical items ending up in landfills. This work was undertaken in partnership with Ashford Borough Council under the WEEE program. We also showcased some of our creations and repairs at the Big Lunch event.

Exciting news: we're now open twice a week to meet the growing demand! Recently, we visited a metal recycling centre and gained insight into the intricate recycling process. We were also at the Christmas Fair at the SEC, where our popular Christmas decorations and bird feeders were available for purchase.

We've collaborated with the Parish Council on the Bookstop project, creating a windmill-shaped

Bookstop for Great Chart to honour the village's history. The popular Rocket Bookstop is now fully repaired and has been reinstalled.

If you have items that need repairing, bring them along, and one of our volunteers will be happy to help. You can visit us at the SEC on Tuesday and Wednesday between 10 and 4.



Barrow and Spade Brigade

HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS: THE YEAR OF THE WATER TANK

Although Hillcrest Allotments have proven to be a success ever since they opened for business in 2015, the main bugbear has always been the lack of a guaranteed water supply. Attempts to acquire a connection to the mains water supply were effectively stymied by a very high financial estimate put forward by Southern Water, which the allotment committee interpreted as meaning it was not cost effective to provide water to the site. Other alternatives therefore had to be considered.

In addition to plot holders using their sheds to catch rainwater, the Great Chart with Singleton parish council financed a water catchment feature, focused on the site's storage container roof. However, the false roof put in place above it proved ineffective and almost immediately had to be revamped by the allotment's own site manager. Despite this, after around six years in service, it



was obvious that an upgrade was required. Simply put, as the allotments expanded, demand for water, even in a 'normal' summer, quickly outstripped supply.

The allotment committee sourced grants from both the parish council and the "Kent Community Foundation's " fund for a total of £6574.00, enough to hire an independent contractor, tasked with putting in a much larger and sturdier false roof.

At the same time, it was decided that the four existing IBC water tanks used to store captured rainwater were insufficient. It was therefore decided to acquire a single, much larger tank to replace these with, effectively doubling storage capacity. The IBCs will now be spread around the allotment, allowing water to be decanted from the main tank to these outliers, resulting in plot holders having to walk less distance to get the water they need to irrigate their plants.

Subsequently, a second, smaller water tank was acquired and erected alongside the main tank. Both now have a combined capacity of 10000 litres, which should be sufficient to meet most allotment needs in an average summer.

Dan Jenner
Chair of the Barrow and Spade Brigade (Hillcrest allotments)

Singleton Environment Centre (SEC)

The SEC, accessed via both Chart Road and Wesley School Road, is owned by Ashford Borough Council, leased by the Great Chart with Singleton parish council and run by the registered charity, Singleton Spaces (1180577).

As well as hosting the best café in Ashford (Footprints Café and Bistro), the local education hub for Kumon and the Ashford Repair Café, the Centre is developing an enviable reputation for providing a wide range of educational activities for all age groups, ranging from 'Buggin' About', for the youngsters to our adult 'Prosecco and

Our website [Home | Singleton Environment Centre](#) provides a host of information about the history of the site, the construction of the building, and our various projects and developments.

I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to our terrific staff and volunteers, and the team of trustees that have guided the Centre to it's current success. A big thank you too, to Great Chart with Singleton parish council, whose support has also been instrumental in the success of the Centre.

Malcolm Wiffen
Chair, Singleton Spaces

Flora the Singleton Giant

We are thrilled to announce that Flora, our cherished local giant, recently celebrated her 18th birthday. This significant milestone was a quiet occasion where she enjoyed the tranquility within our community.

Flora remains a pillar of strength and unity within the parish. Her presence enriches local events and extends to the wider borough, county, country and even international stages.

We sincerely thank Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council for the invaluable support in funding Flora's Insurance for the year. Without this assistance, Flora's participation in events would have been impossible. The Council's commitment to ensuring Flora's presence at various engagements underscores our collaborative efforts to promote community cohesion.

As the Summer approaches, our calendar is filling up with exciting events. Flora can attend your events at reasonable rates, offering event organisers the opportunity to showcase our wonderful Flora, with her towering height, she captivates audiences and adds a unique charm to any occasion.

Please pop along to local events and have your photo taken with the birthday girl, which you are welcome to share with us on our social media.

Contact Details:

Peter Barker on 01233 610241 or email: peter@singletongiant.org.uk [www:ingletongiant.org.uk](http://www.singletongiant.org.uk)

She can also be reached on Facebook page @Florathegiant

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/156875087695939>

Or visit her website at www.singletongiant.org.uk

Peter Barker

Chair – Flora the Singleton Giant Association

Finance Report

Finance Officer's Report

The Parish Council begins its budget-setting process in October, utilising six months of expenditure data as a baseline for planning. The budget-setting process for 2023-2024 followed this established approach. The Finance Committee carefully reviewed expenditures against income and ongoing projects before drafting a budget for presentation to the full Council.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the precept increased by £29.4k, while most budget lines remained consistent with the previous year, some areas, however, saw an increase, such as the Events budget, and amenities which was raised to £15k to support local amenities. Additionally, the Parish Council established a new committee dedicated to community support, allocating £18k in the budget to fund its initiatives.

We are also proud to continue supporting the excellent work of the education team at Singleton Environment Centre, which provides a diverse range of activities for all age groups.

The Parish Council continues to provide financial support to several local organisations and the established grant application process seems to work well, giving Councillors adequate information to assess each request without being too onerous for applicants to complete. A small contribution from each household provides a substantial 'pot' from which to support a variety of organisations and amenities within our community.

Independent Auditor's comment

As previously stated, I was able to reconcile all invoices back to entries on the bank statement, excepting where there are gaps in the paperwork, which I consider to be a minor issue within this context. I was also able to reconcile all bank entries with those shown as transactions in the monthly bank reconciliations. I am therefore willing to confirm that, so far as I can tell, the accounts being presented represent a true and fair picture of the Council's finances, with no cause for concern.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Cuerden

Independent Internal Auditor

Grants allocated in 2023-2024

The parish council was pleased to support the following groups with grants:

Grant to Askes Court- planters	£	209.00
Grant to Accessible Coder- venue hire	£	3,380.00
Grant to Imago – Planting sessions	£	240.00
Grant to Singleton Village Hall- landscaping outside café area	£	4,000.00
Grant to United Church- Summer activities	£	250.00
Grant to Pilgrims Football club- new goals	£	2,880.00
Total:	£	£10,959,00

Earmarked and Reserved Funds

Some of the PC's reserves are earmarked for various projects: -

Account	Opening Balance	Transfer	Expenditure	Closing Balance
Contingency Reserves	105,000	5,000		110,000
EMR - Cuckoo Park	118,999.87			118,999.87
EMR - The Viewing Point	33,135		-847	32,288
EMR-PFA Play Park	20,000.00			20,000.00
Yellow Land Play Equipment	18,000			18,000.00
Parish Building	15,000.00			15,000.00
	310,134.87	5,000	-847	314,287.87

The Finance Committee regularly reviews the budget and the Parish Council's finances to ensure spending is within the agreed budget line and reallocate funds if necessary to balance budget lines. As part of this process the Finance Committee recommended increasing the contingency reserves to reflect the growth of the Parish Council.

Cuckoo Park is an ongoing project as, in addition to general maintenance, a fund for replacement of the equipment is required for when it reaches the end of its usable life (approx. 20 years).

The "Yellow Land" fund refers to monies designated for the maintenance of The Viewpoint and land to the rear of Singleton Village Hall.

As the Parish Council continues to grow so does the need for a bigger office space. It is the

council's ambition to build a purpose build building with meeting room and a community space for residents. The Parish Office reserves will support this ambition.

Year-end accounts

A copy of the year-end accounts for 2023-2024 will be posted to our website: www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

An income and expenditure summary follows here:

Income and Expenditure 2023-24

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Income and Expenditure Account for Year		
31st March 2023		31st March 2024
	Income Summary	
299,738	Precept	326,412
299,738	Sub Total	326,412
	Operating Income	
117,233	Income	70,385
316,971	Total Income	396,797
	Running Costs	
159,748	Administration	178,916
6002	Caretaker	3,357
105,668	Maintenance	38,078
33,542	Projects	35,859
3,006	PFA	5,000
10,000	Singleton Environment Centre	20,000
	Events	3349
317,967	Total Expenditure	284,559
	General Fund Analysis	
207,476	Opening Balance	217,737
316,971	Plus : Income for Year	396,797
524,447		614,534
317,967	Less : Expenditure for Year	284,559
206,480		329,975
11,257	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	4153
217,737	Closing Balance	325,822
Ended 31st March 2023		

Budget 2023-24



Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council BUDGET 2023-24



The precept is the total amount requested each year from Ashford Borough Council for the parish council budget covering the 6801 residents counted in the Parish at the 2011 census.

Precept

£326,412 ↑
up by
£29.4K



Covers the salaries for the Clerk, and Deputy Clerk, both Parish Stewards and educational work happening within the parish, some of which will be in partnership with Singleton Environment Centre.

Staff Salaries

£120K



→
stayed
the same

Play Park Reserves



£26.6K

↑ up by
£2.2K

This amount is 'reserved' each year to fund park improvements without increasing the precept. Last year the Cuckoo Park gym was completely replaced and basketball court upgraded using this budget line.

Events



£5K

↑ up by
£2.5K

Our recent events have continued to attract more residents and positive feedback, so we plan to host bigger & better activities next year. Some events will also generate income for future activities.

The council continues to work on various environment projects. This includes the North Field, local planters, community gardens and meadow areas, and supporting the work of the Green Gym

Environment Projects



£2K

The council's new project for 2023 is to help build a Stronger Community. The first project is to set up a Community Fridge for those needing food help and to combat food waste. A Warm Space and public laptops are also projects being funded.

Stronger Community Projects

£18K



Supporting Amenities



£15K

The council recognises the importance of local amenities so is supporting the community halls in the parish. £5K will be given to both Singleton and Great Chart Village Halls and the Pavilion at Great Chart Playing Fields.

Grants



The council holds a grant pot. This is available to local charities & non-profit organisations. We've not had many applications recently so it won't be topped up in 2023, but there is over £25K in the pot ready to be awarded.

Bank reconciliation 2023-24

	Metro Bank Current Account	93,951.89	
	Metro Bank Instant Access	127,687.60	
	Metro Bank Credit Card 6934	-406.94	
	Metro Bank Credit Card 8589	-116.05	
	NatWest Current	100	
	NatWest Reserve Account	104,740.28	
	Nationwide Business 1 Yr Fixed	184,670.64	
	Dudley	110,000	
			620,627.42
All Cash & Bank Accounts			
1	Metro Bank Current Account		93,951.89
2	Metro Bank Instant Access		127,687.60
3	Metro Bank Credit Card		-522.99
4	NatWest Current Account		100
5	NatWest Reserve Account		104,740.28
6	Nationwide Business 1 Yr Fixed		184,670.64
	Dudley		110,000
	Other Cash & Bank Balances		0
	Total Cash & Bank Balances		620,627.42

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Contacts

Chilmington Ward

Cllr Ian McClintock

Tel: 07919 278828



Email: ian.mcclintock@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

- Finance Committee
- Planning Committee
- Singleton Spaces
- Complaints Committee
- Staffing Committee

Great Chart with Singleton North Ward

Cllr Paul Tate

Tel: 07850 082023



Email: paul.tate@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

- Finance Committee
- Great Chart Village Hall – Chair
- Toke and Streeter Alms Houses Trust
- Planning Committee

Singleton East Ward




Cllr Steve Herring

Tel: 01233 616923




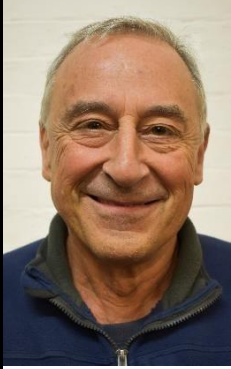

Email: steve.herring@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

- Environment Committee

<p>Cllr Janet Sullivan</p> 	<p>Tel: 01233 645400</p> <p>Email: janet.sullivan@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <p>Joint Vice Chair of the Parish Council also member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing Committee • Planning Committee • Stronger Communities
<p>Cllr Malcolm Wiffen</p> 	<p>Tel: 01233 635016</p> <p>Email: malcolm.wiffen@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <p>Chair of the Parish Council also member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee • Singleton Spaces - Chair • Planning Committee • Staffing Committee – Chair • Great Chart Playing Fields Association – Treasurer
<p>Cllr Dave Gathern</p> 	<p>Email: dave.gathern@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing Committee - Chair • Environment Committee • Stronger Communities • Friends of Singleton Lake (committee member) • Great Chart Playing Fields Association - Chair

Singleton West Ward



<p>Cllr Peter Barker</p> 	<p>Tel: 01233 610241</p> <p>Email: peter.barker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <p>Joint Vice chair of the Parish Council also member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee • Environment Committee - Chair • Planning Committee
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<p>Cllr Yolanda Barker</p> 	<p>Tel: 01233 610241</p> <p>Email: yolanda.barker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <p>Vice chair of the parish council also member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing Committee • Planning Committee – Chair • Complaints Committee • Stronger Communities – Co-chair
<p>Cllr Geoff Darvill</p> 	<p>Tel: 01233 642357</p> <p>Email: geoffrey.darvill@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee - Chair • Singleton Village Hall – Chair • Complaints Committee
<p>Cllr Barry Mercer</p> 	<p>Tel: 07851 071248</p> <p>Email: barry.mercer@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Committee

Washford Ward

<p>Cllr Ashley Heathcote</p> 	<p>Tel: 07846831199</p> <p>Email: ashley.heathcote@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p>
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Parish Council Staff and Contact details

<p>Aniko Szocs</p> 	<p>Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>Tel: 01233 616923</p> <p>Email: TheClerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p>
<p>Paula Cowperthwaite</p> 	<p>Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Tel: 01233 616923</p> <p>Email: paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</p>
<p>Rhys Lebeau</p> 	<p>Parish Steward</p>
<p>Robert Heath</p> 	<p>Assistant to Parish Steward</p>

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council would like to thank its partners

Ashford Borough Council

Ashford Community Woodland

Ashford Repair Café

Ashford Volunteer Centre

Aspire

Barrow and Spade Brigade

Beavers & Explorers

Chilmington Management Organisation

Chilmington Primary School

Flora The Singleton Giant

Friends of Singleton Lake

Godinton and Great Chart WI

Great Chart Cricket Club

Great Chart Playing Fields

Great Chart Primary School

Great Chart Scouts

Great Chart Village Hall

John Wesley Primary School

Kent County Council Kent Police

Pilgrims Football Club

Singleton Environment Centre

Singleton Spaces

Singleton Village Hall

Singleton WI

St Mary's Great Chart with St Francis Church, Cryol Road

Suez

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

The Wyvern School

Toke and Streeter Alms House Trust