

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Held at Marks Hall Farmhouse Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Lee Cooper (Chair)
Cllrs Peter Briggs, Ian Crisp, Simon Phillips, Lorraine Player, Chris Turner
and the
Clerk Allison Ward

0 Member of the Public

1. CHAIRMAN's WELCOME, Cllr Cooper opened the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County and District Cllr Susan Barker.
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Wednesday 19th May 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Following the May 2015 elections, we started this year with a vacancy on the Parish Council and were pleased when Lorraine Player who had recently moved into the village joined us. During the year we said good bye to John King who had served this Parish Council for a number of years and we are very grateful to John for his service. We welcomed Chris Turner in January 2016 who was co-opted to replace John and together with Peter Briggs, Ian Crisp, Simon Phillips and myself we now have a full council. At this point I would like to thank my fellow Cllrs for giving up their time voluntarily to attend meetings, to read the numerous emails and documents we receive and to listen to and gather information from residents.

Despite being a small Parish Council, your Cllrs continue to put in efforts to ensure decisions and processes at District and County Council levels do not adversely impact on our village and where they do to ensure the views of Margaret Roding are heard. This is in addition to our ongoing efforts to influence traffic speeds, the condition of pathways and highways and the lack of superfast broadband. Speed of traffic along the A1060 and broadband are regular items on Parish Council agenda's and during the last year the Parish Council has been gathering evidence on both these issues to use in future discussions with the relevant departments in an attempt to influence their decisions; the support of residents is key in these efforts.

We had some success during the year when after many months of asking the Uttlesford Highway Rangers cleared the footpath along the A1060 in the 40mph zone, we continue to request further work is carried out along the stretch to Peppers Green, however this is proving more difficult due to limitations of working in the 60mph zone.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications and whilst it is not the role of this Parish Council to determine any application, it has a responsibility to respond to the planning authority from a local point of view. During the year 4

Signed
Lee Cooper
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

applications were considered, including the change of use of a barn to a dwelling at Waples Mill, Ongar Road which was supported by the Parish Council. The Uttlesford Local Plan continues to be considered as does the Essex County Council Waste Plan and whilst there are no sites identified in Margaret Roding, the Parish Council reviews the various stages to consider any impact on the village.

During the year the Parish Council organised two community events, the first last June was an afternoon walk along village footpaths and in March the village joined with the national litter pick, Clean for the Queen. Thank you to those residents who supported the events. It was agreed not to organise a Christmas Lunch for the elderly this year due to lack of support and after much discussion and consideration of the duties and responsibilities of Parish Councils a decision was taken not to distribute hampers to over 70's or Easter eggs to children. Following these decisions, the Parish Council approved a grant policy which is available to view on the website and open to any village group who wish to seek funding to benefit the residents of Margaret Roding.

Finally, the Parish Council is aware of the difficulty of keeping residents up to date on news in the village. During the year efforts have been made to continue to develop the website under the guidance of Cllr Ian Crisp. Plus, this year has seen the launch of the first edition of Margaret Roding News with Ian editing and producing on behalf of the Parish Council with a plan to publish a quarterly newsletter to every home in the parish.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – No report.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015/16

The total income for the year was £3,335, with £2,974 coming from Parish Precept. The main expenditure was the Parish Clerk £656 and a contribution to the church for the care of the historic building £800. There was a surplus for the year of £1,421 which has increased the Parish Council reserves to £6,710. A decision was taken by the Parish Council to reduce the precept for the forthcoming year 2016/17 and to consider projects to benefit the community.

The fixed asset register contains the speed gun and notice board.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed
Lee Cooper
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council