

Margaret Roding Parish Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Margaret Roding Parish Council

held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at The Farmhouse, Reid Rooms

Present

Cllr Gemma Chaplain (from item 3)
Cllr David Nicoll
Cllr Richard Parsons (arriving during item 6 b/fwd)
Cllr Simon Phillips (Chairman)
Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after agenda item 6 b/fwd)

1	<p style="text-align: center;">Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr Robert Trundle and Cllr Chris Turner sent apologies to the meeting and the apologies were accepted. Cllr Parsons has sent notice that he would be late to the meeting.</p> <p>Following the January meeting Cllr Peter Briggs tendered his 'retirement' to the chair. The clerk informed Uttlesford Electoral Services who instigated the required notice period for a casual vacancy. This notice expired with no requests for an election. This leaves the parish council free to co-opt a replacement.</p> <p>Cllr Phillips proposed agenda item 6 be brought forward as the meeting was not quorate and this item is reporting only, there were no objections.</p>	
6 B/FWD	<p style="text-align: center;">County and District Cllr Report</p> <p>Local Government Reform currently the suggestion for 5 unitary councils has the highest support, this would give c.350,000 population per council, the government target is for c.500,000. Current proposals would see Uttlesford combine with Epping (mostly green belt) and Harlow (little land for development).</p> <p>In terms of the elections timetable, May 2025 Essex County Council elections are postponed, in May 2026 there will be an election for a Greater Essex mayor and in May 2027 the district elections will be cancelled and replaced with elections to form the unitaries. These unitaries will shadow existing councils for a year and be fully operational in 2028.</p> <p>The Local Plan inspection has begun and hearings are scheduled for the summer.</p> <p>Currently the Local Highways Panel do not have a confirmed budget for this year. The application to reinforce the existing speed limit through Margaret Roding is included in the list of projects.</p> <p><i>Cllr Richard Parsons arrives.</i></p> <p>Cllrs shared local issues with Cllr Barker</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The pothole on the A1060 is reopening again opposite Ravenstone, clerk to forward log references to Cllr Barker 2. Cllrs raised tractors using Marks Hall Lane to access Berners Farm despite the weight restriction and alternative route via Ongar Road. Cllrs to provide details of which farmer for clerk to write. 3. The overgrown hedge at Hockleys is again causing the collapse of the road, clerk to log and forward details to Cllr Barker. <p><i>Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting.</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs/ Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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2	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Vacancy and Co-Option</p> <p>The parish councillor vacancy was advertised in parish news and verbally communicated in the parish. One application was received.</p> <p>Cllr Phillips proposed Gemma Chaplain be co-opted to join Margaret Roding parish council, this was seconded by Cllr Nicolls with all in agreement.</p> <p>Cllr Chaplain signed the declaration of office which was witnessed by the clerk. The register of interests was completed and forwarded to Uttlesford and Cllr Chaplain was provided with the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.</p>	
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Declaration of Interest for this meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Forum</p> <p>No public present.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 15th January 2025 were proposed by Cllr Phillips as a true record, seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement.</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Progress Update and Correspondence</p> <p>Chelmsford City Council has consulted (closed 18th March) on its Local Plan pre submission Regulation 19, prior to submission to the planning inspector. The plan was adopted in 2020, and this is a statutory five-year update. The documents can be viewed on the Chelmsford City Council website.</p> <p>MAGs have launched a public consultation (pre planning application) with a proposal to increase passenger numbers from the approved 43million/annum to 51million/annum. This to be achieved by making best use of the existing 'single runway within the same boundaries and no more flights than currently allowed'. Details can be viewed at this link, https://backstanstedplan.co.uk/ and comments can be submitted online.</p> <p>Dunmow area parish meeting where Uttlesford provide updates to clerks and cllrs takes place on 2nd April, topics for update are Local Plan. Community Infrastructure Levy and Devolution and Local Government Reform.</p> <p>Essex Police requested expressions of interest from Parish Councils interested in jointly funding a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) by mid-February. The parish council's view was there was insufficient need and no budgeted parish council funding, no response was submitted.</p>	
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillor's Updates</p> <p>8.1 Environment and Health – Cllr Phillips reported on a successful litter pick. The meeting discussed the constant litter issue along the A1060, clerk to contact Uttlesford to understand if they still litter pick this route, and Cllrs to consider an Autumn litter pick later in the year.</p> <p>8.2 Transport – Noting to report.</p> <p>8.3 Local Government – Essex Association of Local Councils are providing monthly, and ad-hoc updates on devolution plans which have been forwarded to Cllrs.</p> <p>The meeting noted the PCSO will be in the parish on 23rd March at 9am.</p>	Clerk

Signed Simon Phillips
Chairman Margaret Roding Parish Council

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9	Planning	
9.1	Applications - None	
9.2	Decisions for information only <div> Application No UTT/24/3224/HHF Location Oak Cottage, Chelmsford Road Development Demolition of existing previous 1970's extensions and new proposed side extension including front and rear projection including alterations to existing structure. Decision Conditional Approval </div> <div> Application No UTT/25/0251/AG Location Garnish Hall Farm, Chelmsford Road Development Proposed straw barn Decision Deemed approved </div>	
10	Highways	
10.1	<p>The meeting received and discussed the report from the meeting arranged by Kemi Badenoch's office on 17th January with Essex Highways and Thames Water to discuss resolutions to issue with Marks Hall Lane and associated surface water drainage. Follow up actions for the parish council are as follows,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine ownership (and therefore responsibility) of the pipe which runs on the east side of Marks Hall Lane, under The Gossetts and out into the ditch behind The Gossetts on the A1060. The clerk has written to Uttlesford given their historic ownership of the wider site and suggesting this is their ownership, a response is pending. b. Contact the Environment Agency to determine what if anything is possible to develop overflow on land on south side of A1060 at the bridge to avoid flooding of the highway c. Contact the Environment Agency and request the current high-risk flood zone (10% chance of properties flooding) which has an impact on home insurance, is downgraded. <p>Cllr Parsons suggested making sure the authorities carry out works in the correct order is also essential, e.g. jetting of drains happened before Uttlesford swept the road.</p>	Cllr Parsons /Clerk
10.2	Other Matters – Cllr Nicholls raised the missing speed roundels along the A1060, to note these are part of the Local Highway Panel application, see agenda item 6.	
11	Projects	
11.1	80th commemoration of VE Day, communication on national plans have been received for Thursday 8th May 2025. The Reid Rooms is unavailable for this event.	
11.2	Update on Community Speed Watch – A request for volunteers will be included in parish news. Clerk to email the previous individuals who came forward to see if they are still interested.	Clerk
11.3	Update on VAS sign – No further progress.	Clerk
12	Parish Council Management and Financial Risk Review	
	The meeting considered the current schedule, noted the updates and were of the view there was nothing further to add.	
13	Grant Applications	
	In response to a request from Margaret Roding Parochial Church Council (PCC), Cllr Phillips proposed a grant of £600 is made to the PCC to support the cost of insuring Margaret Roding	

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	church, this was seconded by Cllr Parsons with all in agreement.	
14	Finance	
14.1	Cllr Parsons proposed the following payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Phillips with all in agreement. Allison Ward - Parish Clerk February 2025/March 2025 £ 153.55 Reid Rooms – Hire of venue for 2025 meeting £ 108.00	
14.2	There were no receipts in February or March 2025.	
14.3	It was noted a change to the bank mandate is required to remove Cllr Briggs. Clerk to provide contact details to Cllr Phillips and Cllr Turner to initiate online banking.	Clerk
15	Items for next Agenda Christmas Event 2025	
16	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Farmhouse. There will be two meetings on this evening, the first is the Annual Village Meeting, this will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The meeting closed at 9.00pm.	