



# Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

*Founded in December 1894*

## Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14 March 2022 at Singleton Village Hall Starting at 7.30pm **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Barker, Y Barker, Sullivan, Tate, Wiffen.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Aniko Szocs (Clerk), Paula Cowperthwaite (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Blanford (ABC), Cllr Shorter (ABC), and 2 members of public

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Ackrill, Alexander, Darvill, Gathern, McClintock, Wilford  
PCSO Stevens, Cllr Barrett (ABC), Cllr Ross (KCC)

### 2. Declarations of Interest

To hear declarations of interest on this agenda, relating to:

#### 2.1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

#### 2.2. Other Significant Interests

None

#### 2.3. Other Interests

Item 7.1 – Cllrs P Barker, Y Barker, Sullivan, Wiffen

Item 7.2 – Cllrs Y Barker, Sullivan, Darvill

Item 7.3 – Cllr Wiffen

Item 7.4 – Cllrs P Barker, Wiffen,

Item 7.5 – Cllrs Y Barker, Sullivan, Wiffen

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 as a true record.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr P Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Y Barker
<b>Vote In Favour: 5</b>	<b>Vote Against: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

### 4. PCSO Report

The PCSO gave her apologies, her report was read to the room and can be found at Appendix One. She encouraged residents to sign up to [www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk](http://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk) to receive updates.

### 5. Reports from Borough Councillors

#### 5.1. Cllr Barrett – Singleton East Ward

Not present

#### 5.2. Cllr Blanford – Weald Central Ward

Brompton Bikes are planning to build their new headquarters in Ashford but it needs to go through the correct planning process first. There may also be other companies looking to work on the wetlands around the proposed site.

The ABC portion only of the new council tax bill will increase £5 for the year for a Band D house.

Cllr Blanford is planning an official opening for the wooden horse, she will send more information shortly.

ABC is planning on sending £15K in aid to Poland for Ukrainian refugees, there is also a UK government initiative asking people to take refugees into their homes for 6 months.

### **5.3. Cllr Howard-Smith- Singleton West Ward**

Not present

### **5.4. Cllr Shorter - Washford Ward**

Cllr Shorter reported that things were quiet on a parish level.

The ABC budget was approved by cabinet, then agreed by full council last Thursday so this is now final.

Cllr Shorter spoke of the 1,500 jobs to be created by 2027 on the proposed Brompton site. The building itself will take up 20 acres of a 100 acre wetland site which will contribute towards the mitigation of the Stodmarsh issue.

Newtown railway works is progressing under due diligence. £14.4m of Levelling Up funding will be spent on the project in the next two years.

## **6. Reports from County Councillors (when in attendance)**

### **6.1. Cllr Charlie Simkins**

Not present

### **6.2. Cllr Dirk Ross**

Not present but his report was read to the group. This can be found at Appendix Two.

## **7. Reports from Committees/Groups**

To receive reports from committees

### **7.1. Chilmington Green Planning Working Group**

A meeting is planned for tomorrow.

### **7.2. Great Chart Playing Fields**

A meeting is planned for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

### **7.3. Singleton Spaces**

Business is starting to pick back up. Footprints Café is doing really well on Sunday carveries.

### **7.4. Amenities, Open Spaces and Environment Committee**

The committee has tried to work with Kent Wildlife Trust for over a year but has made little progress. After speaking recently with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, a walkabout has now been carried out to identify potential pollinator friendly sites.

Clearance of allotment land and the correction of a Public Right of Way has taken place and it will now be possible to provide further allotment pitches.

### **7.5. Staffing Committee**

The application window for the youth worker was extended and two credible applications have been received, with two more expected.

**Public Participation:** There will be 15 minutes of the meeting to hear public questions and comments.

No comments made.

## **8. Planning Applications for Consideration this Month**

### **8.1. Planning application number [21/01315/CONA/AS](#)**

Land between the Pig and Whistle Farmhouse and Minden Cottage, Ashford Road, Great Chart, Kent, Discharge condition 22 (Ecological summary and mitigation plan)

- **Cllr Y Barker**

This application has already been decided, therefore no discussion took place.

### 8.2. Planning application number [22/00285/AS](#)

Oaklands, Sandy Lane, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent, TN26 1JN Erection of building for use as a double garage with additional living accommodation (revision to 21/00340/AS) – **Cllr Y Barker**

A previous application for this site was refused and appealed. It has now been revised and resubmitted, However, it was felt that the objection given last time, that it should not become a separate residential dwelling in the future, still stands. It was discussed that the outline of the building may already have been built. The council resolved to object to the application as Condition 4 has not been included in the revised application as per the Parish Council's request.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr Y Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Sullivan
<b>Vote In Favour:</b> 4	<b>Vote Against:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 1	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

### 8.3. Planning application number [22/00196/AS](#)

Little Black Dog, The Street, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3AN. Proposed change to use of ground floor of building from former public house (Class A4) to form a single self contained flat (ground floor only), with off street parking and garden area. Minor alterations and replacement windows to enable new use. - **Cllr Y Barker**

A former 3 bed house application was objected to as the parking was insufficient for a house. However, if two flats are put into the building then there will be issues using the two parking spaces if the one car gets blocked in by another, and it will also restrict access to the properties at the back of the property.

The council resolved to object to the application based on the lack of appropriate parking.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr Y Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Tate
<b>Vote In Favour:</b> 4	<b>Vote Against:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 1	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

### 8.4. Planning application number [22/00234/AS](#)

4 Honeyfield, Ashford, Kent, TN23 4XP Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. – **Cllr P Barker**

The plans are suitable, but parking appears to be an issue. There is a concrete pad potentially on ABC land providing parking for a car possibly associated with this dwelling. The land at the front of the dwelling is public road, not private land. It was suggested that Cllr Barrett calls the application in for proper investigation.

The council resolved to object to this application on the grounds of insufficient parking.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr P Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Sullivan
<b>Vote In Favour:</b> 5	<b>Vote Against:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

### 8.5. Planning application number [21/00447/CONA/AS](#) & [21/00446/CONA/AS](#)

Ninn Farm, Ninn Lane, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3DA Discharge of condition 2 (materials) & 3 (details). Also discharge of condition 5 (lighting for biodiversity) – **Cllr P Barker**

The details required have been provided. The council resolved to make no comment.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr P Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Wiffen
<b>Vote In Favour:</b> 5	<b>Vote Against:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

## 9. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were shown to the room. There are two cases that have been reported to planning enforcement in relation to garage conversions, and appeals have been received for the Blue Barn site and 10 Eggringe.

## 10. Policies for approval documents to review

To review policy documents when up for renewal

### 10.1. To review Finance Committee terms and conditions

Technically expenditure is not officially approved in August as the full council does not meet. The proposed change will allow the committee to approve expenditure. As the full council was not quorate at the meeting due to declared interests, this will be deferred to the next meeting.

## 11. Crossing from Singleton estate on Chart Road to Ashford Community

### Woodland

KCC have approved the siting of signage alerting drivers to the possibility of people crossing. The work will be carried out in the next financial year.

## 12. Newsletter

After trying new printers and distributors, the work has now been returned to the original companies due to ongoing issues. It has been calculated that the cost of the newsletter for each household is 65p per issue.

It was agreed that the newsletter should continue to be printed, despite the increased costs, as it represents good value and is a cost-effective way of reaching all residents.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr P Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Tate
<b>Vote In Favour: 5</b>	<b>Vote Against: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

## 13. Speed Limit reduction from Bartlets Lane from its junction with Chilmington Green Road

The Parish Council objects to the proposed scheme to reduce the speed limit to 40mph. If the parish council maintains its objection, the proposal will need to go to the Joint Transportation Board where the decision to leave it at 60mph may be made. Cllr Shorter suggested contacting the relevant KCC member, Cllr Charlie Simkins, for his help to ensure a 20 mph speed limit is implemented.

The council resolved not to withdraw their objection to the speed limit reduction.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr P Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Sullivan
<b>Vote In Favour: 5</b>	<b>Vote Against: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

## 14. Finance

### 14.1. Items for Payment and bank reconciliation

There will now be a manual check of payments made by the Finance Committee Chair before each full council meeting to ensure figures are correct. Cllr P Barker inspected the invoices prior to approval.

The council resolved to approve the payments in March and acknowledged the bank reconciliation.

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr P Barker	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr Tate
<b>Vote In Favour: 5</b>	<b>Vote Against: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

**Items for Approval for Payment March 2022**

Method	Items for Approval for Payment	Description	Total payable	VAT
Bacs	HMRC	March contribution	£1,560.10	
Bacs	Salary	March salaries	£4,787.22	
Bacs	Kent Pension Fund	February Pension Contribution	£927.45	
Bacs	Tuckwells	February maintenance	£38.98	£6.50
Bacs	Kall Kwik	Newsletter printing	£995.00	
Bacs	KCS Commercial	Printer rental and printing	£182.98	£30.50
Bacs	East Kent Leaflet distribution	Newsletter distribution	£528.00	£88.00
Bacs	Ashford Borough Council	Repairs to play equipment, topping up sand at Cuckoo Park	£3,086.40	£514.40
Bacs	KALC	Annual Planning Conference	£60.00	£10.00
Bacs	KALC	Health and Wellbeing Conference	£48.00	£8.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>£ 12,214.13</b>	<b>£657.40</b>

**Income**

Method	From	Description	Total received	VAT (if applicable)
Bacs			£ -	<b>0</b>
<b>Total:</b>			<b>£ -</b>	

Credit card payment items for Information	Description	Total paid	VAT
<b>Account Number:19079376</b>			
Garden of England catering and event hire ltd	Office carpet cleaning	£80.00	
Plusnet	Telephone and broadband	£66.31	£13.26
Plusnet	Telephone and broadband	£60.31	£12.06
Coffee curiosity	Refreshments	£5.40	
McColl's	Refreshments	£13.77	
<b>Account Number: 24056805</b>			
B&Q	Planed smooth timber	£13.78	£2.30
B&Q	Exterior gloss	£19.95	£3.32
B&Q	Rapid set mortar	£14.95	£2.49
B&Q	Nail, plywood, hinges, timber	£45.45	£7.58

Dial Direct	Van insurance (direct debit)	£46.98	
MFG East Stour Service	Van fuel	£60.61	£10.10
Jewson	Green roll and sheild anchor bolt	£30.01	
Ebay	Vauxhall Vivaro Front seat covers	£69.16	£12.33
Fenland Leisure Products	Spare parts for swings at Cuckoo Park	£141.60	
GS Products	6mm stainless steel d shackle	£28.69	£4.78
Discount Roofing merchant	Gauging trowel wooden handle and plain tile	£9.36	£1.56
Giff gaff	Mobile broadband	£20.00	£3.33

<b>Total:</b>	<b>726.33</b>	<b>£ 73.11</b>
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### 15. Clerk's Report and Update on Issues not Listed Elsewhere on the Agenda

The Clerk's report was shown to the room. No comments made.

### 16. Correspondence

- None

### 17. Items for Information or Agenda for Next Meeting

- Deferred item – to review Finance Committee terms and conditions to consider including delegation of power to the committee to allow authorising payments when the full council is unable or do not meet.

### 18. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next scheduled Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 11 April 2022 starting at 7.30pm at Great Chart Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 20:40

Signed as a true record by:

Cllr Wiffen \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix One



Good evening everyone,

Apologies for not being able to make it this evening. However, I will be at the Pop-up Café this Wednesday at Great Chart Village Hall from 11am should anyone wish to come and have a chat with me. I have also arranged a community event at Singleton Environment Centre on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 11am to 1pm. Ani and Paula along with Peter New from Neighbourhood Watch, Angie Burden from Ashford Borough Council, Peter Beasley who is one of the KCC wardens and I will be there on hand to discuss any concerns you may have on crime, anti-social behaviour and other local community issues. Please come and see us for a chat.

Finally, with the recent introduction of our new Kent Police platform, My Community Voice, I have been sending out relevant alerts about incidents happening in your areas when I have felt it appropriate to do so. I hope that the users of My Community Voice are not getting inundated with alerts as was a concern expressed to me. I would encourage you to sign up to this two-way engagement tool as it also allows you to contact me too. If you would like any further information about this then please let me know.

Stay safe everyone

PCSO Catherine Stevens

## **Appendix Two – Cllr Dirk Ross' Report**

I wish to update on some news and happenings in my absence

1 – I provided £2,000 grant to the Singleton Spaces (Singleton Environment Centre) to help with lost funding from covid to reduce losses on office bookings and revenue. So that the centre can manage costs across the whole offering of services.

2 – I have provided £1,000 to scout group covering Singleton & Beaver wards to help with costs and to ensure those on lower incomes can still attend meetings as we suffer rise on a variety of cost centres.

3 – awaiting an update on road markings, 30 mph speed issue even with signage. The upgrade is not functioning around the school, community hall to Askes Court. I want a rethink on the area to lower actual speed and make area safer for children and residents.

4 – contacted the owner and management company about the state of the centre. Poor maintenance issues, missing bins, parking provision. Some investment and new shops have opened but visual elements still make the area look unkempt plus the medical centre.