

MARGARET RODING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at The Reid Rooms on Wednesday, 18th March 2026 at 07:30pm

Present: Cllrs Simon Phillips (Chair), Richard Parsons, Dave Nicoll, Robert Trundle and the Clerk, Oliver Rogers.¹

1 resident in attendance.

The Chair, Cllr Phillips opened the meeting at 7.32pm.

25/47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE²

The meeting accepted reasons for the apologies from the following Cllrs:

Cllrs Gemma Chaplin and Chris Turner due to work commitments.

25/48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING³

None.

25/49 PUBLIC FORUM (Maximum 15 minutes)

None.

25/50 MINUTES OF ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING⁴ held on Wednesday, 21st January 2026 the meeting **resolved and agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting.

25/51 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

Around half a dozen potholes were filled by Uttlesford District Council on The Gossetts.

An outline of recent sewage flooding issues was given by Cllr Parsons and complaints have been raised by residents in The Gossetts with Thames Water about repeated flooding problems. Cllr Phillips said there was a number of reports to Thames Water about the pumping station the day before this meeting (Tuesday, 17th March).

It was **resolved and agreed** to ask Cllr Susan Barker to arrange a meeting with Kemi Badenoch MP and Clerk to write to Thames Water about February's sewage flooding issues relating to pumping station on the junction with Marks Hall Lane and The Gossetts.

Councillors **resolved and agreed** to produce an article would be included in the Parish News informing residents about the functions of the Parish Council and how it could help to influence large companies and authorities. Clerk to action.

25/52 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

25.52.01 Parish Councillors raised concern about hedging causing difficulties pulling out on to Marks Hall Lane. The Clerk confirmed a letter had been hand delivered to the residents and no action has subsequently been taken. Parish Councillors **resolved and agreed** to write to

¹ Local Government Act 1972 Section 12 (40) [Record of attendance at the meeting]

² Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1) [Record of absence for the meeting]

³ Localism Act 2011 Sections 29 (1) [Record of declared interests]

⁴ Local Government Act 1972 Section 12 Part IV para 41 (1) and (2) [Minutes are a signed and accurate record of the previous meeting]

Signed

Cllr Simon Phillips (Chair, Parish Council)

Uttlesford District Council and Essex Highways about their safety concerns relating to the overgrown hedges.

25.52.02 The Gossetts car park update - Wooden posts around the car park and resurfacing of potholes reported to Uttlesford District Council on Friday, 6th March by the Clerk. Light has been reported and the drain opposite No.9/10 as flooded soak away and needs a clean out has been reported to UDC.

Multiple concerns about vehicles in the car park have been put to the DVLA, UDC and Essex Police. Clerk to action follow-up letters to the DVLA and one vehicle was reported to Essex Police. *[Since this meeting Essex Police removed a vehicle for having false number plates on 21st March 2026]*⁵

25.52.03 Spring litter pick report - Cllr Phillips reported 25 bags were collected on Saturday, 14th March with 9 volunteers helping to collect rubbish. This has now been reported to Uttlesford District Council for collection from The Gossetts car park. Cllr Trundle apologised for not taking part and Cllr Nicoll reported that he cleaned out a large quantity of dog poo and bags from a ditch.

A water leak was reported to Affinity Water in the grass verge on the Chelmsford bound direction. Reference: 126266. *[Affinity Water has since reported an inspection has not found any leak. A visual check of the verge will need to be undertaken to check for water]*

25/53 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- Grants from Uttlesford District Council to support a Christmas meal have been requested from Cllr Barker, however it has been noted that the District Councillor response suggested this would be unlikely this year
- Letters from St Clare Hospice and the Herts and Essex Air Ambulance charities confirming a donation of £101.50 was received by each organisation and thanking Parish Councillors for the donations made at Christmas from the money raised in the raffle at the Christmas Lunch had been received
- Safer Roads consultation on speed limits and action by Essex County Council will be circulated but a comment from the Parish Council will need to be agreed by the deadline of 26th April 2026. This will need to be resolved by email with Parish Councillors as the deadline is before the date of the next meeting.

25/54 PLANNING APPLICATIONS [See APPENDIX A]⁶

None.

25/55 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN INSTALLATION⁷

22.55.01 The Parish Council was unsuccessful in securing a grant from the Essex Community Foundation for half of the proposed cost of the project (£1,757.08) from the High Sherriff's Community Safety Fund. This was due to the level of applications that this fund received (61 applications and were only able to support 8). The fund prioritised applications for projects that worked directly with people to address crime prevention. These included

⁵ An order made under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 Section 44 (1) [False number plates offence]

⁶ The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Article 25 and 25A) [Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all parish related planning applications submitted to the Principal Authority in England]

⁷ An order made under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 Section 31 [Power to provide facilities to prevent crime]

Signed
Cllr Simon Phillips (Chair, Parish Council)

helping victims of crime, working with young people and informing them about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, gangs and anti-social behaviour, and supporting vulnerable residents.

25.55.02 Parish Councillors were told about a policy decision by Essex Highways taken in January 2026 that impacts upon the viability of the VAS project as originally proposed by the Parish Council. It is now not possible for the Parish Council to use any contractor other than Essex Highways.

25.55.02 Parish Councillors discussed another existing pole site and the ability to clear private tree and hedging to allow the solar array to work. Cllr Phillips and Cllr Trundle to speak to owners of the field about the hedge.

25.55.03 Parish Councillors **resolved and agreed** to make an application for funding to the Essex Fund for £5,000 to part-fund this project.

25/56 POLICY REVIEW

25.56.01 Parish Councillors reviewed existing policies on the website including:

- Standing Orders
- Privacy policy
- Grant policy
- Complaints procedure
- Freedom of Information
- Document retention

To note, the financial regulations, reserves policy, safeguarding and diversity and equality policies were all recently either reviewed or introduced at the previous meeting in January 2026. It was **resolved and agreed** to retain all of these policies unchanged.

25/57 FINANCE [See APPENDIX B]⁸

25.57.01 To approve the payments schedule listed below.

25.57.02 To note, that due to a banking error by Barclays Bank, £190 in cash from Great Canfield Parish Council was paid into the Margaret Roding Parish Council's bank account. The Clerk has rectified this issue by getting a new deposit card issued from Barclays Bank and due to the permissions not allowing inter-account transfers, this cash is proposed as being made as a payment to Great Canfield's account on the below schedule.

25.57.03 Payments to the current account include the refund of £77.75 VAT from HMRC bringing the current total in this account to £1,722.95 (excluding £190 for GCPC). The savings account has £4,946.60. £12.49 in interest was paid into this account on 2nd March.

25/58 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS⁹

25.58.01 Arrangements were made to hold this legally required meeting before the next Parish Council meeting on 20th May from 7.30pm. Clerk to provide refreshments.

25/59 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2026

⁸ The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 Regulation 4 (1-4) [Category 2 authorities maintain accurate financial records]

⁹ An order made under the Local Government Act 1894 Chapter 73 Part I (1) (1) / Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 para 7 (1) [Required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting each year]

Signed
Cllr Simon Phillips (Chair, Parish Council)

~~18th March~~

20th May

15th July

16th September

18th November

25/60 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

VAS sign

Thames Water meeting

Car park update

25/61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.30pm at The Reid Rooms.

Meeting closed by the Chair at 08.46pm.

APPENDIX A

None.

APPENDIX B

PAYMENT TO:	VALUE:
Oliver Rogers, Parish Clerk [February/March]	£248.88
RCCE - renewal of membership	£63.60
Refund to Great Canfield Parish Council	£190.00
TOTAL:	£502.48

Signed
Cllr Simon Phillips (Chair, Parish Council)