

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Held at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms, Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm

1. CHAIRMAN's WELCOME, in the absence of the outgoing parish council chair and vice-chair, Cllr Phillips was nominated to take the chair, he opened the meeting and welcomed residents.

In attendance were 5 members of the public (including 3 parish councillors) and the Parish Clerk.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Ian Crisp, Cllr Lorraine Player, County and District Cllr Susan Barker.
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Thursday 17th May 2022 were approved and signed as a true record. They are available on the village website.
4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT – Cllr Phillips read the following statement

We begin by paying tribute to those Cllrs who did not stand for re-election in the May elections. Firstly to Lee Cooper who after 9 years as chairman and many more as a Cllr reluctantly had to stand down due to personal circumstances. We also record our grateful thanks to Ian Crisp who has served as our vice chair alongside Lee and prior to that many years as a councillor, we wish Ian and Sue all the best following their move to a new home in Chelmsford in February 2023. And finally, our thanks to Lorraine Player who served for two terms whilst juggling a busy schedule working in nursing.

During the year Margaret Roding Parish Council continued to meet to discuss parish business bi-monthly, except November when the meeting was not quorate. Minutes of all meetings are available on the website.

One long standing project came to fruition this year with the installation of a defibrillator in The Gossetts car park. The parish council was very grateful for the support of Uttlesford District Council who not only gave their permission to use their site but also provided a frame for the defibrillator to be mounted on. The Rodings Primary School had raised funds for a school defibrillator, the fundraising had far exceeded their expectations leaving a surplus that was offered to enable local parishes to purchase additional defibrillators. As a result, the parish council applied to the fund and received a grant for the full cost of the parish defibrillator.

The installation of the defibrillator led to Cllr Lorraine Player organising a first aid training session for the parish in November 2022 which was well attended. Our thanks to the Reid Rooms for providing the venue and Jack the paramedic for giving his time and expertise.

The cold weather in early 2023 led to some treacherous conditions along Marks Hall Lane where yet again the inadequate surface water drainage led to water running down Marks Hall Lane which then turned to ice. With the help of County Cllr Susan Barker a meeting was arranged with Essex Highway Engineers and Essex Flood Management to discuss the possible causes and consider solutions. Progress remains very slow, however Essex Highways have agreed to clear the ditches on the A1060 between Hellinor and University College Cottages to prevent water from backing up into residents gardens and to liaise with Thames Water, who own and are responsible for the surface water drainage system along Marks Hall Lane, to initially clear any blockages prior to further conversations.

There have been further delays to the consultation stages of the Uttlesford Local Plan. Latest information suggests Regulation 18 which sets out the council's proposals on where new housing and employment sites in the district could go, will be issued in the Autumn of 2023. If everything goes to schedule a new Local Plan could be in place by 2025.

In March, Cllr Phillips organised a village litter pick and our thanks to residents who came along to help on the day and to those residents who regularly pick up litter when they are out and about.

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

The parish is very grateful to Peter Briggs, Simon Phillips and Chris Turner for their decision to re-stand as councillors which ensures Margret Roding Parish Council is quorate. We record our thanks to all those who have served as parish councillors in the year 2022/23, for the time they have given up to attend meetings and to read the many emails and correspondence we receive. Over the coming months the re-elected Cllrs will go through the process to co-opt three councillors to bring us up to full strength.

The only receipt in the year was the £2k precept and after expenditure this resulted in a surplus of £300. Of note was the £0.3k reduction in grant funding which had applications for grants to support local organisations been received this would have ensured precept was used, the only grant given was £600 to St Margarets Parochial Church Council as a contribution to the insurance on the grade I listed church. Reserves therefore increased slightly to £7k.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT - none

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022/23

The year saw a small deficit of £179 as precept was set to match services provided. The intended reduction in reserves as a result of purchasing a defibrillator did not materialise due to the grant received. Parish council funds at end of March 2023 were £6.8k.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chairman Margret Roding Parish Council