

Precept

Regretfully we have had to raise the precept (the Parish Council share of council tax) for 2020/2021 by around 5% as you will see when your council tax bills arrive. Like many other Parish Councils we are finding increasing costs both through more regulation (eg Data protection requirements) and because squeezed Local Authorities higher up the chain are passing down things to us. While we have ideas as to how we might increase our income from other sources in the longer term in the short term there is little we can do.

Only a small part of our expenditure is discretionary. Salaries have to be paid, tree problems addressed, playgrounds kept so they meet safety standards and buildings maintained. Most of that which is discretionary – such as cutting the grass and keeping key roads clear of litter – are matters where we inevitably receive complaints if they are not done well. And there are occasional major items such as the Neighbourhood Plan (partly but by no means entirely paid by grants) and CCTV which many of you have asked for. More on all this at the Annual Parish Meeting in early May. **Jill**

Sheep worrying.

Sheep worrying incidents are always distressing, and some have occurred in the parish recently. Animal owners have legal responsibilities. Farmers are expected to have stock proof fences to keep their animals in, but they are not obliged to fence to keep other people's animals out. Farmers are not obliged to notify the public that there is livestock in their fields. Dog owners are responsible for keeping their dogs secure in their homes or gardens, and for keeping them under control when they are out. There is no general "right to roam" except in designated areas; owners walking public footpaths through fields should keep their dogs on a lead unless they have the permission of the farmer to let them run. The chasing instinct is strong in many dogs, and the cuddly family pet is capable of sheep worrying. Sadly, it, or worse they if more than one, having once experienced the thrill of the chase and the kill, will seek it again, and can no longer be trusted. The consequences can be that sheep are mauled to death, subsequently die of fright or their injuries, and can abort if in lamb. This is distressing and expensive for the farmer, and can be very expensive for the dog owner who is legally responsible for the actions of the dog. **Corry**

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Remember the 31st December 1894 - and an appeal! (Some dates are worth commemorating.)

It was on the 31st December 125 years ago that the new Charing Parish Council held its... **Cont:-**

...first meeting in the Victoria Hall above the Royal Oak in The High Street. Much has happened in Charing in the last hundred and twenty five years. Though the population and the dwellings they live in have increased enormously businesses have come and gone but are far fewer that back in 1894. Your parish council are looking at ways of commemorating this important milestone in our history – more news on this when we have it.

Though we don't always get our way, what has not changed is the commitment your councillors' have to fight for the people of the parish just as your first councillors did.

HELP. In the meantime I have been looking through the Catalogue of CPC Documents that the late Pat Winzar produced for us and going through the records and can find no mention anywhere of what is, I believe to be, the first book of copy letters the CPC sent out. In those days it was probably the only way of recording out-going letters. The important historic book will give an insight into day to day communications between your council, traders and residents like no other document can. The last time I saw the hard bound book was around 2004 but as mentioned above it was not recorded by Pat. It may have been borrowed around that date, if by any chance you, or someone you know, borrowed it we would love to have it returned to our clerk, Dawne Austen at 6 Haffenden Meadow. Thank you.

Tylden

VE Day and VJ day – ideas please!

There is a lot to commemorate this year. (Leaving aside the 125th anniversary of Charing Parish Council which you may or may not feel worth celebrating....) The key event will of course be the 500th anniversary of the Field of the Cloth of Gold (see separate article). But importantly this year is also the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. VE day is to be celebrated nationally on Friday May 8th and the subsequent weekend and Charing should join in. One event is the national ringing of church bells at 7pm – we are waiting to hear from the bellringers if we can participate in this.

The parish council feels that VJ day, which was the actual end of the war, should be equally commemorated and that it is important to remember the ordeals that those fighting out East underwent as well as what happened in Europe. So we have two commemorations and are looking for ideas. Perhaps two “street parties” – the May one for children as it is in school term and the August one for everyone? Lighting our brazier? Exhibition of photos of Charing at the time? A film? Ideas please (and volunteers to help organise..) **Jill**

Highways news

I am delighted to say that the proposal to install a 30mph speed limit in Charing Heath and a 40 mph limit along Charing Heath Road has passed its final hurdle so will go ahead. It now remains for KCC to turn the Traffic Regulation Order into a legal document and then to engage contractors and acquire the signs. KCC Highways expect them to be installed in April/May time.



KCC Highways required the Parish Council to fund or find the funds for this project which costs £12,454. It would have been impossible for us to fund this entirely on our own so we are enormously grateful to those who have promised to contribute since without them this would not happen. Help has come from our KCC councillor, Charlie Simkins, and the ward councillor for Charing Heath, Clair Bell who gave us significant sums from their donations budgets. Help has also come from some companies and from some private individuals who have been ready to dip into their own pockets. Some donors wish to remain anonymous but it will be our pleasure to acknowledge the others in a future newsletter.

KCC have £2.1 million from the government to improve safety on the A252 from Charing to Chilham. At the Charing end (that is Charing Hill, the Northern Bypass and the start of the Canterbury Road) the proposals have been strongly influenced by Charing’s own Highways Working Group; KCC Highways have accepted a number of our suggestions. Watch this space for final details of the plans and for news of when the work will be done.

Meanwhile the Highways Working Group is looking at other highways issues in the Parish, including, of course, the A20/Station Road/High Street crossroads and slowing A20 traffic. **Jill**

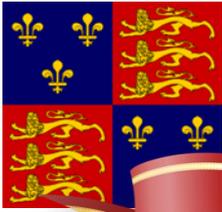
Neighbourhood Plan

Now that we have reached the stage of publishing a formal draft Neighbourhood Plan (known as the Regulation 14 stage) it starts to have some limited weight in planning decisions. From now on as it progresses it will gather weight and when finally completed it will have the same weight as Ashford’s own Local Plan.

Many thanks to those of you who came to the exhibitions in January. It was lovely to have the chance to talk to everyone about what is proposed and hear comments and suggestions. If you came to the exhibition and have not yet sent us your comments please remember to do so – you can either comment on-line (www.charingkent.org and you will see an online comment form on the neighbourhood plan pages) or by putting a written form in the Parish Council box in the post office (on the wall to your right when you are at the counter).

If you were not able to come to the exhibition you can see the Plan and all supporting documents on the website www.charingkent.org . Or you can borrow a printed copy (**contact Dawne on 713599 or cpclerk@chargingkent.org** .

Either way we do want to hear what you think, good or bad. The deadline for comments has been extended to 5pm on February 21st . Jill



Henry VIII's Journey...



The Field of Cloth of Gold

Come and join the celebrations at this year's Charing Fete, marking 500 years since Henry stayed here en route to the Field of Cloth of Gold in France.

A whole weekend of activities are planned, with the Fete taking on a Tudor theme on Saturday 27th June and displays of Tudor skills and trades on Sunday 28th June 2020.

- Meet the King and Queen and royal courtiers, see the falconry, hear the Tudor pedlar telling his stories, talk to the apothecary and see the potions being made as well as other crafts including spinning, and charm making.
- See some interesting local "finds" and let the children hunt for special coins!
- Add to the fun by coming in costume – watch for details of workshops so you can make your own outfit!! Best outfits will win a "Tudor" prize.
- In addition, The Grove Singers will be performing in the Parish church on Friday 26th June, with readings by Charing & District Local History Society. Even the Sunday morning service in church will have a Tudor theme!

Look out for some surprise events in the run up to this very special weekend. More detailed information will be available soon on the website charingparish.org. Meantime, if you would like to volunteer to make costumes, decorations etc please leave your name and contact details at "44" in the High St.

Dog Fouling

This appears to be on the increase within the village and on our footpaths. Most dog owners are aware of their responsibilities and take every precaution to remove this menace and we thank you. **This polite reminder is to those who don't!**



Not only is it an offence and you can be prosecuted, it's a health hazard and just horrible. cpc

A message from KCC and ABC Highway teams.

With Spring approaching, we ask that all property and land owners note the following:

If the boundary of your property borders the footway, then please be aware that: The full width of the footway/pavement must be available for use by pedestrians. As well, there must be a minimum height clearance over the footway/pavement of 2.1 metres/7 feet for any vegetation.

If the boundary of your property borders the carriageway, then please be aware that: If you have vegetation that overhangs into the road, there must be a minimum height clearance of 5 metres/16 feet to accommodate buses and HGVs that may use the road. If your property is rural, then vegetation should be 0.45 metres/1 1/2 feet behind the edge of the road and all signs need to be kept clear of foliage.

NEED A VENUE FOR A PARTY,

**WEDDING RECEPTION,
DISCO, CLUB OR MEETING?**

CHARING PARISH HALL

Sprung floor, mobile stage,

Kitchen, Reasonable rates.

Discounts for parishioners .Small meeting room available.

Tel 01233713599

Community & Youth Award 2020

The Annual Community & Youth award is presented to residents of Charing or Charing Heath who have given outstanding service to their village over a period of years. If you know of any candidates who have given this sort of service please do nominate them. The Youth element of this award is for 11—18 year olds.

The Community & Youth award 2020 will be presented at our Annual Parish Open Meeting in May. A nomination form is printed below.

All Charing / Charing Heath residents are invited to submit a nomination. Only one nomination per resident please, but all adult members of a family may submit a nomination form.

Completed forms, in a sealed envelope, should be left at: The Post Office, or they may also be sent to the Clerk at 6 Haffenden Meadow Charing TN27 OJR.

The closing date for receiving voting forms will be 4th April.

Photocopy forms are accepted or for more forms contact the Clerk, Dawne Austen, on 713599.



Community & Youth Award 2020 / Nomination Form

I would like to nominate for the Community* / Youth* Award (*Delete as appropriate)

Nominee Name.....

Proposer* / Print Name.....**Signed**.....

***Only one vote per resident. In the event of a tie the award may be given to more than one person. For details of returning this form see above.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Councillors - Charing</p> <p>Mrs Gillian Leyland (Chair) 713798 Lady C Bain Smith (vice chair) 712594 Mrs A Gudge (vice chair) 714068 Mrs S Easun 07761448607 Mr J Gilliver G6JPG255soft.uk Mrs S Hawkins 07841978748 Mr T Reed 713136 or 07767861003</p> <p>Rural Community Warden Peter Beadsley 07977981990</p> <p>PCSO Aaron Newell (Charing) 101 PCSO Carin Andrews (Charing Heath) 101</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Councillors Charing Heath</p> <p>Mr D Bennet 712054 Mr C Prinn 07872190187</p> <p>Borough Councillors</p> <p>Mr G Clarkson (Charing) 712081 Mrs C Bell (C/Heath) 07970885065 Mr C Simkins (County Cllr) 756705</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Mrs D Austen 713599</p> <p>Burial Clerk</p> <p>Mrs H Evers 632671</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Charing Parish Newsletter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor: Dawne Austen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions or correspondence for May Newsletter should be sent to: 6 Haffenden Meadow Charing Kent TN27 OJR Tel: 01233 713599 Email: cpclerk@btinternet.com</p>
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