

Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council

held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 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
Clerk Allison Ward

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

1	<p style="text-align: center;">Apologies for absence</p> <p>All members present.</p>	
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Declaration of Interest for this meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Forum</p> <p>No public present.</p>	
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 19th November 2024 were proposed by Cllr Phillips as a true record, seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement; the Chairman signed the minutes.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;">County and District Cllr Report</p> <p>County and District Cllr Susan Barker updated the meeting.</p> <p>Highways – Funds and additional staff have been made available to deal with winter damage. All encouraged to report issues online and to share with Cllr Barker including what3words.</p> <p>Local Government Reform – Essex County Council met earlier this month and voted to make a request to be part of the Priority Devolution Programme which would see the current two-tier council structure (Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council) abolished and replaced with 3/4 unitary councils across Essex. The new unitary authorities would cover a population of c.500k each, and initial thoughts are Uttlesford is likely to combine with the current Epping and Harlow districts. Essex would have a mayor under the proposals with elections for this position in 2026. Once the unitary is in place they will shadow the county and district for a year. Whilst this process is worked through a request has been made to postpone the ECC elections due in 2025. There are no changes planned to Town and Parish Councils under these proposals.</p> <p><i>County and District Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting</i></p>	
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence</p> <p>Uttlesford confirmed the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 18th December. On 9th January planning inspectors were appointed to carry out the independent examination.</p>	

Signed Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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	<p>Sign at footpath 42, opposite Greys, Ongar Road reported to Essex Highways (log reference 2956637).</p> <p>Salt bins are now all in situ and stocked with salt at Marks Hall Lane, Ongar Road and Gossetts car park.</p>	
7	Councillor's Updates	
7.1	Environment and Health – it was agreed to hold a parish litter pick on Saturday 8 th March, meet at The Gossetts car park at 11am.	Cllr Phillips
7.2	Transport – Noting to report.	
7.3	Local Government – Cllr Briggs met with the local policing team on 8 th December when they conducted local patrols in Margaret Roding parish.	
8	Planning	
8.1	Applications - None	
8.2	Decisions for information only	
	<p>Application No UTT/24/2737/CLE</p> <p>Location Church Cottage, Chelmsford Road</p> <p>Development Existing use of Garage/Store building ancillary to Church Cottage</p> <p>Decision Approve Certificate of Lawfulness</p>	
9	Highways	
9.1	Cllr Parsons and the Clerk will attend a meeting arranged by Kemi Badenoch's office on 17 th January with Essex Highways and Thames Water to discuss resolutions to issues with Marks Hall Lane and associated surface water drainage.	Cllr Parsons /Clerk
9.2	Cllrs discussed the work in early December when Essex Highways cleared blockages following heavy rainfall that had caused flooding of gardens and the A1060. This confirmed the outlet for the surface water along Marks Hall Lane is a pipe in the ditch behind The Gossetts. Cllrs discussed at length the situation, waterflows and possible solutions in preparation for the meeting referred to in 9.1.	
9.3	To note repairs by Essex Highways to Ongar Road due to take place w/c 13th January 2025.	
10	Community Speed Watch	
	The clerk had circulated details of the requirements for setting up a community speed watch group for Margaret Roding. Cllrs were of the view this should be pursued and identified two suitable sites, opposite Garnish Hall entrance and close to Marks Hall Lane. The clerk to look at next steps of the application.	Clerk
11	Projects	
11.1	<p>Cllrs reported on a very successful free, Christmas party which was attended by c.60 residents. The event followed the churches carol service and a letter of thanks was received from the church for their support at working together to support community events.</p> <p>The parish council wishes to record its thanks to Martin Ritchie who provided The Reid Rooms and drinks free of charge for the event. The parish council expenses which were largely food totalled £453. It was noted that the Reid Rooms will be opening to residents in the form of 'pop-up-pub' on the last Thursday of the month from 7pm.</p>	

Signed Simon Phillips
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11.2	Cllrs considered the communication on the national VE day celebrations, Thursday 8 th May 2025. The clerk was asked to contact The Reid Rooms to see if they are available to host in the form of a 'pop-up-pub', this will then be considered further at the next meeting.	Clerk
11.3	The new email addresses for the clerk and Cllrs are now live, clerk to support Cllr Briggs and Cllr Trundle in setting up.	Clerk
11.4	VAS sign – no further progress.	
12	Precept	
12.1	The accounts were presented by the clerk for the period April to December 2024, these were accepted by the parish council. The cash balance on 31st December was £7.3k.	
12.2	The clerk presented a reserves policy which sets out the type of reserves and levels for general reserves. Cllr Parsons proposed the policy be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Turner with all in agreement. The policy will be published on the parish council website.	Clerk
12.3	The clerk presented a draft 2025/26 budget for consideration. If not spent in the current year, £3k will be earmarked for the VAS sign. Cllr Parsons proposed a precept of £2,500, which will show as a 7.8% increase on the current year on council tax bills. The average band D cost will be £23.50 per annum. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement	Clerk
13	Finance	
13.1	Cllr Parsons proposed the following payments be retrospectively approved, these required payments between meetings due to personal payments made online and including party food, this was seconded by Cllr Briggs with all in agreement. C Turner – Food costs for Christmas Party £ 428.15 P Warren – Pianist at Christmas Party £ 25.00 Allison Ward – Grit bins and defibrillator battery £ 401.98	
13.2	Cllr Phillips proposed the following payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Trundle with all in agreement. Allison Ward - Parish Clerk December and January 2025 £ 153.55	
13.3	There were no receipts in December or January 2025.	
13.4	Online banking, Cllr Phillips to contact Barclays direct for their online banking access.	Cllr Phillips
14	Items for next Agenda Nothing in addition.	
15	Date of Next Meeting The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday 19 th March 2025 at 7.30pm in The Reid Rooms. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.	