

MINUTES

Charing Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 9th April 2024
at 7.30pm. Top Room Charing Parish Hall.

Dawne Austen
Parish Clerk

1.	Apologies for absence. None
2.	In attendance. Chair C Prinn; vice Chairs D. Bennett; C Bain-Smith; Cllrs J Strike; D Gudge; C Allen; S Woodbridge; T Hayward; J White; O Worsfold; M Roderick; T Reed, The RFO & Clerk.
3.	To receive any declarations of interest from Members. Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by Charing Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the localism Act 2011.
4.	Public Participation Session This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda. Time for this session is limited to 10 minutes (divided by the number of participants) One member of the public present re The Oak. Excellent results were received back from the survey to residents. 93% want to save The Oak 3% were opposed. The group were trying to get a meeting set up with Mr Brar. The group will update residents and councillors as and when they have an update. The clerk will check with ABC if any breach has been made in Mr Brar not allowing access to view.
5.	Minutes of previous meeting: These were approved and signed.
6.	Matters Arising:
6.1	CCTV update: Configuration will take place this week and then stage one will be up and running. The clerk and RFO will be meeting with KCC highways re phase 2.
6.2	Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be on Tuesday 7 th May. This year's meeting will be in a different format. It is the residents meeting for them to bring up issues and ask questions.
6.3	South East in Bloom: The clerk and RFO are moving forward with the village involving the Gardening Society, and other local people.
6.4	Westwell Leacon: A update was given on the situation regarding a person camping on the area. The chair and vice chair have visited and explained that it is trespass due to the covenants on the land and legal action will be taken.
6.5	Chair/ Committee re-election (May meeting): The clerk reminded all councillors that the May meeting will be their election of Chair/ vice chairs and chairs of committees, along with committee members.
6.6	Heathlands: Maidstone BC have approved the development in the local plan. They are raising money to take further legal action. Once the elections are over then they may be able to speak with the new council if it changes. The development will start on the land bordering Charing. There is a severe risk to both Charing & Lenham losing their railway stations.
6.7	Community Award Nominees: The nominees and winners for Charing were Louise Bowles and Susan King for the work they do on the foodbank and Peta Maidment for her work in

	Charing Heath.
8.	Finance:
8.1	The following accounts were approved:

12/03/2024	Payee Name	Details	Amount Paid
		Nat West Bank	
DD	Ashford Borough Council	Rates Cemetery April	£72.08
DD	Ashford Borough Council	Rates Cemetery May	£71.00
DD	Sage	Payroll April	£9.60
DD	Peninsula	PR Law firm Staff March	£114.59
DD	Peninsula	PR Law firm Staff April	£114.59
Card	Creative Solution	4 Lock Cabinets for Station	£953.94
DD	SSE	Electric Toilets 10-12 to 10-3-2024	£130.10
DD	Business Stream	Water Toilets period 14-12 to 13-03-2024	£146.28
DD	Unity Trust Bank	Charges	£18.00
DD	Microsoft	Licence 2024-2025	£79.99
Card	Amazon	Key safe for Hall	£72.98
Card	Amazon	Hoop Road Sweeper /Litter Picker	£14.95
DD	Initial	Hall Supplies 11/04/ 11/05/2024	£55.88
Card	Bookmakers	20 Years Drinks	£145.50
Card	Waste Management	Hippo Bags	£1,613.43
Card	BT	Admin Telephone	£237.16
DD	HP Instant Ink	March	£18.49
DD	Nat West	Bank Charges	£13.69
Card	Hopes Grove Nurseries	Plants for Station	£105.73
			£3,987.98
		Unity Trust Bank	
423548572	N Beale	Bins -Cleaning feb24	£303.30
284245295	S Thomson	Flowers	£55.00
255058262	KALC	Councillors Training Data Protection	£44.40
142702304	phs Group	Black bags and washroom items	£78.52
10251101	K Giles	Planting at Station, tidy cemetery, pruning	£150.00
820298227	A Simmonds	Gift Voucher	£100.00
292833469	N Beale	Bins March	£303.30
620669540	GW Shelter Solutions	Replacement Bus Shelter School Road	£6,436.80
837931659	Charing C.E Primary	Donation re Sand pit	£400.00

	School		
215412385	Viking	Supplies admin and hall	£2.34
898938802	Four Seasons Fencing	Charing Heath Playing Field	£2,651.38
693269593	H Evers	Burial Fees 2023-2024	£400.00
583472373	KALC	Training The Dynamic Councillor)	£60.00
Paid	Playdale	50% Deposit Childrens swing	£4,731.38
459662937	Countywide Ground	Grass Cutting	£1,333.20
800797425	Zurich Insurance	2024-2025	£4,347.48
545118801	phs Group	Hall supplies	£59.00
246395241	CLA Consulting	July-March computer support	£380.00
87482971	RBS	Accounts software support 2024-2025	£230.40
952991879	Gary Friend	Website patches update	£40.00
70388559	phs Group	Services for 2 Hand dryers in Hall	£404.47
March	Staff Costs	PAYE/Pension and bank transfer	£7,717.08
			£30,228.05
		Nat West Bank/ Unity Trust Bank	
		VAT Refund	£1,240.74
		Zurich Ins Bus Shelter	£5,264.00
	UTB-CCLA-NW	Bank-CCL Interest	£737.92
		Hall Hire	£334.00
		Railway grant	£1,000.00
		Cemetery	£0.00
		Christmas Lights	£166.00
			£8,742.66

9.	Planning:
9.1	PA/2024/0482 Land at Brockton Farm Paddocks, Vicarage Lane, Charing Heath: Retrospective application for the continued use of land for a 4 no plot Gypsy/ Traveller Site with 5 no mobile homes, 4 no touring caravans, 4 no existing day rooms, 3 no existing access, 3no existing sheds. 1 no new access with associated fencing and landscaping. (unanimous) (recommend refusal)
9.2	20/00508/AS Land south of the Swan Hotel, Maidstone Road, Charing: Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00029/AS to consider the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for up to 131 dwellings (including up to 40% affordable housing) introduction of structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space and children's play area (LEAP), vehicular access from the A20/Maidstone Road and associated ancillary works (unanimous) (recommend refusal)
9.3	PA/2024/0520 Building adjacent to Kenylon Farm, Egg Hill Road Charing: Change of use and conversion of a redundant agricultural building and land within its curtilage to a dwelling house, along with landscape, parking and ecological enhancements following demolition of part of the building.

	(unanimous) (recommend support)
10.	Information:
10.1	It was confirmed that parish councils meeting could be held 3 times a year at Charing Heath. The two Charing Heath councillors will be holding a surgery in Charing Heath for residents to go along and discuss any issues they have; we are waiting for the date to be confirmed. Cllr White asked councillors to let the clerk know which roads they could deliver newsletters to so that we can work out. how many are needed to be posted. The Arts Society will meet on the 9 th May at 7.30pm.
10.2	The Bookmakers will be closing towards the end of June and update will be given if any further information comes forward.
	There being no further information the meeting closed at. 9pm