

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Held at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms, Wednesday 14th May 2025 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 Wednesday 15th May 2024 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 thanking both Peter Briggs who resigned from the Parish Council in January and Allison Ward our esteemed clerk who will be leaving the council after this meeting. Peter was an active member of the parish council for many years, and we will miss his wealth of experience especially on planning decisions where he was our resident expert. We would also like to give an extra special thanks to Allison who after 13 years has decided to pursue a new opportunity. Allison's experience has been vital in keeping the Margaret Roding parish council running smoothly, she has been a god send to me since I took over as Chairman and will be sorely missed by all.

Along with Chris Turner, Richard Parsons, Dave Nicoll, Robert Trundle and myself we have co-opted 1 new councillor Gemma Chaplin, and I want to thank you all for giving up your time to be part of parish council. We are actively looking for a clerk and this process is ongoing and hopefully a new clerk will be in the position for the September meeting.

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 and the notice board.

We have continued our work on the long-term project to reduce the flooding of Marks Hall Lane and surrounding areas. In general things have improved with less flooding due to the actions already taken but there is more to do to reduce the risks.

There was an incident of flooding on the A1060 at the rear of The Gossetts due to blocked pipes which Parish council members attempted to relieve with some success and Essex highways came a week later to pump out the blockages (special thanks to Cllr's Parsons & Nicoll for all the work you did on this).

We met with Essex highways, Thames water and Kemi Badenoch's representative to identify the remaining issues and decide on actions and responsibility.

This resulted in

1. Contact with Uttlesford council regarding responsibility for the piped culvert which starts at Elmslea and exits in the ditch behind The Gossetts and clearing of the gutters.
2. Essex highways to clear and repair the blocked drainpipe under the A1060 and to maintain clear all pipes regularly together with culverts taking water off the A1060 into the ditches.
3. Thames water to look at measures to reduce backing up of sewerage facilities on west side of Marks Hall Lane, review the adequacy of the pumping station and potential re siting of the defibrillator on their building. Thames might as a gesture of goodwill pump this pipe out.
4. Contact to be made with Environment agency re water flows from our area to the river Roding and to downgrade our flood risk reducing insurance premiums.

The Parish council remain committed to progressing these issues to reduce flooding issues in the village and improve the quality of life for villagers.

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

The Uttlesford Local plan continued through the process in 2024/25 with the regulation 19 consultation in August. Margaret Roding has been classified as open countryside in the settlement hierarchy where development will not be permitted unless specifically supported by other relevant policies in either the Local Plan or national policy. The Local Plan has been submitted by Uttlesford to the Planning Inspector and the independent examination begins in June. If successful, the Local Plan will be adopted in Spring 2026.

The defibrillator that was put in during 2022 was last taken for use in May 2024, I would like to pass my thanks on to Cllr Parson for his regular checks to the equipment and during the early part of 2025 we have replaced the battery.

In June Cllr Turner organised a small get together at his house to light the beacon to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

In September Cllr Trundle organised for the notice board to be refurbished by a local group called 'The Men's Shed' and they have made an excellent job.

In December the councillors along with Martin Ritchie (Reid Rooms) organised a village Christmas get together which followed the carol service. Food was laid on for the 80 people that attended this included Lasagna & salad followed by 2 choices of gateaux, mulled wine was provided on entry and bottles of wine were provided on the tables. The evening included a quiz, some excellent piano playing and carols and a good time was had by all... Special thanks go to Cllr's Turner, Nicol, Parsons, Phillips, Allison Ward our soon to be ex Clerk and Martin Ritchie for all their effort in making the evening a massive success.

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.

Other things to note:

- New salt bins were purchased, one on the grass area adjacent to Marks Hall Lane and the other placed on the verge at the junction between Ongar Road and the A1060 (Including salt).
- The pedestrian warning sign that was lying on the verge on Marks Hall Lane in front of the Reid Rooms has after nearly 3 years finally been re-instated.
- Since January the village now has a monthly pop-up pub evening at the Reid Rooms, the March and April editions have included a fish & chips van.
- Cleaning road signs and cutting back vegetation.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – Nothing to report.

6. OTHER VILLAGE GROUP STATEMENTS

The meeting noted and appreciated the efforts of the church and in particularly Revd Jo Wood who has worked with the support of the parish council to create opportunities for the community to come together to mark the major festivals including the church open weekend and harvest festival in September, the carol service and more recently a service on Easter Day with an Easter egg hunt for the children.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – None

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

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council