**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 12th December 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present;** H Blurton, T Boem, L Edwards, P Savill (Chairman), M Scott, P Slade, A Smith and C Quilter.

Also present were three members of the public.

**77. Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr I Grundy and K Young

**78. Declarations of Interest.** There were no Declarations of Interest.

**79. Democratic Time**

(a) Mr & Mrs Albon attended the meeting for an update on the outcome of the judicial review which had been in favour of the council. H Blurton reported work was due to start in Swan Lane in January. It was agreed that **H Blurton** contact The Environment Agency and ask if they were planning to re-schedule the drop in meeting that had been previously arranged.

(b) W Henderson outlined the ongoing drainage problems. P Savill explained that Network Rail had inspected the site and had requested two quotes, one for a blocked drain and one for a damaged drain, work was due to commence in January.

(c) W Henderson reported the evening train whistles were still annoying local residents with young children. P Savill confirmed Network Rail would like to close this footpath.

**80. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2013 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**81. Matters Arising**

**a. Maztec.** M Scott reported that the £500 donation would be transferred to parish council funds.

**b. War Memorial Posts.**  **Clerk** to re-contact Aviva for an update.

**c. Little Tressels.** H Blurton reported the Enforcement notices stated the case has been closed even though the lagoon is still full of rubbish.

**d. PC Membership.** The PC was still waiting to hear from EALC.

**e. Lavender Bank.** P Savill reported that she was waiting to hear back from Highways Customer Services.

**f. Railings opposite school.**  It was confirmed the work will be carried out although no date had been given.

**g. Bus Service.**  **L Edwards** to do some research in the Christmas holidays. P Savill outlined a problem reported by one of the parents at the school. The broken sign at the bus stop next to the Black Bull has been repaired. The vegetation around the bus shelter opposite the Black Bull has been cleared.

**82. Village Projects**

**a. Parish Council Office.** P Savill reported on all the grants received to date. She confirmed Essex County Council had agreed a CIF grant of £20,000 towards the building costs and explained the figures for the PWLB 4% fixed rate loan over 20 years would not increase the precept. There were no objections to going forward with the project or applying for a PWLB loan. **P Savill and the Clerk** to apply for a PWLB £20,000 loan, to be paid back over 20 years. **H Blurton** to speak to Ingeleton Wood and request that Tom Greens be put on notice. **P Savill** to sign the Deed of Understanding from Essex Environment Trust. M Scott asked whether having the men’s toilets refurbished at the same time (village hall project) was a possibility.

**b. Whites Bridge**& **Walkboards.** Nothing to report.

**c. Village Gateways.**  H Blurton reported that he had chased up but still hasn’t heard anything.

**d. Village Sign.**  H Blurton explained that he had spoken to H Signs who had confirmed that if they used the previous mould the price would be reduced.

**83. Accounts**

Authority was given for payment of the following;

CCC playing field rent £ 50.00

Chairmans Expenses £ 50.00

Clerks Salary & Expenses £ 473.75

Margaretting PCC £ 475.00

T Boem (bulbs) £ 49.40

**84. Village Hall Internet Connection.**

The speed and costs of the internet were discussed. It was agreed that M Scott would write a piece to be included in the newsletter to see if parishioners were interested in pushing for a faster service. Virgin Media had also given a quote which included free calls which would be handy when the office was built. It was agreed to stay with BT until the office is built and as from 1st January 2014 not to charge the village hall for a contribution towards the broadband costs.

**85. Precept 2014/15**

Chelmsford City Council’s agreed budget guidelines were for 0% inflation. P Savill presented a spreadsheet showing projected budget figures for 2014/15 which members of the parish council discussed and agreed. The precept was set at £12,421.

**86. Village Sites**

a. Village Hall Road Sign Nothing to report

b. Repairs & Maintenance Nothing to report

c. Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways Notification of diversion of footpath 32 – no objections as it is a safer route. It was reported that the fence had been repaired and a new post put in on footpath 43, however there was still an obstruction to the highway, **Clerk** to report.

d. Pond and Trees **M Scott** to cut down some vegetation at the pond which **T Boem** agreed to dispose of. **H Blurton** to get three quotes for the willow tree at The Tye as permission had been granted to carry out the requested work.

**87. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

C Quilter reported that there were no problems with the recreation field. **Clerk** to re contact parks department about the allotment hedge.

**88. Planning**

Decisions

Fristling Hall 13/01042/FUL Refused

Whites Place 13/01346/FUL Refused

Applications

Bullfinches 13/01710/FUL Change of use of agricultural buildings

No objections, although concerns were expressed about access; the parish council would support comments made by Highways.

**89. Emergency Planning**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting in Cllr Grundy’s absence.

**90. Correspondence**

a. Voluntary Action Update – **T Boem** to read

b. EALC County Update – **L Edwards** to read

c. Recycling – Poster showing small electrical items can now be left out for collection.

**91. Any Other Business**

1. ACRE – P Savill – VAT – Agenda Item January

2. Speed Limit/Writtle Road – Writtle Parish Council representatives to attend January meeting

3. Road Markings – Peter Slay was concerned about markings on the road by the school.

4.Bridleway – It was reported that the bridleway by Whitesbridge Cottages had been churned up.

5. Swan Lane – H Blurton reported that Liz Haines had sent him a copy of a letter she had to send to Cllr Grundy as she had fallen down the same pothole twice.

6. Maldon Road – H Blurton was to keep an eye on and report if necessary the diggers in the field on the corner of Maldon Road.

7. Street Lights – **Clerk** to investigate why the street light Number 23 is kept on all night.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.48 p.m. Next meeting Thursday 9th January 2014 at 7.30 p.m.