

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Held at Marks Hall Farmhouse Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: From the Parish Council, Cllrs Lee Cooper (Chair), Peter Briggs, Ian Crisp, Simon Phillips, Lorraine Player and the Clerk Allison Ward

1 Member of the Public

1. CHAIRMAN's WELCOME, Cllr Cooper opened the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Parish Cllr Chris Turner.
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Tuesday 17th May 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The last year has been relatively quiet in terms of Parish Council business. Your Cllrs continue to monitor consultations and decisions made by both the County Council and District Council in order to assess any impact they may have on the village and to respond where necessary. During the year we have continued to collect data on poor broadband coverage and highway incidents on the A1060, in an attempt to collate evidence which can be used at a later date to influence the decisions being made.

To address the accumulating reserves the Parish Council has taken a number of steps. Firstly, it took the decision to reduce the precept for 2016/17 by 12% with a further decision in January of this year to reduce next year's precept by a further 19%, and the Parish Council is working on a project to produce a village map to encourage the use of the village footpaths. There were no applications for grants in 2016, 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.

The Parish Council made a decision not to continue publishing a village newsletter beyond the first three editions, due to lack of interest from the community in contributing to the content. The Parish Council continues to distribute flyers to residents where necessary to inform them of key events as well as posting information on the village website and notice board.

Following requests from residents and letters from the Parish Council there was some success in cutting back the vegetation along the A1060, however the Parish Council remains frustrated that the minor jobs asked of Essex Highways remain low priority and unlikely to be completed. The Parish Council purchased two highway flood signs to use during periods of flooding along the A1060 in an attempt to slow drivers down and avoid minor accidents.

This year there were only three minor planning applications discussed by the Parish Council as part of its responsibility to respond to the planning authority from a local point of view.

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. In March the Parish Council organised a community litter pick event as part of the national campaign which was well supported by the village.

Signed
Lee Cooper
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – No report.
6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016/17

For the year 2016/17 the Parish Council reduced precept, the amount collected via Council Tax by 12%, however with no grant applications and the work to produce the village map carrying over into 2017/18 the Parish Council ended the year with a further surplus of £893 which when added to previous reserves leaves a closing cash balance of £7.6k.

There are only two significant items of expenditure in the year which together account for 72% of costs, £0.8k payment towards the insurance of the church and £0.7k paid to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council has few fixed assets valued at £3k including the speed gun and notice board.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed
Lee Cooper
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council