

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING GREAT CHART VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 19 May 2025

There were approximately 40 members of the public present, which included members of the Parish Council.

Cllr Malcolm Wiffen - Chair

Aniko Szocs – Parish Clerk & Paula Cowperthwaite – Deputy Clerk

1. **Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00 pm by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting in May 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2024 were proposed by Cllr Y Barker and seconded by Cllr P Barker and were duly approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. **Community Award**

The recipient of the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award was presented with the award for all their voluntary work and the foundation of Singleton WI.

4. **Chair's Report**

Cllr Wiffen gave a short report, which is available to read in the Annual Report of 2024-2025 and on the website.

5. **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk provided a brief overview of the past year, highlighting key projects, major achievements, and a summary of the council's financial position.

6. **Borough Councillor's Report**

Singleton East – Cllr Barrett, not in attendance.

Singleton West:

Cllr Sally Gatherer sent her apologies.

Weald Central Ward

Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr Jessamy Blanford report is available in the annual report.

Washford Ward:

Cllr Clive Hallett – not in attendance.

7. **County Councillor's Report**

South Ashford Councillor's Report – Cllr Nick Ross sent his apologies.

Ashford Rural West Councillor's Report – Cllr Jeremy Eustace introduced himself as the newly elected Kent County Councillor for the ward.

8. Accounts and Reports from Parish Charities and Organisations

Reports were received from the following schools and groups:

Peter New Neighbourhood Watch coordinator gave a report on activities and update on safety and prevention.

The following groups gave either verbal or written reports:

- Great Chart Primary School
- Ashford Repair Cafe
- Singleton Village Hall
- Great Chart Village Hall
- The Bean Fund- This charity will cease to exist.
- Toke and Streeter, Alm Houses
- Great Chart Playing Fields
- Singleton Giant Association
- St Mary's in Great Chart
- 1st Great Chart Scouts
- Singleton Spaces & Singleton Environment Centre
- Singleton WI.
- Friends of Singleton Lake
- 1st Singleton Scouts
- Barrow and Spade Brigade

9. Public Forum

A member of the public enquired about the potential impact of the Local Government Reorganisation on the parish council.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm