

AGENDA

MINUTES

Charing Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.30pm
Top Room Charing Parish Hall.

Dawne Austen
Parish Clerk

1.	Apologies for absence: Cllr j Bignall.
2.	In attendance: Chair C Prinn; vice Chairs D Bennett & C Bain-Smith; Cllrs D Gudge; J Strike; O Worsfold; T Hayward' S Woodbridge; J White; C Allen; T Reed; The clerk; The RFO and Borough Cllrs Y Roden & C Bell.
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) Two members of public in attendance.
5.	Reconnecting our ancient woodland (Terry Thompson) Mr Thompson explained the work that was being carried out by the organisation in protecting woodland areas and animals in particular the decline in Adders and other wild animals. Replanting and Rewilding is taking place in areas and Highways are looking at introducing a Highway Protection Areas throughout Kent.
6.	Minutes of previous meetings: These were agreed and signed.
7.	Matters Arising:
7.1	Community Warden Report: The report was circulated to all councillors.
7.2	CCTV update: The clerk and RFO updated councillors on the CCTV and the monitoring.
7.3	Reorganisation: Due to the Government Reorganisation the only Asset that could possibly be passed onto the parish council would be The Library. Further meetings and training sessions for councillors on the implications that could and will affect the parish will be ongoing.
7.4	Charing Fete (council stand): It was agreed not to have a stand at the fete this year.
7.5	VE Day Beacon Lighting (80 th Anniversary 8 th May): Beacons will be lit in Charing & Charing Heath this year with Terry White lighting the Beacon in Charing.
7.6	Cemetery re Astro turf update: Ongoing communications are taking place with the family. The astro turf can possibly be left immediately in front of the bench but all other families to remove.
7.7	Responsibilities of the Council: The Clerk updated councillors on the responsibilities.

7.8	Annual Meeting 13 th May: The clerk will organise the refreshments and advertise the meeting.
7.9	Committee Representatives and Members May meeting: All councillors were made aware that this was to be renewed at the next meeting.
7.10	Newsletter: All inclusions for the newsletter were to be with Cllr Worsfold by the 18 th April.
7.11	Community Award: The Community Award nominees were named, and the clerk will contact them and invite them to the meeting on the 13 th May.
8.	Finance:
8.1	The following accounts were approved.
8.2	Banking: It was unanimously decided to close the Nat West account and transfer banking to the Unity Trust Bank.
8.3	Councillors Laptops: The councillors lap tops are over 5 years old, and some councillors are starting to have issues with them. It was agreed to change them in October but due to the issues they may need to be replaced sooner, Cllr Bignall will look into the costs and specification required and report back to council/ Finance committee.

08/04/2025	Payee Name	Details	Amount Paid
			Nat West Bank
DD	Ashford Borough Council	Rates Cemetery April x1	£72.08
DD	Ashford Borough Council	Rates Cemetery May x 9	£71.00
DD	Sage	Payroll April	£12.00
Card	British Gas	Period 6-2 to 5-3 Public Con	£99.15
DD	Cartridge Save	Toners RFO	£171.48
DD	Nat West	Bank Charges Feb	£16.31
Card	Waste Management	Hippo Bags (Open Spaces /Cemetery)	£1,371.73
Card	British Telecom	700631919 Clerks Telephone	£254.01
DD	HP Ink	Admin	£18.49
DD	Sky	Phone	£9.50
DD	Nat West	Bank Charges March	£18.49
DD	Weald of Kent	Membership	£25.00
			£2,139.24
		Unity Trust Bank	
915624971	Phs	Cleaning Supplies for Hall	£52.82
780008108	D Gudge	Timpson Engraving Village Sign	£48.00
N/K	KALC	Training April/May for Councillor	£120.00
606910843	CJA Consulting	Set up Laptop for New Councillor	£150.00
236103850	Viking	Doc Wallets Admin	£41.39
952641891	Triple 9 Services	Village maintenance	£452.50
N/K	H Evers	Burial Clerk April 24- March 25	£350.00

783730347	KCC	Warden to 31-3-2025	£838.36
558375057	KALC	2025-2026 Subscription	£1,177.44
110982415	Charing Playing Fields	Donation	£200.00
925287.61	Community Rail Network	Subscription	£30.00
771719031	KALC	RFO (ARAG) Year end audit courses	£84.00
	Staff Costs		£9,981.95
			£13,526.46
		Nat West Bank/ Unity Trust Bank	
		VAT Refund Feb	£932.30
		Interest/NW	£144.56
		Hall Feb/March	£1,357.00
		Cemetery	£150.00
		Christmas \Lights	£630.00
		Receipt CCTV Poppyfields	£743.78
			£3,957.64

9.	Planning:
9.1	PA/2025/0389 Land south of Ashford Road and east of, Burleigh Road, Charing: Erection of 2 no. car wash bays. (unanimous) (recommend support)
9.2	PA/2025/0493 Pilgrims House Pilgrims Way Charing: Variation of of condition 2 (Approved Plans), 11 (window Openings-Obscure Glass) and 14 (Time Limit-for use of outbuildings) of planning permission PA/2022/2449(proposed construction of a replacement dwelling, carport out building and landscaping. Retrospective use of the overall footprint to be reduced, layout amended, retention of the workshop, changes to fenestration, and increase the time limit for use of the outbuilding from 2 years to 3 years and then allow this to be an ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling.(unanimous)(recommend support)
9.3	PA/2025/0441 Beechside, Pilgrims Way Charing: Proposed garage conversion into self-contained living accommodation (unanimous) (recommend support with the condition that the two properties cannot be sold separately in the future)
9.4	PA/2025/0445 The Old Shaw, Shaw Grange Maidstone Road Charing: Proposal for a two-storey detached garage, to include an annexe to the first floor.(unanimous)(recommend support)
9.5	PA/2025/0398 48 High Street, Charing: Change of use from mixed use property as a shop and dwelling to single dwelling, no physical alterations taking place. (unanimous) (recommend support as an exceptional circumstance)
9.6	PA/2025/0442 Dormstone Cottage, Stone Stile Farm Road Charing: Proposed single storey side and rear extension with rooflight. (unanimous) (recommend support)
	Planning Decisions:
10.	Information:
10.1	Cllr Hayward reported on correspondence from residents of Hart Hill/ Stone Stile Road that HGV's are getting stuck. The Highways committee are looking into signage.
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

