

Reports for Singleton and Chalton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 14th July 2025

Jeremy Rigby Centurion Way

The next phase of the extension is due to open to the public in the summer of 2025, which includes the Singleton station section and northwards past Hat Hill bridge where a new ramp connection has been constructed to access the footpath down to the cricket club.

Discussions around a link path between the village and Centurion Way continue with stakeholders. Once a route has been agreed SDNP will assist in funding plans and planning as the next key milestone. Funding will need to be collated from various sources such as CIL and various accessibility and rural development funds; SDNPA will assist.

Graham Zacharias Finance

Nothing to report.

Potholes

I have, once again, reverted to Don Quixote mode and re-re-reported the appalling state of Town Lane from the A286 junction for some 400 metres up the hill. Any volunteers to be my Sancho Panza? Also reported the pothole which appeared opposite the café.

Mark Rawlings-Smith

Goodwood Motor Circuit Consultation Committee - no sessions since last PC meeting

Goodwood Aerodrome Consultation Committee - next session 31st July - input welcome

Planning

Attended CDC PC Training - first of these sessions provided by CDC. Informative and designed to explain the workings of the CDC Development Team (aka Planning)

From the session, I concluded:

The CDC team undertook an assessment last year which resulted in a significant number of measures being put into place. Not least changes to committee meetings, and this training being established.

It's clear that positive efforts are being made by Fjola (team lead) and the team and the door is very much open for engagement.

The session also led me to understand that as a department, they do largely have their hands tied by government 'conditions'. For example, there are severe consequences (all decision making powers removed) for too many appeals being won.

housing development targets far outstrip identified land and they admitted they are having to approve developments where they do not want them

I believe application responses are one aspect of how we should be looking at planning engagement. There remain challenges to the application process (endless reports and costs) for many parishioners. And there are opportunities to engage with and possibly influence policy.

Village Hall

As property of the PC, and as VH treasurer, it's probably worth a short note on VH finances. I will have updated these in time for the PC meeting since we have a VH meeting on 9th July.

Village Fete

A note that I will be acting as 'treasurer' for the village fete.

Karen Nash

Southern Water Update

As of 4/7/25 the crews have sealed approx 67m of public and private sewer in Singleton. The crews have now sealed approx 6975m of both public and private sewer networks.

Unfortunately, CBUL will not be in the village next week, but they will be there the following week starting on Monday 14th, therefore there will be no report next Friday 11/7.

SW delivery partner CBUL will be in the village carrying out connectivity investigation works looking into which properties have their storm water connected to the wastewater network. This work will start on Monday 7th July 25. On 28/6 I posted on the village WhatsApp group to ask that the crews be given access to all the properties grounds so that they can plan on how they can take remove these from the network and look at and plan interventions where practical.

The Lining Division will also have a sewer cleaning lorry in the village on Monday 7th July to clean the sewer network that they are now working on.

CBUL have planted topsoil and grass seed on the verges on both sides of the meadow field. I am still waiting on an answer from Floyd to confirm if they will be filling the holes on both sides of the road.

Glenn has confirmed that the repair work to the entrance of Woodstock Suites will be carried out between 14-17th July and the scheduled temporary verge repair works will take place on Knight Hill Road, Charlton on the 7th August 2025.

Tony Marshall

Charlton 20mph

We've now been given a provisional start date for the work: week commencing 21/7. Once installed I shall measure up for the Village gateways and order these.

Jasmine Hathaway

Devolution

● Devolution Sussex, Timeline and Key Milestones ●

° May [2026](#), First election for Mayor of Sussex (covering East Sussex, West Sussex & Brighton & Hove)

° May [2027](#), Elections for 'shadow' unitary councils across West Sussex

° April [2028](#), New unitary councils take full effect

• Combined Authority and Mayoral Powers

A Mayoral Combined County Authority (Sussex mayor) will oversee strategic areas in transport, housing, planning, skills, economic development, environment, climate, and public services. The mayor will serve a four-year term and chair a committee with six representatives from local councils .

This authority comes with ring-fenced funding and devolved powers, aimed at social care and other funding deficits. Funding for the mayor's office is shared between local authorities and central government.

• Unitary Councils, Structure & Options

Government guidelines require unitaries to serve around 500,000 people. Four proposed models for West Sussex have been looked into,

1. One county-wide authority
2. East-West split

3. North–South split

4. West Sussex combined with Adur, Worthing, Brighton & Hove

(another idea floated was split into 3 sections, East, Mid Brighton/Hove up to Crawley and West). East Sussex is leaning toward a single unitary approach.

- Governance and Representation

Current councillor count of 360 across CDC & WSCC is expected to drop to around 150 councillors and some may not serve on parish councils. There are 156 parishes in West Sussex,

* asset transfer * to parishes is under discussion, though not yet confirmed or mandated.

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) consultations are ongoing with parish stakeholders, including an all-parish meeting on 5 August.

- Financial Considerations

WSCC's housing allocation target is 7,500 homes. Population growth in West Sussex over the next decade is projected to add 10,000 people, but only 1,000 additional workers.

Unitary structures and mayoral funding are expected to generate economies of scale, help bridge social care funding gaps and fund the mayor's office but will also result in council tax increases.

Some job roles will transfer via TUPE, with a later phase of job reductions.

- Decision & Consultation Process

- Business case submitted on 26 September [2025](#).

- The government will issue the unitary constitution; no final decision expected until March [2026](#).

- Parishioner survey to be issued shortly.

- CDC to hold parish meetings in early August.

- White paper on parish councils expected in autumn.

- Summary

Combined Authority and Mayor May [2026](#) election confirmed

Unitary Models Four options under review.

- Public Engagement

- Consultation launching soon, parish events in August.

- Key Decisions Govt decides by March [2026](#).

- Transition Shadow councils in [2027](#), units live in April [2028](#)

- What Parishes Can Do Now

- 1) Parishioners keep an eye out for the soon to be released questionnaire.

- 2) Local Authorities, finalize your preferred unitary model.

- 3) Councillors & Staff, prepare for TUPE transitions and role realignments.

- 4) Residents, expect a Council Tax rise, but also improved local planning and strategic investment.

- * Key points on Parish Asset Transfers *

- How Parish asset transfers could work under the proposed Sussex devolution and unitary restructuring. Parish councils won't automatically receive assets they would be offered them under specific legal provisions (various Local Government Acts). However guidance encourages proactive parish engagement:

Early dialogue with WSCC or CDC to identify which assets (eg parks, halls, car-parks) might suit local management. There is no universal funding package yet and it appears that parishes must negotiate transition support.

- Challenges and Parish Risks

- 1) Capacity concerns, Parishes need staff, expertise and financial resilience. It is worth noting here that Parish Councillors all work in a voluntary manner, giving their time for free often whilst in full-time employment.

- 2) Long-term liabilities: Owning assets increases responsibility ie maintenance, public safety.

- 3) Potential refusal implications, Parishes that decline may risk loss of local services?

- What can Parishes do now to prepare for Devolution?

- 1) Map current assets eg identify parks, halls, toilets, car-parks etc.
- 2) Have open discussions with district/county councils about interests and eligibility.
- 3) Request full information on maintenance costs, usage stats and legal restrictions/requirements.
- 4) Prepare a business case for funding, operating costs and benefits to the community etc.
- 5) Collaborate with neighbouring Parishes in order to consider joint asset management for efficiency and cost.

So it would seem that Parish asset transfer under Sussex devolution would be optional, negotiated and not automatic. It uses long established legal tools (LGA [1972](#), Localism Act) and best practices, but success requires strong parish capacity, business planning, and proactive engagement with councils.

Post Village Party Event

Our special thanks to Andrew Griffith our MP for Arundel and South Downs for attending and opening the party. Councillor Jeremy Hunt of Chichester North division whom kindly attended. Also Henry Potter Councillor for the ward of Goodwood in Chichester Council and his wife whom also attended. Thank you so much for joining us.

Date, Saturday 28th June 12pm to 5pm

Location, Singleton Village Hall and The Leys

Weather, hot and sunny

Organized by, Singleton Parish Council

1. Event Overview

The Whole Village BBQ Party was held on 28th June at Singleton Village Hall. Organized by the Singleton Parish Council. The event was a free community gathering aimed at bringing residents together for an afternoon of fun, food, and socializing.

2. Objectives

- Foster a sense of community and belonging.
- Provide a free and enjoyable event for residents.
- Encourage social interaction across age groups.

3. Attendance

- Approximately 90 adults and many children attended the event bringing community engagement and enthusiasm.

4. Activities and Entertainment

Guests enjoyed a wide range of activities, including:

- Free raffle.
- BBQ, salads, and cakes served throughout the event
- Tea and Coffee
- Traditional village games such as Skittles and Boules
- Attendees will be able to take part in games such as tug-o-war, sack race and wheelbarrow races
- Informal socializing and family-friendly entertainment

5. Highlights

- A fabulous live music duo supplied a party atmosphere with their enjoyable tunes.
- Delicious homemade cakes and a variety of fresh salads were particularly appreciated.
- Skittles and games aiming to draw enthusiastic participation from all ages.

6. Challenges & Recommendations

- Shaded seating, we could do with more shade in future parties, especially if done in the summer months.
- Residents safety around bbq area was adhered to.
- Road closure notices, we had a few residents that needed to enter and exit the closed roads, they did so safely.

8. Conclusion

- The Whole Village BBQ Party we hope was a success and helped to strengthen the community spirit in Singleton and Charlton Parish.

- The Parish Council extends sincere thanks to all volunteers, a huge thank you to all of you that gave your time and energy.

The people that organised the food, cakes, salads, the really fun games. The ladies that served up the teas and coffees. The gentleman that manned the BBQ. The ladies that chopped and cooked the huge amounts of onions. The ladies that sorted and organised the raffle. The people that helped set up and clear up. The people that organised the fun games that the children really loved. The ladies that did the shopping for the BBQ. Thank you also to the Village Hall committee for supplying the Gazebos and the tea and coffee.

Vivien Nuttall

Finance Report

Balance in Current Account (10/07/25) - £14,142.19

Balance in Savings Account (10/07/25) - £7,227.63

Total Expenses for Village Event – 776.34 not including VAT

2025/26 Reserves to date:

Playground Maintenance – £2,392.68, School Parking Project - £84.86, General Maintenance £1,140.55, Events - £23.66

Funds Received since 19/05/25 – Reimbursement of APM expenses £62.00, Reimbursement Village Event Expenses - £46.94

Henry Potter

Devolution:

Included in the government White Paper on devolution is giving devolved Authorities the power to transfer public assets to private bodies. To this end the Council have agreed an Assets Transfer Policy, there has already been interest shown to acquire some of these public assets. Subsequently it was agreed to set aside £30,000 to engage specialist assessment and valuation personnel to consider the Transfer of Pallant House Gallery out of the Councils ownership. Should this transfer not take place the findings will be used in any other interest in the Gallery. The Councils assets are vast and include Industrial Sites, leisure centres. Shops and offices and the Contact Services Works Depot at Westhampnett to name just a few. The total value of the

Councils assets is £113 million bringing in annual revenue of £3 million which helps towards the annual Council Budget.

Last week on the 1st July, the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee met to receive the Chairs annual report and to review the 2025/26 work programme. It has become practice at these meetings for each Cabinet Member in turn to attend and expand on their portfolios and answer questions from the committee Members. In December '24 it was the turn of Adrian Moss the leader of the Council, in March this year Tracie Bangert, portfolio holder for Communities and Wellbeing and at the meeting last week Jonathan Brown, the deputy leader and portfolio holder for Environment. this was a poignant attendance because on the Agenda was the consideration and scrutinisation of the 2025-30 Climate Emergency Action Plan which has just been published. The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and its primary aim is to reduce emissions to Net Zero by 2040!! Net Zero is the amount of greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere is balanced by the amount that are removed or captured. There appears to be no consideration that the atmosphere is constantly changing as the earth rotates each 24 hours, this I find confusing whilst other nations choose to do nothing. This drive to net zero is also very costly with subsidies for renewable energy production adding to our energy bills. The Council is also considering transferring fuel for our vehicles to Hydrogenated Fuel Oil to power vehicles as well as the acquisition of EV's though we've reached capacity so far, as the electrical infrastructure at the Depot will need extremely costly upgrading which at present is not an option. The additional cost of this HFO will be close to £85,000 per annum which, as I said, don't come cheap! The greatest emissions come from the household waste collection vehicles being currently 1,300 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum, this can only worsen as more housing means more people, more waste and therefore more dust carts! but compared with emissions in the A27 corridor, they are minimal. Are we doing the right thing spending considerable sums of taxpayers money chasing an unachievable goal. I wonder!

At the forthcoming Full Council Meeting on 15th July approval is sought to release funds to refurbish a further eight public conveniences across the District, these are located at Bracklesham, Petworth, 2 in Selsey, Northgate Car Park, Avenue de Chartres car park, West and East Witterings. This follows on from the refurbishment of the Tower Street conveniences in the City which was done to a very high 21st century standard even though there was much public criticism for demolishing the below standard toilets in Tower Street. Finally, the opening of the Centurion Way from West Dean eastwards is moving a bit closer, the stretch from the east end of the controversial West Dean tunnel through the Station and on to the Singleton bridge is expected to be opened in August. Users will Still Have to use the pavement between the Motor Road and the West Dean bio mass boiler facility where you will scale a ramp back up onto the railway track. There is a plan to eliminate the need to use the unsafe stretch pavement in the not too distant future.

And that concludes my report.