

Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council

held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms

Present

Cllr David Nicoll
Cllr Richard Parsons
Cllr Simon Phillips (chair)
Cllr Robert Trundle
Cllr Chris Turner (arriving during item 4)
Clerk Allison Ward

Residents and Visitors

1 resident (leaving during item 3)
Rev Jo Wood, Associate Curate Rodings, Easters and Great Canfield (leaving after item 3)

1	Apologies for absence	
	Received from Cllr Peter Briggs (unwell), apologies were accepted by the meeting.	
2	Declaration of Interest for this meeting	
	None.	
3	Public Forum	
	<p>Cllr Phillips began the meeting by offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lee Cooper who died suddenly on 10th December 2023. Lee was 56 years old and had served as a parish councillor for almost 20 years, the last 8 as chair, before stepping down in May 2023 due to family commitments. Cllrs recalled Lee's commitment and his practical support whenever tasks were required including most recently installing the defibrillator cabinet.</p> <p><i>Cllr Turner joins the meeting</i></p> <p>A resident spoke about the Community Food Share project and expressed an interest in bringing this to Margaret Roding and the surrounding area. Food Share aims to reduce the amount of food going to landfill by distributing surplus food from retailers and suppliers that would otherwise go to waste. The service is open to all and free. Existing services operate locally in Takeley and Stansted and the meeting was advised of some of the requirements including an organisation to take responsibility, location to operate from, storage, health and safety requirements. Rev Jo commented on the churches interest to get involved which could support a wider geographical area. Cllrs were supportive of the principle and willing to consider being part of a scheme, they suggested that once further understanding particularly around any legal responsibilities has been developed they would welcome further discussion..</p> <p><i>1 resident leaves</i></p> <p>Rev Jo explained she is on an extended placement for a year with the Rodings, Easters and Great Canfield churches whilst she completes her training. The reason for attending is to meet the council and understand the community needs, in particularly Rev Jo asked what the church and community can do together to make a positive impact on life in the parish. Rev Jo is aware of the consultation exercise last year about the future of the church building and added two specific ideas, firstly to help with the development of the Food Share project outlined previously and to set up an event around the 80th anniversary of D-Day later this year. The PCC has suggested a concert or exhibition as other examples of community engagement if there was felt to be local support. Cllr Parson commented that the concept of doing something at the church has always been difficult given access and facilities, he confirmed Martin Ritchie has offered the</p>	

Signed Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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	<p>Reid Rooms to support a Christmas village event. Rev Jo concluded by saying the church does not have the resource to do anything on its own, but hopefully we can join forces.</p> <p><i>Rev Jo Wood leaves the meeting</i></p>	
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 28th November 2023 were proposed by Cllr Phillips as a true record, seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement; the Chair signed the minutes.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;">County and District Cllr Report</p> <p>County and District Cllr Susan Barker sent apologies to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllrs raised their frustration and disappointment with the Christmas waste collections, it is now almost a month since any recycling was collected in Margaret Roding. Whilst Cllrs understand the challenges with extended Christmas holidays, there needs to be a plan to ensure arrangements do not have a detrimental impact on waste collections at what is generally a peak time.</p>	
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence</p> <p>Notification was received via Kemi Badenoch confirming bleed kits could be registered on East of England Ambulance system and this has now been completed.</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillor's Updates</p>	
7.1	<p>Environment and Health</p> <p>A village litter pick and general tidy up including sign cleaning and vegetation cutting back will be held on Saturday 16th March meeting at 11am in The Gossetts car park. Clerk to order additional litter pickers and advertise.</p>	Clerk/ Cllr Phillips
7.2	<p>Transport</p>	
7.2.1	Log reported for missing flag and timetable at Ongar Road bus stop (reference 2902414).	
7.2.2	Outstanding is confirmation of any regulations around parish council purchase of a salt bin to place on private land for use by the public.	Clerk
7.3	<p>Local Government</p> <p>Local Government Boundary Commission is consulting on changes to the boundaries for Essex County Council wards. The proposals would see the current Dunmow ward sub-divided. Margaret Roding parish would be part of 'Takeley ward' which would include Takeley, Hallingburys, Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter and the Roding villages. Consultation closes on 19th February 2024, the parish council had no comments on the proposal.</p>	
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p>	
8.1	<p>Applications</p> <p>The following application is for a lawful development certificate. This is a matter for Uttlesford to determine, based on whether the proposal is lawful and as such does not require planning permission. The parish council had no comments to add.</p>	

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	Application No UTT/23/3177/CLE Location Marks Hall, Marks Hall Lane Development Conversion of existing agricultural building to a residential dwelling	
8.2	Decisions - None	
9	Highways	
9.1	Update on progress with Marks Hall Lane and associated surface water drainage. Cllr Parsons reported that during recent heavy rain there has been noticeable improvements in how quickly the water was able to get into the ditch system, and there was some improvement in the flow of water through the piped section of Marks Hall Lane, although the water continues to overflow the manhole in front of Elmslea. The meeting agreed there were two issues to resolve, 1. Who is responsible for the piped ditch and manhole? 2. Stopping surface water entering into the foul water system which causes issues for residents and in extreme cases overflows onto the highway? The clerk continues to try to get the key parties, Essex Highways and Thames Water to a meeting to discuss point 1. The clerk will write to Uttlesford environment health for assistance with point 2, if assistance is not forthcoming correspondence will be sent to the HSE.	Clerk
9.2	Marks Hall Lane To record escalation to County Cllr Barker of log reference 2769682 warning pedestrians on road triangle which has been lying on the ground for almost 2 years and log reference 2884543 road edge deterioration half way along Marks Hall Lane. Cllrs asked the Clerk to write to the occupants at Hockley asking that the hedge is cut back to a metre behind the highway, Cllrs were of the view the deterioration in the road surface is caused by vehicles having to use the edge of the road due to the overhanging hedge at this location.	Clerk
9.3	Other Matters – Nothing to report	
10	Future Projects	
10.1	Parish Working Party March 2024 - See agenda item.7.1.	
10.2	VAS Sign - No further progress.	Clerk
10.3	Other Projects – None	
11	Precept 2024/25	
11.1	The Clerk presented the quarterly accounts to end of December 2023, Cllrs accepted the reports as presented. The closing cash balance at end of December is £7,907.	
11.2	The Clerk prepared a draft budget which was considered and discussed by Cllrs. In conclusion Cllr Phillips proposed the precept for 2024/25 be set at £2,300, this is £24.68 per annum for an average band D property and will show as a 5.4% increase on the parish council portion of residents council tax invoices. This was seconded by Cllr Turner with all in agreement.	Clerk
12	Finance	
12.1	Cllr Phillips proposed the following payment, this was seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement.	

Signed Simon Phillips
 Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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12.2	<p>Allison Ward - Parish Clerk December 2023 and January 2024 £ 146.62</p> <p>Cllrs supported the suggestion of the clerk to transfer £4k from the parish council Barclays current account to the Barclays savings account where interest of 1.5% can be earned.</p>	Clerk
13	<p>Items for next Agenda</p> <p>Annual review of risk assessment and parish council policies</p>	
14	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 16th January 7.30pm at The Reid Rooms.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.10pm.</p>	