

Reports for Singleton and Charlton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 17th March 2025

Graham Zacharias

Potholes

The state of Town Lane and specifically the roughly 400 metre stretch from the Singleton turn off up the hill and past the WDM is now nothing short of disgraceful. I have reported the 2 main areas of degradation and anticipate action in due course. 2 further areas on the outskirts of Singleton near Cucumber Farm has also reported.

Emergency Plan

I have been somewhat slow in pulling together a draft, revised plan but expect to have this completed before the next meeting.

Tony Marshall

Planning: Singleton Oil Well

The PC was not notified of an application to lay a new cable to connect the oil field to the grid. However, having complained about this failure, we were given a small amount of extra time. A meeting was called and views canvassed.

In short, it's clear this application is part of a larger project, which includes the generators (approved last year, as a 'non-material' application) and a new cable yet to be laid along the A286. So our comments submitted to the planning office focus on the recent case in which the Court of Appeal ruled that such applications need to be considered as an entire 'project' and must not be passed piecemeal (or 'salami-slicing'). Given that the existing permissions for the site to even exist expire on 31 December 2031, we suspect that the larger 'project' is the renewal of the permissions and laying the 'green credentials' for that in due course – so now begins the campaign to stop this renewal and have the site closed down in 2031.

Singleton CHS

I've had another go at getting Highways to add a coloured surface to the new crossings. Highways claim that it would make them less safe (as well as adding to cost/maintenance), but my argument is that the present arrangement is more dangerous, telling pedestrians that this is a crossing – with dropped kerb and tactile surface – while giving no visual clues at all to approaching drivers. Still awaiting a response to this.

Charlton 20mph/village gates

No update yet from Highways on this, following the public consultation in January/February – hoping to hear something soon.

Jeremy Rigby

The Leys Parking

I have chased Connected Kerb regarding when the Electric Vehicle charging points will be completed but have not as yet had an update.

Centurion Way

The next phase of the extension is due to open to the public in late spring 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. There is no firm date for when in 'late spring' it will happen.

The proposed January stakeholders meeting to discuss options for a potential link from Hat Hill to the village that can be used by cycles had to be cancelled and is rescheduled for the beginning of April. I will attend as will Phil Fathers who agreed to be the PC rep for any emergent project team.

Karen Nash**Southern Water Update**

On 7th March I had a conversation with Floyd to confirm that next Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th. SW contractors will start removing the following equipment:-

Pipework across the meadow field

Pumps

Fencing

Track Matting

Scaffold Bridge

Floyd is still waiting for a date for when they can get the appropriate size crane to lift and remove the two large filter units. He will confirm with me as soon as he has a date.

Once all of the equipment has been removed he will arrange to meet with me to do a walk around the village to see if any repairs need to be made from damage caused by the works and vehicles.

He also confirmed that the Singleton Relief had not had to run this year so he is very hopeful that due to all of the work they have completed there will no requirement for tankers, pumping etc next Autumn/Winter.

Vivien Nuttall**Flag**

Our Union Jack Flag has disintegrated, we have a temporary one on the flag pole at the moment but that is also very ragged. Our flag monitor, Vaughan Smedley has suggested we purchase a new flag. The cost of a sewn flag 90 x 150 is £65.00, this is MOD approved.

Finance Report

Total in Current Account (17/03/25) – £7,778.01

Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) – £1,587.74

General Maintenance £1,110.20.

School Parking – £84.86

Playground Maintenance - £392.68

Total Available in Current Account - £6,190.27

Balance in Savings Account – £7,203.70

VAT to be Claimed - £2,228.91