

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Held at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms, Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.30pm

1. CHAIRMAN's WELCOME, Cllr Phillips welcomed those in attendance.

In attendance were 7 members of the public (including 6 parish councillors) and the Parish Clerk.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County and District Cllr Susan Barker.
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 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 our former parish councillor & chairman Lee Cooper who sadly passed away in December, Lee served on the Parish council for many years and was chairman for 9 of those, he will be missed by all his family and friends.

Along with Peter Briggs, Chris Turner and myself we have co-opted 3 new councillors Richard Parsons, Dave Nicoll and Robert Trundle and I want to thank you all for giving up your time to be part of PC. I would like to give extra thanks to our wonderful clerk Allison who has been part of this council for many years and without her we would be in all sorts of trouble.

During the year Margaret Roding Parish Council continued to meet to discuss parish business bi-monthly. Minutes of all meetings are available on the website.

One long standing project Marks Hall Lane and associated water drainage and sewage is still an issue, however, there has been progress during the year. We would like to thank all the landowners for their continued support in keeping the ditches within their land cleared which resulted in an improvement in surface water running down the road during the heavy rains in early 2024. Following a visit from Kemi Badenoch MP for Saffron Waldon during April 24, she has agreed to liaise with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Essex County Council to try and understand who is responsible for the drain along the road and resolve the issue of surface water entering the foul water system.

The Regulation 18 plan was published in Autumn 2023. The parish council was fully supportive of Uttlesford's conclusion that classified Margaret Roding as 'open countryside' where the policy states development will not generally be appropriate, no sites were allocated in Margaret Roding. Further protection is provided to land south of the A1060 which is designated green belt. The district council remains on target to issue the final Regulation 19 in the summer and if everything goes to schedule a new Local Plan could be in place by 2025.

A huge pothole along the main A1060 appeared during early 2024 and was reported to Highways this was subsequently repaired but the material failed twice and was eventually repaired for the 3rd time which so far has lasted for 3 months. The pothole along Marks Hall Lane opposite Hockley's Cottage was finally repaired in April 24 after being reported in September and the hedges have now been cut back.

During January and early February Margaret Roding along with the rest of Uttlesford experienced severe waste collection issues caused by problems with Uttlesford council's operator licences, this resulted in all bins not being collected for a month. This was eventually resolved by Uttlesford in February and all collections started running on time. The garden waste bin collection was also impacted by this, but Uttlesford have compensated the people that pay for this service by not collecting money until July 24.

The defibrillator that was put in during 2022 have been taken for use twice in 2023 and once so far in 2024 and we have now added a bleed control kit into the existing cabinet.

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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 including Max Phillips who as part of his DofE Bronze award volunteered to pick litter up in village for 1 hour a week for 3 months.

The pedestrian warning sign which is lying on the verge on Marks Hall Lane in front of the Reid Rooms which was first reported in March 2022 as it was deemed by Uttlesford as non-urgent. After escalating this again, we are advised it should be re-instated in the next 12 weeks!

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – The clerk read the following statement.

1. The current administration is at the end of its first year, it has a balanced budget.
2. Local Plan, Regulation 19 is on target to be published for consultation at the end of July. The statutory consultation period of 6 weeks is being extended to 8 weeks given this will be over the holiday period. Individual chapters will not be made public until everything is finalised. Compared to regulation 18 there will be a reduction in the housing allocation of c2k due to permissions being granted since April 2023, as a result there is some flexibility to reduce elsewhere.
3. Uttlesford housing are now working on changing from Norse who they have been in partnership for maintenance for a number of years. The transition is a year with a new solution in place for 1 April 2025.
4. Biodiversity there is an approved annual action plan and Uttlesford are making use of available grants, e.g. Saffron Walden now has 2x electric vehicles which can be hired for use by the hour. 10% of council housing stock will be renovated this year and brought up to environmental standards.

6. OTHER VILLAGE GROUP STATEMENTS

Rev'd Jo Wood who is serving the final year of her curacy in the Rodings, Easters and Great Canfield benefice, reported there is a monthly church service at Margret Roding which uses the traditional book of common prayer. It is a small and faithful group of people, and the church continues to be able to pull together a PCC.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – None

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.42pm.

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council