A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Present; H Blurton, L Edwards (Chairman), T Paoli-Burke, C Quilter, P Savill, P Slade, A Smith and A Wallace. In attendance Cllr I Grundy.

**136. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**137. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated 10th March 2016 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**138. Matters Arising**

**a. Community Charge/Precept** – It was explained that the increase as shown on residents renewals was due to grants from central government where the city council have to make up the difference.

**b. Telephone box at Margaretting Tye** – Clerk reported on the response from BT which reported the box was to be removed within two years and BT’S offer for the Parish Council to adopt it. Clerk to follow up and find out how much it would cost to adopt it.

**c. CHP**  L Edwards reported that she was still trying to arrange a meeting with a CHP Representative outside Glenside Cottages.

**139. Accounts**

P Savill outlined the end of year accounts and reserves. £18,665 was carried forward into the new financial year. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the external auditor and ask if the return could be extended until the end June.

Authority was given for payment of the following:

R Rees Tap at Playing Field £110.00

M D Landscapes Grass cutting £439.20

Village Hall Electric for Office £ 98.82

Essex & Suffolk Water Allotment/Water £ 48.67

EALC Subs £240.33

P Savill to check that the insurance contribution to the village hall had been paid.

**140. Community Matters**

Orton Close Following a complaint about skateboarders using the slope on the new tarmacked area Mrs T Paoli-Burke to have a discreet word with them. L Edwards reported that she had already requested that CHP put a sign up.

**141. Maldon Road Playing Field**

Play Area C Quilter reported that there were no problems in the play area.

Allotments After a discussion it was agreed that a beehive wouldn’t be allowed to be placed on an allotment. P Savill to contact T Nixon who would pass the message on . It was also agreed that any wasp’s nests in the allotment hedge would be dealt with by the parish council and removed.

**142. Access to Office**

H Blurton reported that the hand rail was on order. Clerk to order the Notice Board and wall fixing. The computer and printer were set up and in working order; planters were in place and served their purpose. H Blurton also reported that the office heating had been turned off.

**143. Open Reach**

L Edwards reported that quite a few residents were having problems with their telephone and broadband connection. Cllr I Grundy was to speak to Jon Whittingdale and explain that the problem had been going on for over a year.

**144. Village Sites**

a. George White’s Bench – after a discussion it was agreed that this item would not be proceeding.

b. Bus Shelter opposite the Red Lion – H Blurton reported that the shelter needed two coats of wood preserve and the broken timber made good.

c. Lavender Bank – There were two quotes in hand £1,800 and £5,400. Cllr I Grundy to contact Paul Vann Damm from the parks department.

**145. Pond and Trees**

a. Pond – P Slade reported that he was meeting a representative from the conservation volunteers by the pond in May.

b. Hit Squad – Clerk to report the debris in Parsonage Lane blocking the ditch.

c. Clerk to report two dead cherry trees – opposite Parsonage Lane and on the green in Maldon Road.

**146. Roads and Pavements**

i. H Blurton reported that the Parish Council were unsuccessful with getting funding for the village gateways; however they would be staying on the city council’s list.

ii. I Grundy reported that Swan Lane would be given a ‘quieter lane’ status this was the first one given out by the city council.

iii. P Slade reported that he had taken photographs of flooding in Maldon Road by Nunns Crossing and met with a representative from Highways on site who confirmed that some work needed to take place. P Slade had been given a fault reference number for this.

iv. I Grundy to ask J Simmons for details of the linking of bridleways 44, 54 & 11.

v. L Edwards reported that all swing gates in Parsonage Lane were unlocked.

vi. Clerk to report damaged kerbstones in Orton Close.

**147. The Queen’s Birthday Celebration**

P Savill outlined the recent meeting and the schedule for the day. Everything had been booked and confirmed and the Black Bull was to hold a coffee morning. It had been agreed that the hog roast would cost £2 a person and tickets were to be brought beforehand. People were to be encouraged to bring their own picnic tables and drinks. The Parish Council decided not to give commemorative coins or mugs on this occasion.

**148. Planning**

Applications

16/00467/FUL Workshop east of Mole Cottage, London Road No objections

Change of use from B1 (piano repair workshop) to D1 (Personal trainer use)

16/00332/FUL Jonette, Pennys Lane No objections

Demolition of front wing. Rising of roof to create first floor accommodation with front and rear dormer windows. Extensions to front and rear.

Decisions

16/00266/FUL Foxgloves, Main Road Granted

16/00084/FUL Briars, Maldon Road Granted

16/00070/FUL West Mead, Maldon Road Granted

16/00025/FUL 4 Brookside Cottages, Main Road Granted

Planning Meeting held on 29th March 2016

16/00060/FUL Elm Cottage, Main Road No Objections

Retrospective application to construct gated access

**149. Correspondence**

a. Invite for Chairman to attend Mayors event on 12th June – L Edwards to respond. Unfortunately it falls on the same day as the Queen’s birthday celebration and so was unable to attend.

b. Notification from Relief in Need Trust that A Smith will serve a further four years

**150. Any Other Business**

a. Clerk to book The Chelmer Room for the Parish Assembly Tuesday 10th May at 7.30p.m.

b. Clerk to follow up the request to have Dog Bin installed at The Village Hall.

c. H Blurton to purchase a new sheet of Perspex for the notice board.

d. The security of the village hall was discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Next meeting the AGM 12th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Parish Assembly 10th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m.