

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Founded in December 1894



Meeting of the Environment Committee Wednesday 26th July 2023 at Singleton Village Hall, Parish Office

Present: Cllrs Peter Barker, Dave Gather, Matthew Peach, and Malcolm Wiffen
Also Present: Aniko Szocs (Clerk) 1 MOP and Cllr S Gather (ABC)

The meeting started at 16:30 pm.

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Peter Barker has been nominated as chair of the committee. The committee accepted the nomination and elected Cllr Peter Barker as chair.

Proposed: Cllr Malcolm Wiffen	Seconded: Cllr Matthew Peach	Against 0
In favour: 4	Abstain: 0	Motion: Carried

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Gather (Item 8), Cllr S Gather (ABC Item 5), MOP (Item 8)

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 30th of November 2022 were duly approved.

Proposed: Cllr Malcolm Wiffen	Seconded: Cllr Dave Gather	In Favour: 4
Vote against: 0	Vote Abstain: 0	Motion carried

5. Allotments

The Parish Council carried out their annual summer plot inspection. It was decided not to grade the plots instead give an overall assessment and note sites of concern. All future inspections will be done as a general assessment of the site.

The Barrow and Spade Brigade had a clear out day, Cllrs Wiffen and D Gather provided BBQ on the day. It has been noted that there are a number of large trees on the boundary of the allotments that are overhanging. These will need to be reported to KCC. The allotment extension works well and helped to reduce the number of residents on the waiting list. Barrow and Spade Brigade has been awarded £5000 grant towards the refurbishment of the roof to increase the rain water collection capacity. The overall cost is estimated around £7k which means there is a £2k shortfall. The difference can be made up of the £1500 that is allocated in the Parish Council budget line.

6. Heron Walk Community Garden

The committee received an update and noted that no planting has been taking place. It was suggested that a wildflower mat could be laid to support the existing flowers in the planter. The Clerk to look at mats.

7. Tree Trail

It was agreed to arrange a walkaround to identify trees and to set a route. Cllr S Gathern (ABC) will contact a resident who might be able to offer support identifying trees. The committee also discussed using the Kent Heritage Trees project's trees and stories to form part of the route.

8. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow

The committee reviewed the management plan for Buxford Meadow. It has been noted that a number of areas are heavily overgrown, and removal might result in loss of biodiversity that established over the years. The pond itself is silted and has substantial vegetation growth cover on it. The life ring is no longer visible, and it is difficult to access should it be needed for emergency purposes. The committee agreed to arrange a visit to the meadow to assess the area. The Clerk to print off objectives set out in the management plan for the visit.

Singleton Lake: Friends of Singleton Lake recently had their AGM and drew up a three page wish list ready to be submitted to Ashford Borough Council. It was reported that both bridges are in need of repair. Ashford Borough Council has been notified and currently is dealing with it. The committee is pleased to have a Parish Council representatives and thanked Cllr D Gathern for joining the group. The Public Space Protection Order has been extended by another three years. More policing and enforcement are needed for the order to be effective. The Parish Council is ready to support FOSL.

9. Items for information or agenda for next meeting

- Allotment
- Heron Walk Community Garden Project
- Tree Trail
- Ashford Community Woodland- Orchard
- Bee project- Singleton West, Poundfield Walk, Platinum Jubilee Walk
- Chilmington Green development- landscaping

10. Date and venue of next meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting is on Monday, 18th of September 2023 starting at 17:00pm.

The meeting closed at 18:29 pm.