

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Held at Marks Hall Farmhouse Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: From the Parish Council, Cllrs Peter Briggs, Ian Crisp (chair), Simon Phillips, Lorraine Player, Chris Turner and the Clerk Allison Ward

0 Members of the Public

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME, in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Crisp, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council assumed the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming residents.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County and District Cllr Susan Barker, Parish Cllr Lee Cooper
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (read by Cllr Ian Crisp)

Margaret Roding Parish Council has seen another quiet year. It continues to monitor both the draft local plans for Uttlesford District Council and Chelmsford City Council and currently with no development planned in the village or its closest neighbours there are no significant concerns. There were only four minor planning applications discussed by the Parish Council during the year as part of its responsibility to respond to the planning authority from a local point of view.

The reserves have again accumulated to £8.0k despite reducing the precept for the year by a further 19%. The progress on completion of the village footpath map has been slower than planned as it was necessary to carry out various research to obtain information and this should be published later this year. A further expenditure for a VAS sign has been approved and work is ongoing to find the most suitable product for the budget available. It is anticipated the cost of these two projects will be in the region of £3.5k. The Parish Council considered other projects including a village defibrillator but currently no suitable location is available. There were no applications for grants in 2017 from local groups, as a reminder the Parish Council is able to make some funds available to any charity, voluntary or community organisation that is able to demonstrate that funding will directly benefit the residents of Margaret Roding.

Following a mobile library consultation by Essex County Council the village has lost the bi-weekly mobile library service. Essex County Council provides a Home Library Service for those residents who are unable to reach a library due to age, disability or caring responsibilities and information is available on their website.

The Parish Council is encouraged that the latest plans for fibre broadband now include Margaret Roding as part of the contract signed with Superfast Essex for the Uttlesford District and this is expected to be completed by December 2019.

Litter, in particular along the A1060 is a constant battle and the Parish Council is very grateful to those residents who regularly pick up litter thrown from vehicles. Unfortunately, this year's community litter pick had to be cancelled because of the weather.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to my fellow Parish Councillors for giving up their time freely to attend meetings and for their practical actions and support given outside of meetings.

Signed
Lee Cooper
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – No report.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017/18

For the year 2017/18 the Parish Council again reduced precept, the amount collected via Council Tax, by a further 19%, however with only one small grant application and no projects concluding, the Parish Council ended the year with a further surplus of £409 which when added to previous reserves leaves a closing cash balance of £8.0k.

There are only two significant items of expenditure in the year which together account for 71% of costs, £0.8k payment towards the insurance of the church and £0.6k paid to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council has few fixed assets valued at £1.5k including the speed gun and notice board.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed
Lee Cooper
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council