

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Serving the Community



Annual Report 2018-2019

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	3
Annual report 2019- Parish Council Chair.....	3
Borough Council Ward boundary change.....	5
Caretaker’s Report – Peter Walkden	7
Clerk’s Report.....	7
Finance Report.....	9
Finance Officer’s Report	9
Independent Auditor’s comment	11
Grants allocated in 2018-2019.....	11
Earmarked and Reserved funds	11
Year end accounts.....	12
Clubs and groups report	14
Great Chart Village Hall Report.....	14
Singleton Village Hall	15
Toke and Streeters Almshouse Charity - Chairman ‘s Report 04/2019	16
Flora the Singleton Giant	16
Great Chart Playing Fields.....	17
SEC – Report for Annual Parish meeting.....	17
Pilgrims Football Club	18
1 st Great Chart Scout Group.....	19
Parish Council Committees and members.....	20
Parish Council representatives on outside organisations.....	21
Parish Councillors Contact details.....	22

Foreword

Great Chart with Singleton Parish is home to 6801 residents (2011 Census)¹ and located on the south west of Ashford. The parish borders several other parishes; Bethersden to the west, Hothfield to the north, Kingsnorth to the south and Shadoxhurst to the south west. On the east is South Ashford which is currently an unparished 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.

The Parish Council is proud to report that 2018-19 has been another successful year. With many projects completed and many more in the pipeline the parish and its surroundings are continuously improving. The parish council employs a part time caretaker and an assistant. Whilst they are keeping the parish litter free, they are also completing ground maintenance tasks too. The parish council is also pleased to announce the appointment of an assistant Clerk whom we hope will enjoy the role.

This report is a good opportunity to look back on the past year's activities, starting with the chairman's report, caretaker and the clerk's report. The report will include an overview of the parish's financial accounts. It will also provide a summary of local club's activities and updates.

Annual report 2019- Parish Council Chair

While thinking about this years' Annual Report, I found myself reflecting on the twenty years serving on the Parish Council, as we are very different than in 1999; budgets are vastly different, responsibilities are hugely different, and our parish is very different and mainly for the better. As I get older, I find myself liking change less and less, so an election is a major change and here we are in an election year with some major changes.

Firstly, to thank those Councillors who have left us, all have served their community longer than the last 4 years, Amanda Hodgkinson, Angus Willson and a special mention to Malcolm Eke who was a Parish Councillor for over 30 years. Secondly, I must thank and welcome the return Councillors who have once again chosen to further serve their Community for another 4 years, Yolanda, Janet, Sally, Paul, Peter, Geoff and Malcolm. Lastly to welcome our new Parish Councillors who have chosen to join the crazy world of local politics with a very small P, I welcome Tom Ackrill, Katrina Alexander and Kyran Wilford.

Another change we have had this year is a Ward Boundary change, so instead of just 2 ABC Ward members, we now have possibly 5 Ward Members attending our PC meetings. We welcome back Jessamy Blanford who is joined by Alan Pickering in the new Weald South Ward which Great Chart & Chilmington are now part of. We welcome back Bill Barrett to Singleton East a new Ward being part of his previous Singleton South Ward, in the other half of Singleton. We welcome Kalysha Howard-Smith to Singleton West, a new Ward. Lastly, we welcome Neil Shorter from the Washford Ward that Running Foxes Lane became part of in the boundary shuffle. Our other change is that our Parish Boundary has grown in a very small part to encompass the whole of the Chilmington development and has stretched to Long Length a small area of Kingsnorth and over to Tally Ho Road likewise another small area of Shadoxhurst.

Another small change we have been dealt is that due to a new parish being created in Kennington, we are now the third largest parish in the Borough by electorate, Kennington

¹ Ashford Borough Council Year Book
Annual Report – Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council 2018-19

has just about 500 more voters now than we do – but of course we all know that size isn't everything?

Now for our yearly roundup, I am always stunned by the number of projects, issues and other happenings that continue a need to be reported at every Community meeting, and this year is no different. One of our most successful seemingly small projects this year was to help with Great Chart Village Hall car park, we helped fund the upgrade of the car park including the white line marking which has made a huge difference to the way parking happens at the hall and all over Hillcrest outside, so I must thank the Trustees for their continued hard work running Great Chart village hall. Talking of halls, Singleton village Hall will be resubmitting the planning application for an extension to the car park – which will mean the children using the hall and Primary school will be safer when crossing the road and the congestion will be much less around Windsor Court, and after nearly 25 years the kitchen in the main hall was replaced to bring it in line with the kitchen in the extension, I also thank this group of Trustees as they too work tirelessly to keep our other hall as busy as it is.

Now for some other new stuff, earlier in 2018 we had a new Play Area installed at the end of Singleton Road, a lot of hard work by another group of Trustees and Clerk has seen this project through a design and consultation stage to fruition last year and it is always pleasing to see our young parishioners enjoying the new kit. Also, on the same piece of ground and a project of our Clerk is an installation of outdoor gym kit and this was specifically asked for by some of our more senior parishioners at one of the community coffee events last year – Ani wanted this to happen so we found some money and she has specifically picked out the equipment to suit those that asked for it, and everyone I talk to say they use it regularly and of course we believe them. So, our thanks to Ani for sorting this new addition.

We have a new Village Sign in Singleton, this idea came up quite a few years ago, but again our Clerk set up a competition for people to design a sign, the winner was chosen and the fabricator was found who came up with the final version of the sign. Black Forge Arts from Wittersham created the sign last year and after some arguing with KCC Highways about the installation, it was put up last year. Our Clerk has had an article about our sign published in the Clerk national magazine, complete with a picture.

We finally got to sign the Singleton Environment Centre lease on the first anniversary of the centre being run by the new Trust, Singleton Spaces, who finally achieved charity status in October last year – the first year was a great triumph as despite having some large unplanned expenditure over the year, such as a new coffee machine and cooker hood, the centre ended the first year still in the black which is amazing considering the previous tenant had predicted a £20k loss for the same year. This year has been very much one of consolidation and now many new policies and ideas are being put in place, the Trust is planning many more environmental projects in the coming year. Once again, another group of Trustees working hard for our community, so I thank them all too for their hard work.

For once I am not going to drone on anymore apart from to say thank you to the PC Members for their support, as once again they have been daft enough to elect me as Chair for another year. I would like to thank Peter & Rob the caretakers for their hard work over the year, thanks to them the Parish and its surroundings looks much better. But my biggest thanks must go to our hard working and very dedicated Parish Clerk, Aniko, as if it wasn't for her hard work our job would be a great deal harder and definitely not nearly as much fun!

Ian McClintock Chair – Great Chart with Singleton PC

Borough Council Ward boundary change

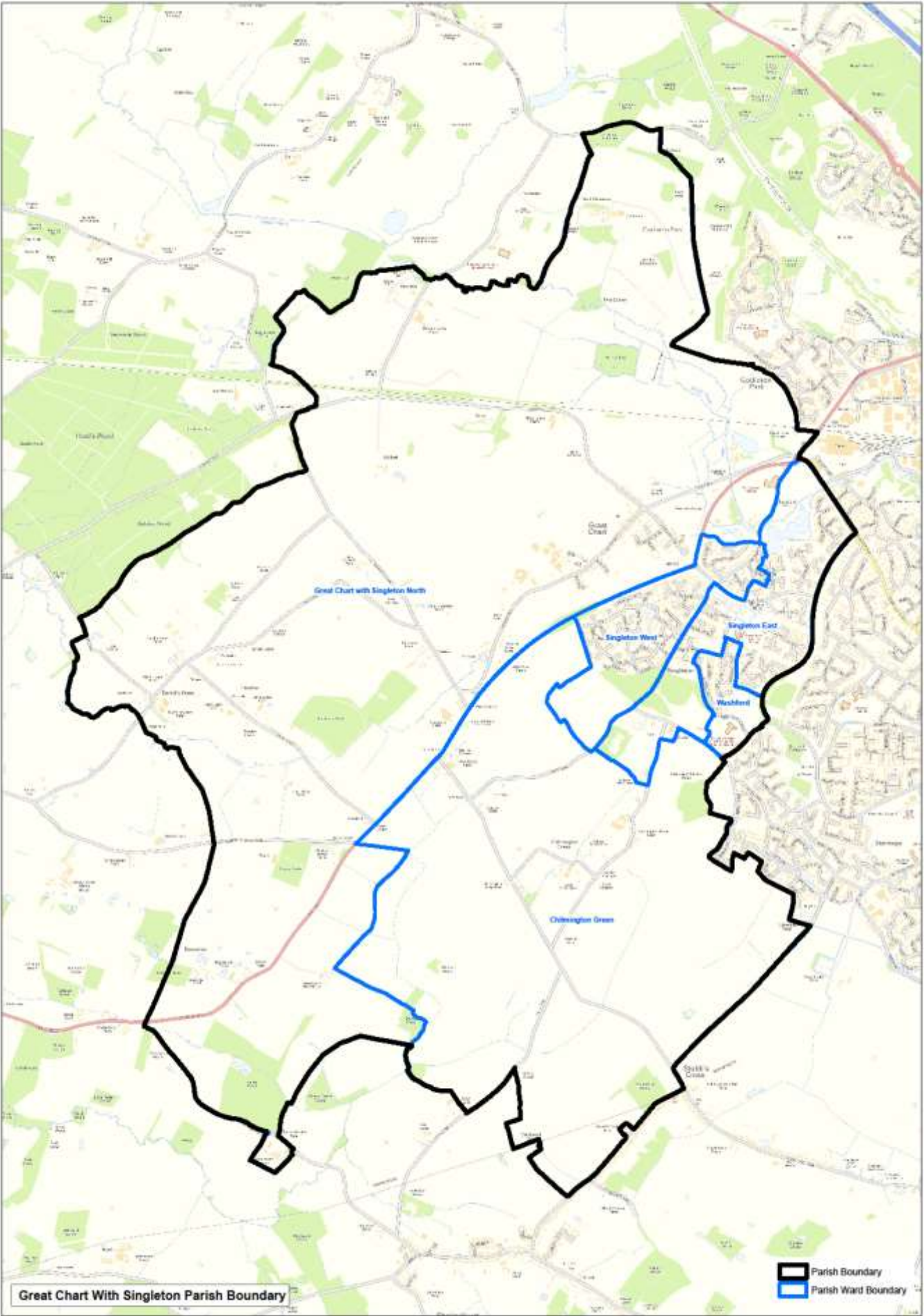
The Boundary Commission has made some adjustments to the Borough Council (BC) Ward Boundaries, the result of which has left the Parish Council with 11 PC Members. These are split as follows: Four each in Singleton East and Singleton West and one each in Chilmington, Washford and Great Chart.

There is, however, a change to the Borough Wards within our Parish (which is complicated if taken together), but less so if I try to just talk about BC Wards. Singleton is now to be divided into two Wards, with a Ward Member for each; these are called Singleton East & Singleton West. Great Chart has been put into a two-member ward with Bethersden, High Halden and part of St Michaels and this is called Weald Central. Finally, Running Foxes Lane and all the roads coming off it are now to be in Washford Ward, part of which is in Kingsnorth and will be represented by another Ward member that will cross both parishes. So, after the election we have four Borough Councillors attending our PC meetings, as if two were not enough already! Our two KCC Members (Dara Farrell and Charlie Simpkins) are not changing or being re-elected at this time.

The main point to emphasise is that the PARISH Boundary is changing very little and we are not gaining or losing any dwellings, so nobody has “moved” to a different Parish, which is of great relief to me as I would consider that a complete nightmare! Our Parish is growing slightly larger to encompass the whole of the Chilmington development site, in readiness for Chilmington to have its own Parish Council in about 8 years’ time. This will mean that our Parish will now extend as far as Long Length (previously in Kingsnorth) and as far as Tally Ho Road (previously in Shadoxhurst).

A map to show all the changes can be found in this report.

Ian McClintock



Caretaker's Report – Peter Walkden

The past financial year 2018-2019 has been another busy year and has seen some key changes. The biggest notable change is that the parish council now owns its own van. This allows us to be flexible and carry our tools around the parish to complete our work. The other big change is that now a part time assistant is employed to help with demanding tasks. Both changes had a major impact on the work we do.

While trying to keep the parish tidy and litter free we also attended several training courses and carried out general and ground maintenance. I completed a Safeguarding Awareness course, a Play Park Inspection Level 3 Course, a PAT testing Level 2 course and Pole saw training. Rob, the assistant caretaker, also completed a Pole saw training. With the completion of these courses we are now able to PAT test all the key community venues in the parish including the village halls, the Environment Centre and the pavilion at Great Chart Playing Fields. The Play park inspection course vastly aided my weekly and quarterly inspection of the play parks in Great Chart and at Cuckoo Park. In the next year we are hoping to complete training on how to operate a woodchipper safely and how to operate a sit on mower. In addition to this we would like to learn more about best practices of open spaces management.

In the meantime, if you see us out and about come and say hi.

Peter Walkden- Caretaker

Clerk's Report

The financial year 2018-19 have seen another busy year for the parish council. Several projects came to fruition and key events took place. This report is a summary of a very busy and productive year.

April: In 2018 the Parish Council with the support of the Friends of Rural Kent and Information Project for the first time set up a Pop-up Café in Great Chart village Hall's car park. The first event was very well supported by residents and parish councillors. Homemade cakes were donated by WI Ladies. A number of Pop-up Café events were held throughout the summer, which seemed popular with residents.

A book stop was installed just outside the play park at the bottom of Singleton Hill to encourage reading and to reuse books instead of them being thrown away. The book stop proved to be very popular with residents. Sadly, it had to be moved to Singleton Village Hall due to vandalism.

May/June: At the beginning of the Summer the sand was topped up at Cuckoo Park under the large disk and by the climbing frame.

July: The Parish Council was pleased to provide a work placement and welcomed a young gentleman who spent four weeks helping in the office.

Also, in July as part of a civic celebration I received a Civic Award. The Community Warden also received an award for her excellent work in the parish.

The Parish Council took a major step forward in ground maintenance and purchased a van to carry tools and equipment.

August: The parish Council appointed an assistant caretaker, who works two days per week to help the caretaker with heavier tasks.

September: Great Chart Playing Fields Association and the Parish Council worked together on the refurbishment of the play park in Great Chart. We wanted to retain the original wood characteristics of the play area but with better, newer equipment. We hope you all agree that the new play park achieved this. Works were completed in September 2018 and has been a popular place to visit by families since its reopening.

October/November: In October we were all excited to welcome The Rickshaw Challenge that as part of their route travelled through Great Chart. The occasion brought the residents together. On the day there was a bake sale and face painting. The event raised over £200 for the Children in Need charity.

A new path next to Singleton Village hall was installed to improve access and safety from the path to the village hall when the car park is very busy.

In early November Singleton Spaces achieved charity status, a major step for the trust that manages Singleton Environment Centre. The parish council purchased a Speed Indicator Device to collect information on vehicle numbers and speed travelling through. The SID is to be placed in four key locations, Knoll Lane, Tithe Barn Lane, Singleton Hill and The Street to monitor speeding. The first data collected revealed that in two weeks over 75,000 vehicles used Knoll Lane going in one direction and a large number of vehicles were over the speed limit. SID is continuing to collect data and we hope to put all the information together and publish it on the website.

December: Probably many of you remember the cute Snowdogs dotted around Ashford in November last year. The parish council purchased Snowy the snowpup, who is currently residing at Singleton Environment Centre, and occasionally travels around the parish to visit events. If you visit the centre or see Snowy elsewhere, don't forget to say Hi to him.

January/February: After some initial difficulties, the Singleton Village Sign was installed and unveiled in February 2019. The sign was designed by a resident and it is encompassing all the elements of Singleton. The sign was finalised and fabricated by Black Forge Art, in Wittersham. It is erected at the bottom of Singleton Hill and is a perfect reminder of the great community of Singleton.

March: After six months topping up the sand at Cuckoo Park an inspection found that under a number of equipment in the outdoor gym area and the small roundabout the distance was inadequate and did not comply with standards. The parish council decided to change to surface to something more substantial and less maintenance intense and opted for rubber mulch. The area under the outdoor gym, the large disk, mini roundabout and the slide have all been replaced with mulch.

In other news the Public Space Protection Order at Singleton Lake seems to be effective and resulted in less anti-social behaviour and litter around the lake. The PSPO will be reviewed next year and possibly extended for a further 3 years.

The parish council held several bike marking sessions, these events were offered free to residents in order to help them keep their bike safe.

At the beginning of 2019 we have seen the departure of the KCC Warden who sadly retired due to health issues. Joanna has done an amazing job in the parish and we are going to miss her energy, enthusiasm and willingness to make the parish a better place for all. The parish council hopes the position will be filled in due course.

Beginning of March, the parish council organised a community tree planting at Cuckoo Park to improve habitat for the wildlife.

The parish council continues to work hard and strives to improve the parish. We would love to hear your feedback and ideas how we can make Great Chart and Singleton a better place for all.

Aniko Szocs – Clerk

Finance Report

Finance Officer's Report

The financial year 2018-19 proved to be a very successful and productive one. Many projects have come to fruition during the year, these include the installation of a new outdoor gym in Great Chart as well as a play park. The Parish Council purchased a van, resurfaced areas in Cuckoo Park, installed the Singleton Sign and many others.

The Parish Council now has full responsibility for Cuckoo Park and funds were received for its future maintenance and upkeep.

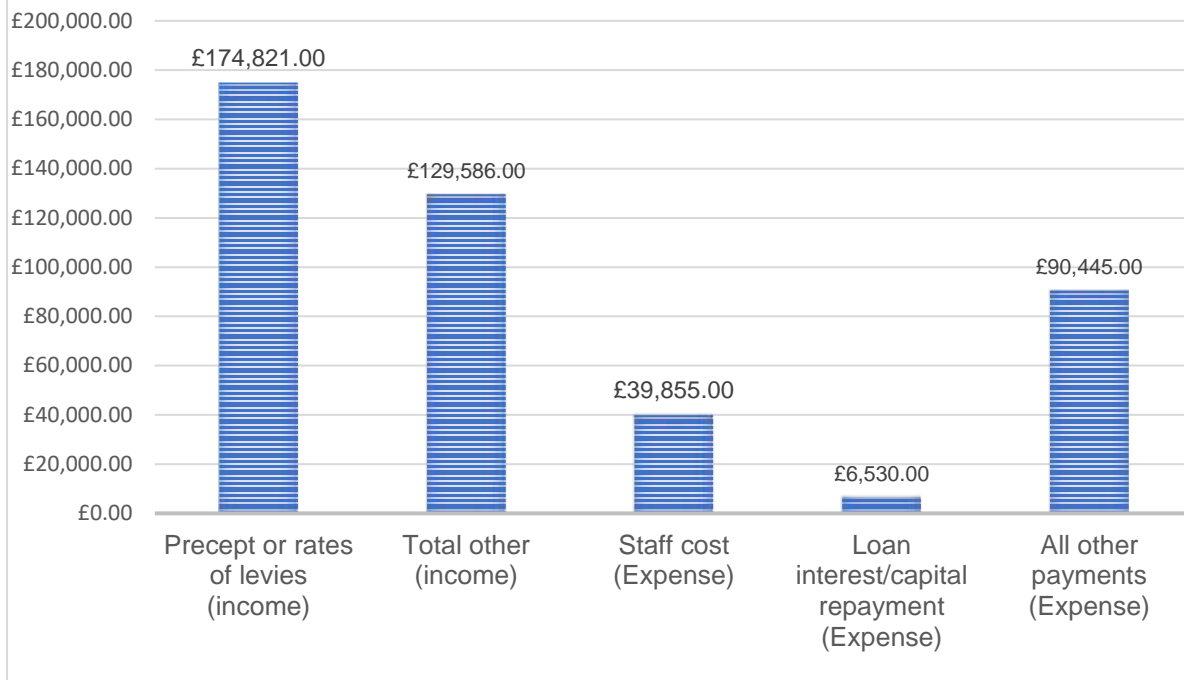
The Parish Council continues to provide financial support to a number of local organisations. The Parish Council aims to review the grant application process in order to ensure the procedure is current and easy to follow, both for the applicants and for the councillors. A small contribution from each household provides a substantial 'pot' from which to support a variety of organisations and amenities within our community.

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council closed the financial year with a healthy balance. The graphs below illustrate five key areas for income and expenditure.

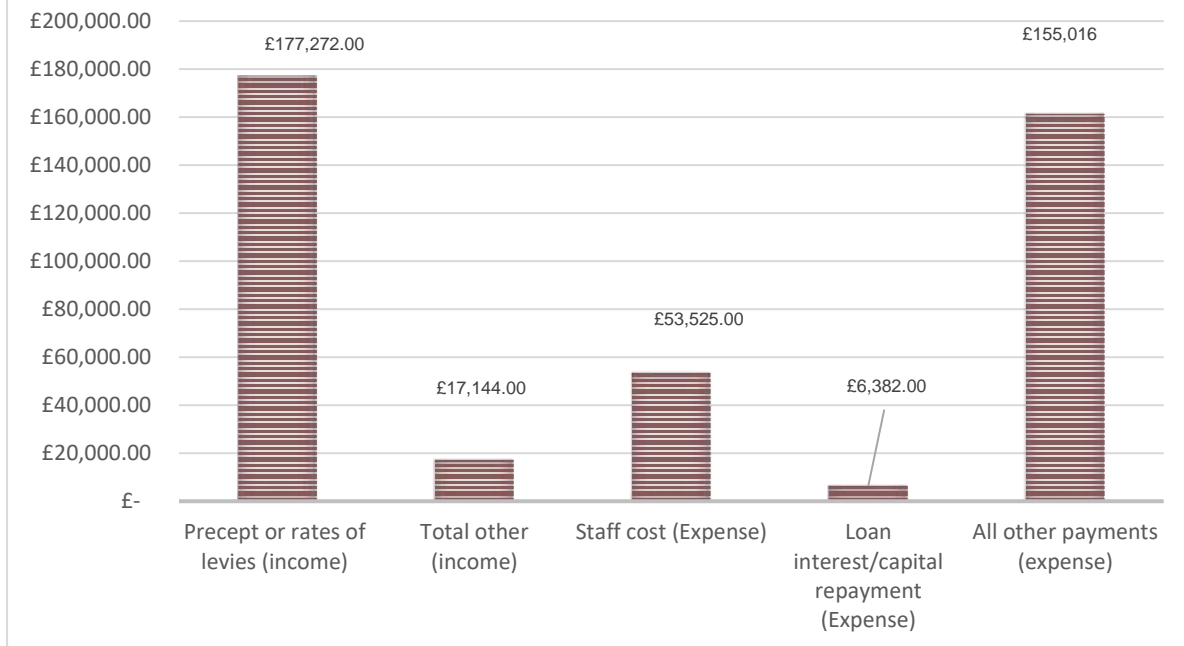
Income	Expenditure
Precept (local tax)	Staff Cost
Bank Interest	Loan
Newsletter advertising	All other expenses

While there is very little increase in precept there are other notable differences. In the financial year 2017/18 the parish council received £118,000 towards the upkeep of Cuckoo Play park. The staff cost increased during the financial year 2018/19 due to an increase of the Clerk's salary, increased pension payment and employment of additional staff. Lastly all other payments show substantial difference, this is due to the purchase of the new van, installing an outdoor gym in Great Chart and resurfacing part of Cuckoo Park.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-2018



FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-2019



Independent Auditor's comment

Once the financial year concluded the Parish Council's procedure and financial processes were reviewed by an internal and external auditor. The conclusion of the external auditor is published on the Parish Council's website in September. The internal auditor's comments submitted to the external auditor are below:

- The Parish Council minutes are signed on all pages, and the numbers are in sequence.
- Pleased to see all policies were reviewed and updated.
- The auditor noted that discussion of the precept should be recorded in the minutes.
- All payments were recorded with the correct values. Some invoices missing, effort should be made to ensure all payments have a proper invoice.

The auditor concluded that overall he was satisfied with the accounts but requested to have detailed VAT payments in the future.

Grants allocated in 2018-2019

The Parish Council received a number of grant applications and is pleased that it was able to support local community groups again. The following groups received funding in 2018/19.

Great Chart After School Club	£4,560
Great Chart Primary School	£408
Great Chart Village Hall	£1,000
Singleton Spaces	£1,400
East Kent Slings	£250
Singleton DreamDragons Community Theatre	£1,824
St Mary's in Great Chart and Singleton	£1,200
Great Chart Scouts	£1,000
Pilgrims Football Club	£600
	<hr/> <hr/>
	£12,242

Earmarked and Reserved funds

The Parish Council adopted a Reserves Policy to streamline its processes and manage its allocated funds. The Parish Council identified two types of reserves, earmarked reserves and general reserves. Some of the PC's reserves are earmarked for various projects: -

Cuckoo Park is now open for all to enjoy and the PC took over responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the park. This will be 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" funds refer to monies designated for the maintenance of The Viewpoint and land to the rear of Singleton Village Hall..

Year end accounts

The Parish Council funds are allocated in three bank accounts. The Metro Bank account is used for everyday banking, with online payment facilities meaning payments can be done efficiently and timely. The parish council also has two credit cards with a limit of £250, the cards are for the use of the caretaker to purchase tools/ materials when needed and for the clerk to purchase stamps or refreshments for meetings. The Precept goes into the NatWest account and the Cuckoo Park maintenance fund is secured in a One year Fixed Business account with Nationwide.

Metro Bank Current Account	9,321.61
Metro Bank Instant Access	15,422.14
Nationwide Business 1 Yr Fixed	188,336.10
Metro Bank Credit Card	-286.82
NatWest Current Account	100.00
NatWest Reserve Account	81,581.53
	<hr/>
	294,474.56
	<hr/>

A copy of the year end accounts for 2018-19 can be found on our website

www.greatchartwithsingletonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

An income and expenditure summary is listed on the next page.

If you would like further information please contact the Clerk.

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

31st March 2019

Receipts		
Precept		£177,271.50
	Sub Total	£177,271.50
Operating Income		
Income		£9,145.50
VAT Data		£7,998.63
	Total Receipts	£194,415.63

Payments		
Travel Expense		£249.69
	Sub Total	£249.69
Running Costs		
Administration		£68,591.22
Caretaker Scheme		£22,180.01
Maintenance		£15,244.25
Projects		£83,737.73
PFA		£1,756.95
Events		£2,764.63
VAT Data		£20,398.76
	Total Payments	£214,923.24
Receipts and Payments Summary		
Opening Balance		£314,982.17
Add Total Receipts(As Above)		£194,415.63
		£509,397.80
Less Total Payments(As Above)		£214,923.24
Closing Balance		£294,474.56
These cumulative funds are represented by:		
Metro Bank Current Account		£9,321.61
Metro Bank Instant Access		£15,422.14
Nationwide Business 1 Yr Fixed		£188,336.10
Metro Bank Credit Card		-£286.82
NatWest Current Account		£100.00
NatWest Reserve Account		£81,581.53
		£294,474.56
Reserve Balances are represented by:		
Current Year Fund		-£20,507.61
Contingency Reserves		£30,000.00
General Reserves		£57,333.17
EMR - Cuckoo Park		£198,772.00
EMR - The Viewing Point		£28,877.00
		£294,474.56

Clubs and groups report

Great Chart Village Hall Report

Great Chart Village Hall has enjoyed a fruitful year thanks to the support from the Parish Council & ABC. The new kitchen and heating system installed last year have given the hall a new lease of life. The new boiler has proved to be more efficient using less gas over the course of the year whilst heating the hall more evenly and providing hot water on demand, resulting in a £300 refund from British Gas this year.

The new extended kitchen has proved to be very popular with hirers requiring catering facilities for party bookings at the weekend, thus, helping to maintain and increase the number of weekend bookings. This has had a beneficial effect of allowing the trustees to maintain low hiring fees for local community groups using the hall.

After several quotes we opted for Bob Jones (Ashford Flooring) to rejuvenate the hall floor and apply several commercial 2-part modern lacquer seals. This has been a great success reducing the maintenance and protecting the patina of the beautiful wood block flooring. Whilst initially expensive expenditure, with continued care all that will be required this year is a light scrub and a new topcoat

Steve Prior was engaged to replace broken 'kent peg' roof tiles - fortunately not many, reset several ridge tiles which had become loose, clear the gutters and ensure the hall was made watertight before the onset of winter.

A further unforeseen maintenance problem has been Balls improvement to the ladies' toilet drain with an additional rodding eye. Young girls would appear to have a preponderance to use copious amounts of toilet paper with a reduced flush resulting in a build-up of paper not clearing.

Several double-glazed window panels have been replaced during the course of the year, 2 appear to have been the victims of a catapult. The disabled fire door opening mechanism has finally been repaired once the parts were sourced, thanks to Ashford Glass. It now not only works better, but the new replacement handle is far more robust.

A prominent improvement for the hall has been the resurfacing of the village hall car park. Having carefully measured it out, then researched the size of parking spaces I was able to present a plan to ABC to improve the parking arrangements and of course remind them that they are responsible for it. With a grant from the Parish council + the village hall paying for the line marking ABC were able to fund the remainder of the cost. It has been truly remarkably successful as well improving the appearance of the area.

Continuing with maintenance, the 4 original doors to the hall are starting to deteriorate through weathering and wood rot. These are to be treated and repaired to preserve them and maintain the character of the building, along with an overhaul of the porch by Steve Daines this May.

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

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

PS The 'Pulled Pork' quiz in April was one of the most successful ever with 71 participants, a terrific atmosphere, excellent food, and a hoarse quiz master by the end of the evening, raising over £1,000 towards the church restoration fund.

Finally, may I remind everyone the annual GCVH quiz is on Wednesday 9th October.

Paul Tate- Chair

Singleton Village Hall

The extension of the hall is now well into its fifth year and we have even more user groups utilising the halls on a regular basis. These halls have now become an even greater asset to the local community, and I would like to pay special tribute to the Trustees for all their voluntary work, without which the halls would not function.

As you are no doubt aware the halls are used by the Church, the Pre-School, the Great Chart After school club, Taekwondo, Dream Dragons, Yoga, Dance Groups, Guides, Rainbows, the Parish Council, Dog training, Tumble Tots and others.

The solar panels are still working overtime and have produced over £4000 income this year whilst reducing the amount of electricity we pay for.

We were hit with a sewage problem this year with a disconnected pipe in the old hall spewing sewage under the hall for about two years. The cost of removing all the waste and sorting the problem out was an unexpected expense in excess of £4000. Luckily, we had the funds available to deal with the problem. We also rewired all the exterior lighting and installed some new PIR's and extra lights for the car parking area. The stage in the old hall was sanded down and re-varnished and much needed general maintenance carried out.

Our latest project was to replace the complete kitchen in the Old Hall. The proposed extension to the car park has sadly brought adverse comments from local residents who would rather users park outside their houses than in an extended car park, so we have withdrawn the application to extend temporarily.

The Hall bookings are looking good for the coming year and despite our increased expenditure the hall is back in the black. I would like to thank the booking secretary for all hard work in increasing the halls usage and generating extra income and the Financial Administrator for all his work throughout the year.

The total income for the halls last year was £62,331

User group income was increased by 38% and rental income by over 52%

With expenses of £53,807

Giving a gross profit of £8,524

My thanks again to everyone who has contributed to the successful running of the halls.

Geoffrey Darvill – Chair

My first year as chairman of the Toke and Streeters Charity has been quite busy.

Due to the poor condition of the floor in the bathroom to property number 1 it was necessary to completely strip the room. A decision was made by the Trustees to take the opportunity to completely replace the whole bathroom suite and redecorate. This was completed at the end of the summer of 2018.

The conifer hedge at the side of number 3 had grown very tall and wide so contractors were employed to reduce the height and width.

The 1980s porch extensions to the back of each of the three Alms houses had glass to the roof area and were not sealed to the elements. The Trustees decided to obtain an opinion from Ashford Borough Council to establish if listed building consent was required to change this. Sadly, ABC did not feel able to provide an answer. We therefore had to make a full Listed Building Consent application for a rather insignificant change. This consent was obtained, and the three Alms houses now have a fibreglass, insulated and sealed roof using materials specified by the conservation Officer of ABC.

The path to number 3 had broken up quite badly and this created a potential trip hazard. The Trustees approved replacement of this path and the repointing of the path to the centre of the properties. We now have smoother surfaces.

So far in 2019 there have been three failures to the heating systems. Our main planned expenditure for all three Alms houses for the coming year is the replacement of the boilers and radiators. We have obtained quotations and are now ready to move ahead.

There have been two resignations of trustees, both of whom have been past chairman, John Pullen and Jim Kerr. I would like to thank both of them for their excellent service to this charity and wish them both well in the future. Also, I would like to thank Vic Chittenden, who is giving up his role of treasurer. We are pleased that he is remaining as a Trustee. I would also like to thank the other Trustees for their work in the past 12 months.

Gary Perry – Chair

Flora the Singleton Giant

Flora, if you don't know, is a 12ft traditional build giant that was a community art project by Ashford Borough Council in 2006 and handed over for the community to run.

Over the past year Flora has been able to attend many local events. From the opening of the Singleton Environment Centre to the unveiling of the Singleton Sign. She also attended one of her favourite events at Heusrtonceux Medieval Festival.

The events she attends may only have a handful of people attending or thousands, but she is, in general, always popular with people who see. Both young and old who either just want their photo taken with her or to understand how she is built and operated.

Without the support of the Parish Council we would not be able to have her attend events which would be a great shame.

Yolanda Barker

[Great Chart Playing Fields](#)

Over the past 12 months a lot has happened at the playing fields.

We saw the new play park completed and a new outdoor gym installed.

Heating in the pavilion was upgraded making it a more useable space for meetings.

Pilgrims FC have gone from strength to strength and continue to be our resident football club.

The Gurkha community has held some of their annual events on the main field from a community barbeque to their Gurkha walk.

Last year saw another good year for car boots but unfortunately this year we are unable to hold any due to lack of volunteers.

The main field is long overdue some well-deserved work.

Also, over the coming months we hope to carry out maintenance to the car park.

It is thanks to the Parish Council and the support they have given us which has enabled some of the improvements to happen and we hope to be able to continue with this work keeping the fields a good community space able to be used by all.

Peter Barker – Chair

[SEC – Report for Annual Parish meeting](#)

The former tenants at the Singleton Environment Centre, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) gave notice of their intention to leave in March 2017. Ashford Borough Council asked the Parish Council to take over the Centre, which it did, appointing Singleton Spaces to run it.

There was some work that needed doing to the fabric of the Centre and some older items needed up-grading or replacing, so there was an initial drain on our funds and the parish helped with a grant of £5,000 to cover some of our costs.

We held a grand “re-opening” in the summer and invited the Mayor of Ashford, Cllr Jessamy Blanford to unveil the plaque installed to celebrate the event, which was very well attended.

Singleton Spaces has been running the Centre for a little over a year now, and we have used the time to consolidate our position, keeping the Centre “ticking” over and

starting to build up a surplus of funds which will go towards the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

We were pleased to host the local Kent Scouts “Big Cardboard Sleepout”, a charity event in support of the homeless charity, Porchlight, which went on to win the Silver Award for the year’s “Best Outdoor Fundraising Event” at the 2019 Charity Event Awards.

We received our registered charity status at the end of October, and we have ambitious plans for the Centre and hope to be able to grow larger as the years progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their hard work and give a special mention to Mr. Angus Willson who is not himself, a trustee, but has been instrumental in helping to set up the Singleton Spaces Charity.

Malcolm Wiffen - Chair

Pilgrims Football Club

Pilgrims FC has had a fantastic season. We are based at Great Chart Playing Fields and will have 13 teams for the 2019/20 season. Around 80% of our members are parishioners and we have benefited greatly from the support we have received from the Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council and Great Chart Playing Fields Association. The PC has provided us with a new set of 11 vs 11 goals as the previous pair were in poor repair, a container and a 50% contribution towards the cost of new 7 vs 7 goals which will be purchased once the container has arrived. We have been allowed to make the ground more ‘homely’ with signs at the entrances and advertisement in the local area. This season we have had 2 league champions in our Under 12 and Under 13 sides as well as the under 12s recent cup victory, this makes them the first team in our history to do the ‘double’ (Cup and League champions).

We are always looking for local businesses or individuals to help support us by way of sponsorship if this would be of interest to anyone or you wish to know more, please contact Ani and she will happily pass on my details.

I would like to give a personal thank you to Cllrs McClintock, P Barker, Y Barker and Ani for all their help, support and guidance this year and we look forward to another season within this great parish.

Kyran Wilford - Trustee & Club Secretary

1st Great Chart Scout Group

Great Chart is a thriving, expanding group that is very popular in the local community. We cater for children from 6 to 18, from Beavers at 6, Cubs at 8, Scouts at 10 ½ and now the newly formed Explorers from 14-18. Our group is inclusive, and we have many young people with additional needs. We are heavily oversubscribed and waiting lists for all sections except our new Explorers group.

This year our grant from the Parish Council enabled us to buy 2 additional camping fridges and 4 tables. We have just returned in May from our biggest ever Cub and Beaver Camp. The 31 campers were able to experience many new activities that would not normally be available to them. Our Scouts and Explorers are camping in July.

Research has shown that outdoor activities and experiences give children many opportunities and help them develop into more rounded individuals. Being outdoors, and camping, promotes the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners. This is particularly evident for children with additional needs.

Sally Gathern

Parish Council information

Parish Council Committees and members



Committee	Members 2018-19	Members 2019-20
Finance Committee	Cllrs Darvill (Chair), McClintock, Wiffen, Tate and P Barker	Cllrs Darvill, Tate, P Barker, McClintock and Wiffen
Staffing Committee	Cllrs Willson (Chair) McClintock, Wiffen and Eke	Cllrs Wiffen, Y Barker and Sullivan and Angus Willson
Amenities and Open Spaces Committee	Cllrs Gathern (Chair), Wiffen, Sullivan, Willson, McClintock and P Barker	Cllrs Gathern, P Barker and Wiffen
Complaints Committee	Cllrs Tate (Chair), McClintock, Darvill, Gathern and Y Barker	Cllrs Darvill, Y Barker, Gathern, McClintock and Tate
Chilmington Green Planning Working Group	Cllrs McClintock, Gathern, Sullivan, Tate, Wiffen, Y and P Barker	Cllrs Y Barker, Sullivan, Tate, P Barker, McClintock and representatives of the public
Great Chart Playing Fields Association		Cllrs P Barker, McClintock, Sullivan and Y Barker









Parish Council representatives on outside organisations








Organisations	Representatives 2018-2019	Representatives 2019-2020
Toke and Streeter Almshouses	Mr Pullen and Mr Perry	Cllr Tate
Kipps & Morecock	Cllr Darvill, Cllr McClintock	Cllr McClintock
Great Chart Village Hall	Cllrs Tate and McClintock	Cllrs Tate and McClintock
Singleton Village Hall	Cllrs Darvill and Wiffen	Cllrs Wiffen
Bean Fund	Cllr McClintock (ex officio)	Cllr McClintock (ex officio)
Barrow & Spade Brigade	Cllrs P Barker and Gathern	Cllrs P Barker and Gathern
KALC (Ashford) Forum	Cllrs Y Barker and P Barker	Cllr Y Barker and P Barker
Parish Forum	Cllrs McClintock, Willson, Hodgkinson, Gathern and Wiffen	Cllr Wiffen
Chilmington Green Stakeholders	Cllrs Gathern, Y Barker, Wiffen, McClintock, Mr Wolverson (historical)	Cllrs Y Barker, McClintock and Wiffen
Great Chart War Memorial Trusts	Cllr McClintock (ex officio)	Cllr McClintock (ex officio)
Friends of Singleton Lake	Cllrs Willson and McClintock	Cllr McClintock
Singleton Spaces		Cllr McClintock

Parish Councillor's Contact details

Chilmington Ward	
Cllr Ian McClintock	 07919 278828  ian.mcclintock59@yahoo.co.uk

Great Chart with Singleton North Ward	
Cllr Paul Tate	 07850 082023  paultatepc@gmail.com

Singleton East Ward	
Cllr Katrina Alexander	 07791 632493  Brandycat22@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Janet Sullivan	 01233 645400  janetsullivan36@msn.com
Cllr Malcolm Wiffen	 01233 635016  malcwiffen@btinternet.com
Cllr Kyran Wilford	 07984 352008  kyranwilford@hotmail.com

Singleton West Ward	
Cllr Peter Barker	 01233 610241  peter@barkercomputersolutions.co.uk
Cllr Yolanda Barker	 01233 610241
Cllr Geoffrey Darvill	 01233 642357  geoffsvhpc@gmail.com
Cllr Sally Gathern	 07815 803862  sallygathern@aol.com

Washford Ward	
Cllr Tom Ackrill	 07780 470 668 and Email:  ta@itl.co.uk

Parish Council Contact details

Clerk: Aniko Szocs

Tel: 01233 616923 or **email** theclerkqcwsp@gmail.com

Assistant to Clerk: Paula Cowperthwaite

Tel: 01233 616923