

# Margaret Roding Parish Council

## MINUTES

### Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council

held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, via Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions

#### Present

Cllr Peter Briggs  
Cllr Lee Cooper (chairman)  
Cllr Ian Crisp (from item 5)  
Cllr Simon Phillips  
Cllr Chris Turner  
Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after agenda item 7.2)

#### Residents and Visitors

0 residents

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
	Cllr Lorraine Player sent apologies to the meeting due to work commitments, this was accepted by the Parish Council.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest for this meeting</b>	
	None	
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
	None	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
	Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 were proposed by Cllr Cooper as a true record, seconded by Cllr Briggs with all in agreement. The minutes will be signed by Cllr Cooper when the Parish Council can meet face to face.	
<b>5</b>	<b>County and District Cllr Report</b>	
	<p><i>Cllr Ian Crisp joins the meeting</i></p> <p>County and District Cllr Susan Barker confirmed she had been out and about in the parish delivering leaflets ahead of the Essex County Council elections on 6 May.</p> <p>Cllr Barker reported on District Council news and began by confirming she had abstained from the recent Council decision on investment over concerns it was not ethically right. The meeting was reminded Local Plan call for sites and responses to the mini consultations are due in by 21 April. The planning application for the new 'all through' school in Dunmow will go to Essex planning committee this week, Cllr Barker confirmed she would be speaking at the meeting and commenting on what she believed was a poor road design.</p> <p>Cllr Barker outlined the investment Essex County Council were making in schools and noted that 89% of schools in Essex were good or outstanding. School transport is provided with 25% of the county's home to school transport cost being spent in Uttlesford. The County Council has provided 5,000 laptops for use by children during lockdown and set up Covid testing and</p>	Clerk

Signed  
Lee Cooper  
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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	<p>vaccination centres. Additional funding has been provided to each Local Highways Panel which should allow them to deliver local projects. And the County has planted over 37,000 trees.</p> <p>Cllr Briggs asked if Cllr Barker had been able to obtain the report from the jetting crew who had attended earlier in the year, Cllr Barker agreed to chase.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence</b></p> <p>Progress on the defibrillator remains outstanding.</p>	Clerk
<b>7</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Councillor's Updates</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b> Environment and Health - Cllr Phillips reported on a successful village litter pick on 13 March and the majority of the village was covered and resulted in 12 bags of rubbish plus the usual collection of car parts and tyres.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Transport – Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>County and District Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting.</i></p> <p><b>7.3</b> Communication – Cllr Crisp provided an update on fibre broadband and confirmed he had received correspondence that Gigaclear were ready to connect.</p> <p><b>7.4</b> Local Government – Essex County Council elections and election of a police, fire and crime commissioner for Essex police area, are due to take place on Thursday 6 May.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Applications</b></p> <p>Application No            UTT/21/0409/FUL  Location                    Chasefields, Marks Hall Lane  Development                Rear extension and loft conversion</p> <p>Cllr Briggs proposed no comment on this application, this was seconded by Cllr Turner with all in agreement.</p> <p><b>8.2 Decisions – None</b></p> <p><b>8.3 Local Plan Update</b></p> <p>8.3.1 – Cllrs noted the Local Plan workshop invite for Town and Parish Councils on 30 March to discuss the final 4 themes of the mini-consultations.</p> <p>8.3.2 – Cllrs noted the deadline for submitting 'Call for Sites' and responding to the mini consultation is 21 April. The meeting agreed not to submit a response to either consultation.</p>	Clerk
<b>9</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <p><b>9.1</b> Flooding in the village – The Clerk and Cllrs are due to meet with the Essex Watercourse Engineer later this week to discuss some of the areas of issue to help understand where the water flows, responsibilities and what action can be taken to reduce the impact for residents.</p>	Clerk, Cllr Cooper Cllr Briggs

Signed  
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9.2	<p>Status of Essex Highway logs</p> <p>9.2.1 – New log 2703436, carriageway defects along Marks Hall Lane reported at end of February were repaired as a priority as they were assessed a safety issue, log closed.</p> <p>9.2.2 – Log 2691281 reported 03.12.20 sign leaning and damaged at ground level on approach to junction with Four Wantz is due for repair with works being scheduled, no further progress.</p> <p>9.2.3 – Log 2697002 sign defect at village entry knocked over, Essex Highways confirmed is due for repair with works being scheduled, no further progress.</p>							
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>To Consider Any Grant Requests</b></p> <p>A grant request for £800 has been received from Margaret Roding Parochial Church Council towards the insurance cost of the parish church. The Clerk reminded the meeting of the legislation and guidance on making grants to churches, after considering Cllr Briggs proposed that given the historic pattern of assisting the church and the fact this is the oldest building in the village and the only community space remaining, that the Parish Council awards a grant of £800 for the purpose requested, this was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement.</p>	Clerk						
11	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Council Policy - Review</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed there had been no changes to model Standing Orders or Financial Regulations and that the existing policies remain up to date. The Clerk went on to confirm the Freedom of Information policy remains relevant and no updates are required. Cllrs considered the current grant policy and agreed no changes.</p>							
12	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finance</b></p> <p>12.1 Cllr Briggs proposed the following cheque be issued; this was seconded by Cllr Crisp with all in agreement.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Allison Ward (Parish Clerk salary February and March 2021 plus expenses)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 122.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High Easter Parish Council (share of Zoom subscription May 2020-March 2021)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 28.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaret Roding PCC (see agenda item 10)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 800.,00</td> </tr> </table> <p>12.2 Cllr Briggs proposed that the Parish Council approaches the Clerk at Aythorpe Roding with a request that they carry out the internal audit of the Parish Council at a fee to be confirmed. This was seconded by Cllr Crisp.</p>	Allison Ward (Parish Clerk salary February and March 2021 plus expenses)	£ 122.64	High Easter Parish Council (share of Zoom subscription May 2020-March 2021)	£ 28.78	Margaret Roding PCC (see agenda item 10)	£ 800.,00	Clerk
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13	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Items for next Agenda</b></p> <p>Annual Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.</p>							
14	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.30pm. Post meeting it has been confirmed that Local Authorities including Parish Councils are no longer able to hold virtual meetings from midnight on 6 May 2021, this is subject to a legal challenge which is due to be decided at the end of April. If virtual meetings cannot continue the next meeting of this Parish Council will be on Thursday 6 May at 7.30pm via Zoom.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 8.30pm.</p>							

Signed  
Lee Cooper  
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council