

Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council

held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms

Present

Cllr Peter Briggs
 Cllr David Nicoll
 Cllr Richard Parsons
 Cllr Robert Trundle
 Cllr Chris Turner (chair)
 Clerk Allison Ward

Residents and Visitors County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after item 5)

1	Apologies for absence	
	Received from Cllr Simon Phillips (work commitment), apologies were accepted by the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the vice-chair, Cllr Chris Turner.	
2	Declaration of Interest for this meeting	
	None.	
3	Public Forum	
	No public present.	
4	Minutes	
	Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 16 th January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Turner as a true record, seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement; the Chair signed the minutes.	
5	County and District Cllr Report	
	<p>County and District Cllr Susan Barker updated the meeting.</p> <p>Reporting on Uttlesford District Council</p> <p>a. Uttlesford have raised council tax by the maximum permitted of 2.99%.</p> <p>b. Car park charges are being increased as well as timings, some local concerns on impacts for shop workers and residents who use the car park post working hours.</p> <p>c. Uttlesford has set the budget for 2024/25. It previously invested in commercial property, the government changed the rules on how you account for these which has meant the income is not all available. As a result Uttlesford has agreed to sell its 50% share in Chesterford Research Park. If the sale is progressed, Uttlesford will (as required by law) spend the proceeds reducing short-term borrowing which would reduce the council's exposure to fluctuating interest rates. Further information can be found on the Uttlesford website.</p> <p>Reporting on Essex County Council</p> <p>a. Essex has also increased its council tax element by the maximum permitted, 2.99%.</p> <p>b. The main budget pressures continue to be children's services including home to school transport and where there are special educational needs with health care plans in place. In addition the increase in the living wage from April and inflation are putting pressures on budgets.</p> <p>c. Financial pressures are impacting highway budgets, there are around 62,000 defects reported every year. Cllr Barker confirmed she is always happy to progress long standing issues. Cllr Parsons commented on the pothole close to Sawpits on A1060, here Essex attended quickly, however the repair was poor and it broke up within 24 hours, several attempts to repair and again it has opened up, Cllr Parsons to provide log reference to Cllr Barker. The Clerk raised the delays in repairing the road/verge side damage opposite Hockleys in Marks Hall Lane, Cllr Barker to progress.</p>	Cllr Parsons

Signed Simon Phillips
 Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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	<p>d. Ride London Essex have grants available for local groups, Cllr Barker also has grant funding.</p> <p>e. County Cllr Cunningham, cabinet member for highways has confirmed a budget has been allocated to investigate how Essex can encourage riparian owners to cut back hedges, Cllr Barker noted she had asked that this includes ditches.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the ongoing ditch and drainage issues at Marks Hall Lane. Cllr Parsons confirmed works in 2023 have improved the situation, however surface water continues to flood out of the manhole and enter the foul drain system causes issues for residents. The issues remain that neither Essex or Thames Water will accept any responsibility, Cllr Barker to raise with the team at Essex.</p> <p>The clerk will send a summary of outstanding highway issues to Cllr Barker</p>	Clerk
6	Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence	
6.1	The Government is consulting on proposals for the next night flight regime at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports. The consultation document is available online by searching 'Stansted Airport night flight consultation', or from the clerk.	
6.2	The clerk responded to an Essex County Council (ECC) questionnaire on EV charging in parishes, to support the ECC bid for capital funding from the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund.	
6.3	Information provided by Uttlesford during the issues with bin collections was forwarded to Cllrs and specific issues with Margaret Roding collections were returned to Uttlesford.	
7	Councillor's Updates	
7.1	Environment and Health	
	Cllr Turner asked that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes to Cllr Phillips and the 12 residents who helped the annual village litter pick on 16 th March. Cllr Parsons noted an old bus stop sign is in the ditch between Margaret Roding House and Church House, clerk to report.	Clerk
7.2	Transport – Nothing to report	
7.3	Local Government – Nothing to report	
8	Planning	
8.1	Applications - None	
8.2	Decisions - None	
8.3	<p>Essex is consulting on the local minerals plan 2025 to 2040, deadline 9th April This includes an extension to the existing site at Chalk End, and two new sites south of this existing site. The documents can be viewed at this link, https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040</p> <p>The clerk circulated a draft response to the consultation from Roxwell Parish Council. The meeting noted the shallow depth of extraction, the location of the sites in green belt, the increase in traffic and size of vehicles using A1060, destruction to countryside including PRow and impact on local neighbourhood including residents at Peppers Green. In conclusion Cllr Briggs proposed the parish council objects to the inclusion of site references A57, A60A, A60B for the reasons discussed, this was seconded by Cllr Turner with all in agreement. Cllr Briggs to prepare the parish council response.</p>	Cllr Briggs

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9	Highways	
9.1	Update on Marks Hall Lane surface water drainage.	
	In addition to the discussions at point 5, Cllr Briggs expressed a view that if the water could be 'held' before it reaches the manhole in front of Elmslea (the pinch point) this may reduce the volume of water outflowing the manhole. It was suggested reducing the volume entering the piped section of ditch by allowing the ditch to fill, this may require additional excavation to provide sufficient capacity. Cllr Briggs and Cllr Parsons agreed to meet with the landowner to discuss the proposal.	Cllr Briggs & Cllr Parsons
9.2	Outstanding Logs	
	Reference 2769682 warning pedestrians on road triangle which has been lying on the ground for almost 2 years, Clerk to forward to Cllr Barker.	Clerk
	Reference 2884542 road edge deterioration halfway along Marks Hall Lane, Cllr Barker to chase as per item 5.	
	Reference 2902414 missing signage bus stop towards Chelmsford at junction with Ongar Road. Essex Passenger Transport Infrastructure has confirmed works should be completed by end of May 2024.	
9.3	Other Matters	
	Cllrs were of the view the 60mph limit which applies to Marks Hall Lane is unsafe and inappropriate. The Essex Speed Management Strategy permits a 30mph limit where there are 12 properties within a 350m stretch, Cllrs were of the view this applies to Marks Hall Lane. The Clerk was asked to submit a request for a speed limit reduction to the Local Highways Panel.	Clerk
10	Future Projects	
10.1	VAS Sign - No further progress.	
10.2	Other Projects	
	Cllr Parsons and Cllr Trundle will look at the notice board which needs a 'makeover', including the cork backing which is peeling away. Cllrs were supportive of this work including any reasonable costs to repair	Cllr Parsons & Cllr Trundle
	The clerk was asked to contract Rev Jo Wood for an update on the matters raised at the January meeting including any plans for D-Day commemorations.	Clerk
	Cllr Parsons asked that planning for a parish Christmas event is added to the next agenda..	Clerk
11	Parish Council Management and Financial Risk Review	
11.1	As part of its annual review, the Clerk had circulated a report of the management and financial risks faced by the parish council together with mitigation. The meeting noted and supported the proposed mitigation actions which the clerk will progress. Cllr Briggs proposed the report was accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement.	Clerk
11.2	The report identified the requirement for a Document Retention Policy. Cllr Briggs proposed the draft circulated by the clerk be adopted without amendment, this was seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement. This will be added to the parish council website.	Clerk
12	Grant Applications	
	The clerk advised the meeting of the government amendment to the Local Government Act 1894 which came into force in December 2023 and states there is nothing to prevent local councils	

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	<p>from funding churches and other places of worship.</p> <p>In response to a request from Margaret Roding Parochial Church Council (PCC), Cllr Turner proposed a grant of £600 is made to the PCC to support the cost of insuring Margaret Roding church, this was seconded by Cllr Nichols with all in agreement.</p>	
13	<p style="text-align: center;">Finance</p> <p>Cllr Parsons proposed the following payment in addition to the grant agreed at point 11, this was seconded by Cllr Turner with all in agreement.</p> <p>Allison Ward - Parish Clerk February 2023 and March 2024 £ 146.62</p> <p>The clerk was asked to progress an application for the parish council to move to online banking.</p>	Clerk
14	<p style="text-align: center;">Items for next Agenda</p> <p>To include,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annual review of risk assessment and parish council policies. b. Planning for community Christmas event 2024. 	
15	<p style="text-align: center;">Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 19th May (note change of date due to availability of venue) 7.30pm at The Reid Rooms.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>	