

Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council

held on Tuesday 7th July 2020, via Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions

Present

Cllr Peter Briggs
Cllr Lee Cooper (Chairman)
Cllr Ian Crisp
Cllr Simon Phillips
Cllr Lorraine Player
Cllr Chris Turner
Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after agenda item 8)

Residents and Visitors

0 residents

1	Apologies for absence	
	None	
2	Declaration of Interest for this meeting	
	None	
3	Virtual Meeting Policy	
	The Clerk had circulated a draft policy which outlines procedures and expectations for Cllrs and members of the public when taking part in virtual meetings. This is to be used alongside the Standing Orders of the Parish Council. Cllr Briggs proposed the Parish Council accepts the virtual meeting policy as drafted, this was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement. The policy is available on the website.	Clerk
4	Public Forum	
	None.	
5	Minutes	
	Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 19 th May 2020 were proposed by Cllr Briggs as a true record, seconded by Cllr Crisp with all in agreement. The minutes will be signed when the Parish Council can meet face to face.	
5	County and District Cllr Report	
	County and District Cllr Susan Barker began with an update on the financial position at Uttlesford which as a result of the challenges from Covid is heading for a deficit in 2020/21 of £4-5m; decrease in car park revenue, drop in planning revenue, increase in universal credit claims impacting council tax payments. Uttlesford is pressing ahead with investment opportunities which should generate income to help support the shortfall in government	

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	<p>funding, this was part of the long-term plan prior to Covid. Essex County Council is in a similar financial position and is also expecting shortfalls in revenue. ECC has begun to open libraries and to register births and manage marriage arrangements, which were on hold due to Covid restrictions.</p> <p>Cllr Barker suggested the Parish Council uses the planning application for the Salts Green sand and gravel extraction site as an opportunity to apply for a 30mph zone and request this is included as a condition. Cllr Briggs commented that he was unsure if it was a planning condition, however agreed it is worth requesting and at the same time considering a request to the Uttlesford Highway Panel.</p> <p>The Clerk asked Cllr Barker to follow up the previous requests to clear overhanging vegetation from the footpath along the A1060. The Clerk will forward the last email correspondence from Essex Highways which suggested they would reassess their decision that work was not necessary, once the vegetation had grown up.</p>	Clerk
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence</p> <p>Nothing to report in addition to the items which are on the agenda</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillor's Updates</p> <p>7.1 Environment and Health – Cllr Crisp commented on the complaints received about dog fouling and confirmed additional signage had been put up. The meeting reminded residents that the Uttlesford Animal Warden can take action against owners, however this needs evidence to be submitted, e.g. locations, times, in order to be investigated.</p> <p>8.2 Transport – Nothing to report</p> <p>8.3 Communication – The Parish Council is aware Gigaclear are actively surveying the parish in preparation for works to install fibre Wi-Fi.</p> <p>8.4 Local Government – Nothing to report</p> <p><i>County and District Cllr Barker leaves the meeting</i></p>	
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p> <p>9.1 Applications – None</p> <p>9.2 Decisions - None</p> <p>9.3 For information only. The Chelmsford Local Plan has been adopted by Chelmsford City Council. This confirms the allocation of Warren Farm (Strategic Growth Site 2 - West Chelmsford) for new homes, a primary school, community facilities and areas of open space for sports and recreation. The site is accessed from the existing A1060 roundabout at Writtle and extends east towards the Chignal estate. The City Council launched a public consultation on the revised Masterplan (reference 18/00001/MAS) with comments by 3rd July. The details can be viewed at this link, http://warrenfarmsite.co.uk/.</p>	

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<p>9.4</p>	<p>Cllr Briggs commented on the cumulative impact of traffic along the A1060 and through Margaret Roding that would arise during the construction and once this site was occupied.</p> <p>The Parish Council considered planning application ESS/77/20/CHL for sand and gravel extraction at Shellow Cross Farm, with access at Salts Green on the A1060. Cllr Briggs had read the documentation and led the discussion. The key points to note are,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan is for the extraction to take 8 years and there to be 2 years of restoration, i.e. 10 years in total. • The proposal would see 'inert' waste brought to site to fill the hole created by the extraction and the land would be returned to agricultural use at the end of the 10 years. • This is an application on only a small part of the approved site in the Essex Minerals and Waste local plan, we will have to wait and see if a further planning application is submitted. • This proposed plan is an improvement on the original local plan which would have seen all vehicle movements being directed away from Chelmsford and via Margaret Roding and to the main trunk roads including the M11. • Access to the site will be via the existing agricultural access which is directly opposite Chalk End. Cllrs noted that vehicles approach this section of the A1060, in both directions at 60mph and were concerned that HGVs slowing to turn into the site would create a safety hazard. • It is suggested 30% of vehicle movements from the site will turn towards Margaret Roding, 70% towards Chelmsford. Based on the estimated number of vehicles this equates to an additional 3 vehicles per hour through Margaret Roding which when considered alongside the additional traffic from the development at Warren Farm will noticeably add to the traffic. • An objection from residents at Peppers Green which included concerns on noise and dust had also been circulated to the Parish Council. <p>Cllr Briggs proposed that the Parish Council objects to the planning application due to the impact on residents of Margaret Roding as a result of the increased traffic on the A1060, the size of the vehicles which will pass through the village and the danger they will cause to pedestrians using the footpath and to property as a result of vibration. This was seconded by Cllr Crisp with all in agreement.</p> <p>Cllr Briggs went on to propose that the objection includes a request for a condition limiting the speed to 40mph from Peppers Green Lane to the parish boundary with Leaden Roding and 30mph within the centre of the village. This was seconded by Cllr Crisp with all in agreement. The Clerk was also asked to submit an application for the speed reduction to the Uttlesford Highway Panel.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed contact had been made and information shared with Roxwell and Good Easter Parish Councils who were also both objecting. The final submissions for each Parish Council will be circulated to all Cllrs.</p>	<p>Cllr Briggs/ Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>Cllrs discussed the overgrown footpaths where vegetation from the verge is encroaching onto the paths, this is particularly a problem on the stretch between the property Hillinor and Ongar Road; Clerk to report.</p> <p>Cllr Phillips commented on the ditch behind The Gossetts which was maintained previously by Uttlesford; Clerk has sent a request to Uttlesford to clear and will chase.</p>	

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	<p>The ditch on the land adjacent to the junction of Marks Hall Lane and the A1060 is also in need of clearing and the Clerk was asked to contact the landowner for assistance.</p> <p>Cllr Phillips raised the overgrown laurel at the junction of Marks Hall Lane and The Gossetts which is reducing visibility for highway users exiting The Gossetts. Cllr Phillips will follow up with the resident.</p>	Cllr Phillips
11	Review of 2019/20 Accounts	
11.1	PKF Littlejohn (Parish Council appointed external auditors) has confirmed acceptance of the exemption certificate for 2019/20. Providing there are no issues raised by electors during the notice period, this will conclude correspondence for the accounts to March 2020.	Clerk
11.2	The internal auditor completed the review of the 2019/20 accounts. There were no areas of concern, and the Parish Council considered and acknowledged the report.	
11.3	Cllr Cooper proposed that the Parish Council approves the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 AGAR) for the year 2019/20. This was seconded by Cllr Player with all in agreement.	
11.4	Cllr Player proposed that the Parish Council approves the Annual Accounting Statements (Section 2 AGAR) for the year 2019/20. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement.	
	The Clerk will arrange for the required documentation to be available on the Parish Council website.	
12	Salt Bag Partnership	
	Essex Highways will be operating the winter salt scheme for 2020/21 whereby Parish Councils are allocated salt to be used within the local community; the salt cannot be used on public highways or private drives. Cllr Phillips confirmed the Parish Council has sufficient stocks from previous years. Cllr Phillips proposed that the Parish Council takes part in the scheme, however, does not require any further salt. This was seconded by Cllr Crisp with all in agreement.	Clerk
	Cllr Phillips to check the status of the salt in the bin in The Gossetts car park.	Cllr Phillips
13	Funding for a PCSO	
	The Parish Council considered a request from Hatfield Heath Parish Council for joint funding by local Parish Councils of a dedicated PCSO, annual cost is estimated at £40k. Cllrs considered there are insufficient local issues to warrant the resource.	Clerk
14	Welcome Pack	
	Cllrs considered whether to create a separate welcome pack page on the website. In conclusion they were of the view the website contains sufficient information for any new residents.	

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15	Finance	
15.1	<p>Cllr Briggs proposed the following cheques be issued; this was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement.</p> <p>Allison Ward (Parish Clerk salary June and July 2020 plus expenses) £ 122.62 Karen Weare (Internal Audit) £ 25.00 Rural Community Council of Essex (Annual subscription) £ 52.80</p>	Clerk
15.2	The VAT refund for 2019/20 of £8.80 has been received.	
15.3	Cllr Crisp proposed a grant of £50 be made to the Rodings Dream Team in recognition of their support to residents of Margaret Roding including the face mask tree in the bus stop. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement. Clerk to arrange.	Clerk
15.4	The Clerk presented the accounts for the period April to June 2020 including an updated estimate for 2020/21; these were accepted by the Parish Council. The closing cash position as at June 2020 was £7,332.	
16	Items for next Agenda	
	Nothing in addition to the items identified as carrying forward.	
17	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.30pm. It is expected this meeting will take place via Zoom.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 8.50pm.</p>	