



Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING Held at The Reid Rooms on Wednesday, 20th May 2026 at 7.30pm

In attendance were 2 members of the public and 4 members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chair, Cllr Phillips opened the meeting at 7.36pm with 2 residents in attendance. Cllr Phillips thanked Chloe Ritchie for providing a beautiful Victoria Sandwich for all to enjoy at the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Gemma Chaplin and Robert Trundle.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Village Meeting on Wednesday, 14th May 2025.

The meeting **resolved and agreed** to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them as a record of the previous meeting last year.

4. District and County Council Statement

District Councillor Susan Barker sent her apologies and so did new County Councillor Geoff Bagnall. The Clerk updated the meeting on the recent Local Elections results and the outcome on 7th May of Cllr Bagnall's election for Takeley Division. Cllr Bagnall has previously been a parish councillor on Takeley Parish Council and is also a District Councillor on Uttlesford District Council for Takeley Ward.

5. Parish Council Chairman's Statement

Cllr Phillips read a report of the previous year.

I begin by thanking all my fellow councillors Chris Turner, Richard Parsons, Dave Nicoll, Robert Trundle and Gemma Chaplin for giving up your time to be part of the Parish Council. I would also like to mention our new clerk Oliver Rogers who since taking over from Allison has hit the road running and is proving to be an excellent clerk.

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.

Flood reduction

The Parish Councillors are aware of some properties suffering flooding in the first part of 2026.

Since then, we have written to Thames Water to ask for an investigation into increasing the

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chair of Margaret Roding Parish Council

capacity of the sewage pumping station on Marks Hall Lane.

Parish Councillors have met with Essex Highways to discuss on-site the piping issues under the A1060

We have spoken with local landowners and asked for ditches to be cleared to improve drainage and water flows around the village.

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

Christmas Party

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 70 people that attended this included Lasagna & salad followed by 2 choices of gateaux & bottles of wine were provided on the tables.

The evening included a quiz (Thanks to Chloe Ritchie) and a raffle (Thanks to Denise Powell).

Special thanks go to Cllrs Turner, Nicol, Parsons, Phillips and Martin Ritchie for all their effort in making the evening a massive success. £203 was taken during the raffle and this money was equally divided between St Clare's Hospice & Hearts & Essex air ambulance.

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:

Since January 2025 the village has a pop-up pub evening at the Reid Rooms, during 2025 the editions have included a fish & chips van. Since January 2026 this has reverted to bimonthly with fish & chips served by the Reid Rooms.

The issues with potholes in The Gossetts car entrance and the large laurel bushes reducing visibility when pulling out of marks hall lane have now been temporarily resolved.

We are currently working on adding in a Vehicle Activated Sign on the A1060 as you enter the village from Chelmsford at the 40mph sign, the wooden posts & lighting the The Gossetts car park & the large overhanging tree behind the gardens in The Gossetts on the A1060.

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 Parsons for his regular checks to the equipment.

Planning

The Local Plan was adopted by Uttlesford District Council in March 2026 and Margaret Roding is classified as Open Countryside. This follows a number of consultations and a review by the planning inspector.

The Parish Council has continued to play a role in monitoring planning applications and carrying out its statutory consultee role to provide comment and information on such submissions to the District Council.

We now enter a new period as Margaret Roding parish looks towards the creation of the new West Essex Unitary authority and what benefits that may bring for the area.

6. Report from any other village groups or organisations

None.

7. Parishioners Questions and Comments

Signed
Simon Phillips
Chair of Margaret Roding Parish Council

A resident asked about why the Parish Precept was rising by 48 percent. The Parish Councillors replied that funding was required for the Vehicle Activated Sign and any increase to the Parish Precept came out as a large percentage. *[Precept has risen in 26/27 to £3,750, which will show as a 48.11% increase on the current year on council tax bills for the Parish Council portion of the Precept. The average band D cost will be £39.16 per annum an increase of £12.72. On a Band H house it will be an increase of £25.44 taking the cost to £78.90 per annum]*

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday, 19th May 2027.

Meeting closed by Cllr Phillips at 7.42pm.