

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD 28 SEPTEMBER 2021 VIA ZOOM

The scheduled meeting was cancelled following the publication of the agenda. Some Cllrs were unavailable to meet face-to-face due to Covid, or work commitments meaning the meeting would not be quorate.

Available Cllrs met online via Zoom to discuss specific items, however as legislation does not allow Parish Councils to meet solely online, the meeting did not run through the published agenda and was not minuted. What follows are notes from the discussions that took place.

In attendance via Zoom were Peter Briggs, Lee Cooper, Simon Phillips, Chris Turner (arriving part way through meeting) and the Clerk Allison Ward.

LOCAL PLAN

In late July Uttlesford published the 299 sites that had been submitted during the Call for Sites. Within the parish boundary is one parcel of land put forward in front of Margaret Roding wood along the A1060, this is opposite Marks Hall Lane and runs eastwards along the A1060. No decision has been taken on which sites to include in the Local Plan, and they are being published for information only at this stage. Uttlesford is now working to assess all sites and a technical consultation for town and parish councils will be issued in the autumn to help ensure that technical information for each site is correct. The draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan is scheduled for consultation in March 2022.

Cllrs discussed Uttlesford's request to consider whether any sites within the parish might be acceptable, either those put forward in the call for sites, or any others.

Cllrs noted the majority of the land in the parish and all that to the south of the A1060 is allocated as metropolitan green belt. There is a small area of land north of the A1060 which is in the parish; this includes Margaret Roding wood which is recognised as an ancient woodland, and the parish church and churchyard.

Cllrs were concerned with the site put forward and noted the following,

1. Adjacent to the large ancient woodland, any development would cause significant harm in an important biodiverse area where wildlife and fauna is left to flourish undisturbed.
2. The northwest border of the proposed site is in floodzone 3b. Local knowledge confirms this area floods including across the A1060 where water flows under the road and into a ditch on the south side on route to the river Roding. In heavy rain the water cannot enter the Roding and backs up causing localised flooding on farmland and the main highway.
3. Margaret Roding has no significant facilities within walking distance and no community space.

The Clerk will respond to Uttlesford's request confirming no suitable sites in Margaret Roding for development, including Cllrs views that the site put forward adjacent to Margaret Roding wood is not suitable.

UTTLESFORD NATURE RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Uttlesford is asking Parish Councils to use its new biodiversity mapping tool to plot any 'local sites with important biodiversity or that have the potential to be havens for plants, animals and insects'. Cllrs agreed to submit Margaret Roding wood and noted the birds, insects and wildlife that inhabit this area. There is a field drainage system entering from the east and running through to form a southern border with part of the site, the waterway continues until it joins the River Roding.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Cllrs were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Tristan Baker, a serving Essex police officer from Margaret Roding who was killed in a road traffic collision on the A1060 in Roxwell on 23 September 2021. Cllrs once again discussed the speed of vehicles using the A1060 and the clerk was asked to write to Cllr Barker with a request for a review of speed limits to include consideration of a reduction in the 60mph speed limit through the village to 40mph.

Cllrs were concerned with the overgrowing vegetation on the footpaths adjacent to the A1060, particularly from Hillenor to Ongar Road, the Clerk was asked to write to landowners for assistance. The Clerk was asked to write to County Cllr Barker re the stretch from Marks Hall Lane to Leaden Roding.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 23rd November 2021.

**ALLISON WARD
PARISH CLERK**