**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 10th April 2014 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present;**  H Blurton, T Boem, P Savill (Chairman), P Slade, C Quilter.

**In Attendance:** Cllr I Grundy and two members of the public.

**Apologies for absence;** L Edwards, M Scott and A Smith

**133. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**134. Democratic Time**

There was nothing to report in regards to Flood Alleviation; however trees had been felled and there had been a few bonfires. The following actions were agreed

**P Savill** to e mail the Environment Agency’s project manager to find out when replacement trees were to be planted. P Torr had suggested replanting with mature trees. **I Grundy** to contact the owner of Crondon Hall Golf Club who it was thought wanted to get rid of some mature trees. **T Boem** to inform P Torr that the Parish Council agree with his suggestion. H Blurton reported that the contractors work had come to a stop; I Grundy suspected this may be because of a dispute with a landowner. H Blurton reported that timber bollards had been placed around the green opposite his house but nowhere else. **H Blurton** to contact A Bestwick (Chelmsford City Council) and find out about the other areas that are meant to be protected. **I Grundy** to ask Andy Bestwick to send the Parish Council an update. Mr & Mrs Albion reported that the water from the blocked ditch in Parsonage Lane was being piped to the ditch on the opposite side of the road. **P Savill** to speak to Environment Department and ask them to inspect as this ditch may include septic waste.

**135. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated Thursday 10th April 2014 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**136. Matters Arising**

a.War Memorial Posts H Blurton reported that he had taken a photograph of the stone posts and sent it to ‘Precast’ in Basildon and was awaiting a quote.  **Clerk** to inform the contact at Moody Homes that it was in hand.

b. Lavender Bank P Savill reported that there had been lots of good comments about the tulips. She had received an acknowledgement from Highways stating our request to install a kerb for the bank was being considered by one of their engineers.

c. Parish Council Vacancy Posters to be displayed until 21st April 2014.

d. Village Spring Clean Clerk reported that she was to pick up equipment for litter pick and waste was to be collected from her address on the Monday by the Hit Squad.

e. Dog Bin Orton Close Nothing to report

f. Speedwell Garage P Savill had reported the parked cars to the Police and Street Scene (Chelmsford City Council).

g. Best Kept Village Competition It was reported that M Scott had submitted the completed forms.

h. Shed on A414 P Savill reported that it was to be investigated by Highways and the Travellers Unit.

i. Barns House It was reported that the owner was allowed to put as many vehicles on his land as he likes and also have an office. **H Blurton** to inform A Smith.

**137. Reduced Speed Limits for Wantz Road, Writtle Road and Main Road.**

P Savill reported that the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel had approved and recommended this scheme for funding.

**138. Accounts**

Authorisation for the following was agreed;

 M D Landscapes £409.87

 EALC/NALC Subs £219.60

 Chelmsford City Council £231.85

The end of year accounts was discussed. **H Blurton** to get in touch with Ingleton Wood and ask for their interim payment invoice.

**139. Village Projects**

a Parish Council Office H Blurton reported that the electrics and water connection were to commence within the next week. Members of the parish council could find no problem with the roof tiles and the site had been kept spotless. **H Blurton** to look into the link up for the telephone connection.

b. Village Sign It was reported that **A Smith** was to visit C Curry and try to locate the mould for the village sign.

c. Village Hall Road Sign H Blurton reported that he had sent an e mail to Highways stating that unless the PC didn’t hear from them the brown signs would be installed. It was then agreed to go ahead but with a black and white sign.

d. Garden Railings opposite school P Savill reported that the work had been carried out. A Smith had found a student from Writtle College to paint the railings, this was agreed, but **H Blurton** was to liaise with A Smith about moving some earth around the railings before they are painted.

e. Whitesbridge Walkboards Nothing to report.

f. Village Gateways **H Blurton** to follow up L Edwards e mail as the gates have to be made of white plastic.

**140. Village Sites**

**(i)** Repairs & Maintenance – nothing to report

**(ii)** Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways. It was reported that a tree has fallen over across the gateway of bridleway 44; the landowner has been given 28 days to remove it. P Slade asked about footpath 21 and if the parish council knew when it was to close and the whistle board stopped. P Savill reported improvement work should have started in January and has probably been delayed due to the bad weather. **P Savill** to contact Network Rail for an update.

**(iii)** Pond & Trees. T Boem reported that the working party would probably take place in the summer. There is a lot of Blanket Weed that need removing; P Slade offered to try and remove some. T Boem reported that the Jubilee Oak was dead; he was to contact L Cameron later in the year and apply for a replacement.

**141. Maldon Road Recreation Ground**

Allotments W Cant had given up her allotment. P Savill to put a piece in the newsletter to see if anyone wanted to take one on as it was believed that there were three empty allotments. Clerk to liaise with K Young with regard to allotment records.

Play Area Nothing to report.

**142. Planning**

Elmhurst, Maldon Road No Objections

14/00530/FUL Single storey rear extension and insertion of new roof light to side elevation.

Decisions

Van Dykes, Margaretting Tye Granted

13/01858/FUL Demolition of existing house and construction of a new five bed roomed house.

**143. Emergency Planning**

It was agreed that the key holders and point of contact would be April Nixon, P Savill and H Blurton.

**P Savill** to put something in the newsletter in the summer and to try and get a list drawn up of vulnerable people who would need assistance in an emergency situation.

**144. Correspondence**

a. Clerk reported that she had received the paperwork for the 2013/14 annual audit return (9th June)

b. Clerks and Councils direct magazine.

c. Essex Highways – Notification of repair works to roads

d. Essex Heritage News

e. Posters for the Notice Board re; European Election

f. County Update Number 122

g. The Playing Field Leaflet Spring 2014 – C Quilter to read

h. HMRC The allowance to cut tax for business and charities.

**145. Any Other Business.**

1. Wantz Road/Parked cars – there was concern about the number of cars being parked along Wantz Road. It was agreed that as there were no road markings to restrict parking along this stretch of road there was nothing the Parish Council could do.

2. T Boem had discovered that weed killer was being sprayed around posts and trees. **P Savill** to contact L Cameron and the Parks Department to find out why.

3. Colin Quilter asked about highway repairs by nuns crossing – **P Savill** to chase up

4. **Clerk** to report missing bus stop sign opposite Church Lane.

5. **P Savill** to book the village hall for the parish assembly on 15th May.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 8th May 2014 at 7.30 p.m.