

AGENDA

Charing Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm
Top Room Charing Parish Hall.

Dawne Austen
 Parish Clerk

1.	Apologies for absence. Cllrs J Strike & T Reed
2.	In attendance: Chair C Prinn; vice chairs D Bennett & C Bain-Smith; Cllrs O Worsfold; D Gudge; T Hayward; J White; S Woodbridge; C Allen; J Bignall; The clerk & RFO. Borough Cllr Y Roden.
3.	Minutes silence for County Councillor Charlie Simkins was observed.
4.	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.
5.	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)
6.	Co-option of councillor: J Bignall signed the declaration of acceptance.
8.	Sandra Edmonds re Community Warden: Sandra along with the Community Warden Sally introduced themselves and Sally informed councillors of what she had carried out during the first few weeks of her working in Charing:
9.	John Britt Lenham Parish Council: A long discussion was held with John explaining where they were with Maidstone Borough Council and the next steps and meetings that were being held. Monthly meetings were being held, and a tick box exercise will finish in November. Outline planning for the Heathlands development could go be presented in Nov 2026. Network Rail have said they will not pay for the new station at Lenham Heath. Charing and Lenham stations would not close at present, but trains may not stop. The first stage of building for the Heathlands development would be opposite Countryways on the A20.
10.	Minutes of previous meetings: These were agreed and signed.
11.	Matters Arising:
11.1	The Oak: An idea has been put to the owner re the possibility of residents being able to rent spaces until the pub re opens. Along with this & other areas will be looked at for additional parking.
11.2	CCTV update: A software upgrade is required by ABC before the connection can go live. We are just waiting for approval and a date.
11.3	Cemetery: It was agreed that the Astro Turf was to be removed, and letters have been sent to the families concerned. It was a unanimous decision that the gridlock system would be used.
11.4	Enforcement Training (report): The clerk will contact ABC re the slides for the event and circulate. ABC only have four enforcement officers three full time and one part time. This

	is understaffed for the large area ABC covers.
11.5	VE Day (80 th Anniversary 8 th May): The Beacon will be lit at the official time of 9.30 pm in the sundial garden.
11.6	Local Government Reorganisation: Deferred to next meeting
11.7	Donation request ABPF: A donation of £200 was agreed towards the Zipwire.
12.	Finance:
12.1.	The following accounts were approved.

		Nat West Bank	
DD	Ashford Borough Council	Rates Cemetery	£0.00
DD	Sage	Payroll March	£12.00
DD	Nat West	Charges	£7.35
DD	South East Water	Cemetery 20-08-24 to 23/01/2025	£85.99
DD	British Gas	6-01-2025 to 5/02/2025 Public Toilets Electric	£85.20
DD	Initial	Hall Contract 11-03-2025-10-04-2025	£62.74
Card	Express Cleaners	Hall/Toilets supplies	£109.82
Card	Microsoft	Subscription	£104.99
Card	Express Cleaners	Hall extra cleaning material	£59.42
Card	Boy's Hall	C Brown for painting village sign	£250.00
DD	British Gas	Period 02-02-2025 to 01-03-2025 Hall	£789.28
DD	Business Stream	Water Public Conveniences	£341.04
			£1,907.83
		Unity Trust Bank	
399360055	Party Packs Ltd.	Bunting 20*20mtr VE day	£357.26
809298491	Chubb	Annual Charges 6 extinguishers	£352.36
70133918	Triple 9 Services	Various Village Maintenance Feb	£851.00
384018282	phs Group	hand/ air dryers/ hall years contract	£444.84
506912742	Medash Signs	CCTV Signs for Charing	£224.40
326365863	Charing Fete	Charing Fete Donation	£750.00
950100239	C.J. Brown	Village Sign Painting	£466.26
583815064	Countrywide	Grass cutting	£1,333.20
445384284	N Beale	Bins & Cleaning Plus extra clean Men's Toilets	£323.20
95741353	Zurich	Insurance 1-4-2025 to 31-03-2026	£4,676.26
39804879	KCC	40mph Faversham Road Speed plan	£2,626.86
306876564	Ashford Web Service	Website corrections and plugins & back=up	£80.00
N/K	S Thomson	Flowers to C Brown	£45.00
N/K	Viking	Admin Supplies	£68.60
Staff Costs	Bank Transfer Unity Bank		£7,875.38
			£20,474.62

		Nat West Bank/ Unity Trust Bank	
		VAT Refund Jan	£1,942.95
		Interest/CCLA-N.West	£694.14
		Hall (Jan)	£375.00
		Cemetery	£1,100.00
		Christmas \Lights	£100.00
			£4,212.09

13.	Planning Applications:
13.2	NOT/2025/0232 Mill Cottage, Tile Lodge Road Charing Heath: Prior Notification received on 10/2/2025 and expiring on 24/3/25 for a single storey rear extension with a depth of 4.60m, eaves height of 2.40m and overall height of 3.80m (unanimous) (recommend support)
13.3	PA/2025/0060 Former Rainbow Chinese Restaurant and Takeaway Ashford Road Charing: Advertisement consent for 3 illuminated signs to the front and side elevations. (1 abstention 11 for) (recommend support)
13.4	PA/2025/0326 The Shack, Stalisfield Church Road Charing: Proposed self-build dwelling with associated parking and amenity space following the demolition of existing outbuildings. (unanimous) (recommend support)
13.5	PA/2025/0342 Fayre Acre, Church Hill Charing Heath: Proposed single storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing extension. (unanimous)(recommend support)
13.6	PA/2025/0388 Fayre Acre, Church Hill. Charing Heath: Listed Building Consent for the proposed demolition of existing modern single storey extension and replacement with single storey rear extension (unanimous) (recommend support)
13.7	PA/2025/0289 Apple Blues Farm, Vicarage Lane Charing Heath: Construction of a private way and hardstanding for agricultural purposes (Retrospective) (unanimous) (recommend refusal)
13.8	PA/2025/0281 1 Westwell Leacon, Leacon Lane, Charing, proposed additional windows to the first and second floor side elevation, proposed roof extension plus rear dormer & front rooflight and associated internal works. (unanimous) (recommend support)
13.9	PA/2025/0361 Weirton, Charing Heath Road, Charing: Proposed ground and first floor extensions, with the first-floor extension incorporating rooflights and a walk out balcony to the rear elevation(unanimous) (recommend support)
13	Planning Decisions:
14.	Information:
14.1	Cllrs Prinn & Bennett put a proposal to councillors regarding Parsons Mead that the Parish Council look into the possibility of purchasing the land.
14.2	Cllr Gudge reported that two residents who have contributed to the community had recently passed away these were Ron Spicer and Benita Blake.
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.