

**MINUTES OF THE CHARING PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY  
2nd MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH HALL**

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| 1. | <p><b>Apologies:</b> Borough Cllrs C Bell &amp; G Clarkson</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Chair J Leyland ; vice chair C Bain-Smith; T Reed; S Crawley; H Billot; A Gudge; D Bennett; N Blunt: C Prinn; S Hawkins; M Weekes; J Munro &amp; the clerk.</p>  |
| 2. | <p><b>Welcome:</b> The Chair welcomed 33 members of the public to the meeting and Wealden wheels and County councillor Charlie Simkins.</p>  |
| 3. | <p><b>Chairman's report:</b> This was Cllr Leyland's first annual meeting as Chair she thanked Cllr Reed for his support over the last year. Cllr Leyland also thanked Cllr Bain-Smith; fellow councillors all spouses as parish council work can have an impact on family life. We have a vacancy for Charing Heath and one for Charing. The last year we have been fighting the Oak , we need to ensure that it ends up in good hands. It could be sold to a community group. Cllr Billot &amp; Jane Emblem were thanked for their work on the neighbourhood plan. Cllrs Chris Prinn &amp; Anita Gudge were thanked for their work on the refurbishment of the play areas. The Archbishops Palace report by Historic England and A.B.C one of the options was for a mixture of Community hub, housing. The Charing Palace Project (CPP) has two years to come up with a feasible plan. The Spitalfields trust will be starting work on the Gatehouse shortly. The parish council had a meeting with CPP, Spitalfields Trust and representatives.</p> <p>Charing Heath is facing disruption with the sand quarry but we are fortunate to have good liaison with Bretts &amp; residents.</p> <p>Gladman objections have been received regarding the application. Housing expansion will overhang us over the next few years with pressure to build more homes; Ashford is expected to increase by a third. Villages cannot escape entirely with the Neighbourhood Plan we will have some control in the future.</p> <p>Roads and parking are a big problem within the parish. Volunteers are required to help with setting up the speed watch programme.</p> <p>Cllr Leyland thanked Hilary Evers our Burial clerk, Robert the Road sweeper, Christine caretaker for the hall and public toilets, Jo Munro RFO &amp; Dawne for all their hard work over the last year.</p> |
| 4. | <p><b>Finance Report:</b> Last year's annual surplus was 18,000 against budget of 28,000. The last year has been challenging with additional costs from The Oak , Gladman, Orbit and Neighbourhood Plan. Any grant money obtained for the Neighbourhood Plan that has not been used is required to be sent back and a new application applied for the current financial year. Income from the Cemetery has not been as high this year. Play areas Through S106 money the play areas are being refurbished before the school summer holidays. The clerk is now full time due to the additional workload which has incurred additional costs. We may need to fund a traffic survey for the Gladman application and seek legal advice.</p> <p>The reserves are in a healthy position.</p>   |
| 5. | <p><b>Planning report:</b> This year has been no easier than the previous year a decision on Orbit and the open housing is expected soon. Cllrs have spent many hours/ days attending A.B.C / KCC meetings. Our recommendations do not always please everyone all of the time. We are being threatened with more housing than we want.</p> <p>Planning is the most time consuming and important work of the council. We are striving to protect the character of the parish.</p> <p>I am grateful to Jill who took over as Chair and to fellow councillors who bring a multitude of skills</p>   |

	with them.
6.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan:</b> We are hoping to retain the character of the parish with the proposed development. Too much development will lose the green space for the future. We need safe pavements and more parking. We need to retain the local shops. We need the community to stay engaged and support the plan to 2032. The NP is community led framework to guide future development it is not just about housing. It is about parking, employment, protection of open spaces, roads and parking. Our plan will become part of a development plan with A.B.C. It will have a greater impact on shops for the future of Charing. Workshops and task groups are planned in Oct/Nov. The Estate agents have sponsored the boards and gifts have been given from a number of businesses.</p> <p>1380 questionnaires' were delivered by volunteers and we have had a response of 800the deadline has been extended to 22<sup>nd</sup> May. We have employed a community engagement consultant. Policies need to be written. Further meetings with A.B.C are required.</p>
7.	<p><b>Charitable Trusts:</b> Janet McIntyre reported on the Ludwell Trust. Ralph Blake had retired as a trustee.</p>
8.	<p><b>Wealden Wheels:</b> Tim Lee explained that they have been running for 15 years as a community transport programme. We have four buses now and two fulltime coordinators. Charing has supported the scheme from day one. We have helped in the last year with the Post office situation and ferried residents to the post office in Challock. We are grateful for the financial support from Charing PC and KCC.</p>
9.	<p><b>Information:</b> The post office officially opens under Sarah Crawley on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 13.00. The shop will be known as Cards Collective. There is a new open plan office inside and everything is more secure.</p>
10.	<p><b>Community Awards:</b> We had four nominees for the Community Award and no one nominated for the Youth Award. The nominees were Kevin Giles, Sheila Finn- Kelcey , Phillada Pym &amp; Brian Fitzmaurice. The winners were tie this year with the same amount of votes. Phillada Pym &amp; Sheila Finn –Kelcey.</p>
	<b>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm</b>

Signed .....