

Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council
held on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms

Present

Cllr Peter Briggs
Cllr David Nicoll
Cllr Richard Parsons
Cllr Simon Phillips (Chairman)
Cllr Robert Trundle
Cllr Chris Turner (arriving at item 5)
Clerk Allison Ward

District and County Cllr Susan Baker (leaving after agenda item 5)

1	Apologies for absence	
	None, all in attendance.	
2	Declaration of Interest for this meeting	
	None.	
3	Public Forum	
	No public present.	
4	Minutes	
	Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 15 th May 2024 were proposed by Cllr Phillips as a true record, seconded by Cllr Briggs with all in agreement; the Chairman signed the minutes.	
5	County and District Cllr Report	
	<p><i>Cllr Turner joins the meeting.</i></p> <p>County and District Cllr Susan Barker reported to the meeting.</p> <p>a. The pothole on the A1060 close to Sawpits will be repaired 15th-17th July. This time it will be a permanent repair with traffic light controls to allow the works to be completed safely.</p> <p>b. Boundary commission has published its decision on Essex County Council wards and Cllrs. From the May 2025 elections the number of Cllrs will increase from 75 to 78 which includes one extra Cllr in Uttlesford due to housing growth. As a result, the current Dunmow ward will be split into two wards, Margaret Roding will be part of the Takeley ward.</p> <p>c. The Local Plan regulation 19 papers have been published as part of the agenda for the meeting of the Local Plan Panel on 15th July. These confirm 1,500 fewer houses than in the previous Regulation 18 with the strategic allocations in Thaxted (480 homes) and Newport (400 homes) both being removed. Assuming approval by the various Uttlesford committees, the public consultation will begin on 8th August and last for 8 weeks. Regulation 19 consultation does not allow Uttlesford to make any changes, all comments are submitted to the planning inspector as part of this stage of the process.</p> <p><i>County and District Cllr Barker leaves the meeting</i></p>	
6	Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence	
	The draft new model financial regulations will be considered over the summer and brought to the September meeting for ratification.	Clerk

Signed Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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7	Councillor's Updates	
7.1	Environment and Health – Nothing to report.	
7.2	Transport – The meeting noted the correspondence from Essex County Council confirming a new Essex-wide Bus Shelter Contract. The shelter in Margaret Roding is the responsibility of Essex County Council.	
7.3	Local Government – The meeting noted the Essex County Council boundary changes reported in item 5.	
8	Planning	
8.1	Applications - None	
8.2	Decisions - None	
8.3	The meeting noted the changes to the Local Plan timetable referred to in item 5. The parish council will consider any response to the consultation at its September meeting.	
9	Highways	
9.1	Update on Marks Hall Lane surface water drainage – Due to the elections any chasing of Kemi Badenoch MP was put on hold. Cllr Parsons suggested the parish council contacts Kemi congratulating her on her re-election and requesting an update on plans to arrange a meeting with all interested parties.	Clerk
9.2	The pedestrian road sign in front of The Reid Rooms has not been repaired, Essex Highways have previously confirmed this will be completed by end July, (Highways reference 2769682).	
9.3	Cllr Nicoll proposed the parish council takes part in the winter salt scheme, however due to lack of suitable storage there is no requirement for a pallet of salt, the clerk agreed to liaise with neighbouring parish councils to utilise their free stocks. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement. In addition, it was further agreed to purchase two new salt bins for Ongar Road and Marks Hall Lane junctions with the A1060, this is in addition to the bin at The Gossetts car park.	Clerk
10	D-Day Beacon Lighting	
	Cllr Briggs asked that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes to Cllr Turner for organising a successful and enjoyable commemoration event at which the village beacon was lit, thanks were extended to Rev Jo Wood who led the tribute alongside the beacon lighting.	
11	Future Projects	
11.1	Community Christmas Event Cllr Parsons confirmed he had spoken to Reid Rooms and Martin Ritchie who had confirmed his support to the community Christmas event on 15 th December which would include the village carol service in church followed by a village tea in the Reid Rooms. Cllr Phillips agreed to arrange a separate meeting to discuss the details for the event, this will include an invitation to the church to join.	Cllr Phillips
11.2	Parish Council Noticeboard Cllr Trundle reported that the Men's Shed in Hatfield Heath now have the parish council notice board for repair. The parish council re-confirmed its support for paying costs, Cllr Trundle to liaise.	Cllr Trundle

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11.3	<p>Other Projects</p> <p>Cllr Briggs asked if there were any plans to support the church and the annual harvest festival. The Clerk confirmed this is currently scheduled for 9.30am on 15th September. Cllrs noted the time was not ideal for attracting the community. The clerk to liaise with Rev Jo Wood.</p>	Clerk				
12	<p>Parish Council Email Account</p> <p>To ensure compliance there is a requirement for parish councils to have an email account and not to use personal accounts. The meeting discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using gmail accounts compared to .gov.uk which is offered to town and parish councils. Concerns were particularly around the security of gmail and the less professional appearance this gives. The clerk suggested further research is necessary to allow the parish council to make an informed decision and will obtain information to circulate ahead of the next meeting.</p>	Clerk				
13	<p>Finance</p> <p>13.1 Cllr Parsons proposed the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Turner with all in agreement.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Allison Ward - Parish Clerk June and July 2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 143.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural Community Council of Essex</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 43.10</td> </tr> </table> <p>13.2 To record receipts in May and June 2024; VAT reclaim from 2023/24 £27.80 and quarterly interest from Barclays savings account £6.99.</p> <p>13.3 Cllr Parsons proposed the clerk's application for online banking to view the account details and transfer between accounts (no payment authorisation) be progressed, this was seconded by Cllr Briggs with all in agreement. Outstanding is the action for Cllr Phillips, Cllr Turner and Cllr Briggs to contact Barclays direct as authorised signatories to initiate the process for their online banking access.</p> <p>13.4 The clerk shared the financial schedule for the period April to June 2024, there were no matters of concern. The current balance is £7,787, the chairman signed the bank reconciliation.</p>	Allison Ward - Parish Clerk June and July 2024	£ 143.12	Rural Community Council of Essex	£ 43.10	Clerk/ Cllrs
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk June and July 2024	£ 143.12					
Rural Community Council of Essex	£ 43.10					
14	<p>Items for next Agenda</p> <p>C/fwd items, and a review of the options for a vehicle activated sign (VAS)</p>					
15	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 7.30pm in The Farmhouse The meeting closed at 8.40pm.</p>					