A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 13th December 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present; H Blurton, C Quilter, P Savill ( chairman), M Scott, A Smith and K Young.

Also present was one member of the public.

**83. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from W Cant, L Edwards and Cllr I Grundy.

**84. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**85. Democratic Time**

W Henderson notified the Parish Council of a stolen vehicle and also made them aware that transit vans were being targeted.

**86. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2012 were agreed and signed after the insertion of Bridleway 22 on item F in Any Other Business.

**87. Matters Arising**

a. Elm Cottage – Clerk had reported the dangerous debris to Highways.

b. Barns House – It was reported that the area had been tidied up. It was agreed to keep an eye on the site.

c. Pot Holes – **P Savill** to report to Cllr Grundy that the Parish Council was unhappy with pothole repairs around the village.

d. Railway – **P Savill** to contact Network Rail to ask when the repairs to Maldon Road were due to be completed.

**88. Accounts**

Authority was given for payment of the following:

Chairman’s Expenses £ 50.00

Margaretting PCC £ 475.00

Shelter Clean £ 75.00

H Boem £ 55.64

C Kochan £455.27

P Savill outlined the accounts and reported that there was still some income due; the Village Hall contribution to broadband. The precept was discussed and it was agreed to set it at £12,415.00. It was agreed that the annual parish council newsletter would be discontinued.

**89. Planning**

Decisions

12/01474/FUL Berwyn, Maldon Road Granted

12/01471/FUL Great Tressells Granted

12/01274/FUL Fristling Hall Refused

Appeal

12/00384/FUL The Oaks Appeal Dismissed

Retrospective application to retain building and its use as an office.

Building Regulations Consultation

H Blurton explained that the government was consulting on a number of proposed changes to the building regulations. Concerns that the changes would allow home owners to build rear extensions of up to 20ft and Local Authorities not being able to refuse planning permissions were discussed. **H Blurton** to respond that the Parish Council does not support the proposed changes.

H Blurton outlined the draft submission document ‘Core Strategy and Development Control Policies’

**90. Flood Alleviation Scheme**

P Savill reported that H Blurton, M Scott and herself had attended a presentation given by Matthew Perry for members of Chelmsford City’s Planning Committee. Statements from local villages had been read out; Ingatestone was concerned about sewage and Galleywood about traffic. H Blurton and M Scott had reported local residents’ concerns about Roman Road being in the flood plain and Swan Lane being a protected lane. Comments made by parish council representatives were noted but not discussed at the presentation. Following the presentation there was an onsite meeting where councillors were shown the proposed locations for the dam and embankment. The expected date for the scheme to be presented to committee is January 8th.

H Blurton reported on a meeting between the residents of The Tye and Matthew Perry (CCC), Ian Dodson and Chris Fosbeary (EA), before the meeting it was agreed to make certain suggestions as requested by the residents. Having a speed limit and parking restrictions were refused, but other suggestions were made; vegetation and hedges needed to be kept low; repairs to Swan Lane needed to be carried out before work commenced; Swan Lane to be swept; before and after photos to be taken; restriction of lorry movements between 12-4; concern about residents that lived in vulnerable properties. It was confirmed that no one would be living on site and that Highways wanted a traffic management plan to be imposed.

M Scott wondered if there was any chance of ensuring that the lane could be reinstated in a better condition following the scheme by having the verges raised and passing places constructed. P Savill suggested the village should push to get as much as possible from the Environment Agency whilst the scheme is being carried out. It was therefore agreed to speak to Andy Bestwick at the next meeting which is scheduled to be about the walk boards.

**91. Street Lighting. ECC consultation on part night lighting in Margaretting**

Although there had not been any objections to the parish council about the proposed scheme P Savill expressed her reservations about some of the lights being switched off in Maldon Road.

**92. Village Projects**

**(i) Whitesbridge and Whitesbridge Walk Boards**

The meeting on Tuesday, 8h January with A Bestwick to discuss the landscape architect’s design proposals for the walk boards will be attended by P Savill, M Scott, H Blurton and A & T Smith.

 **(ii) Village Gateways**

It was reported that this item had been on the agenda for a year and hadn’t moved forward. **H Blurton** to contact Cllr Grundy and ask him to pursue.

**(iii) Parish Council Office**

P Savill reported that she had sent in an application form for some funding from CCC and she had also approached Maztec. The Parish Council supported her request to apply for funding from the Essex Community Foundation. M Scott suggested that the Village Hall advisor may be able to help.

**93. Village Sites**

a. Repairs and Maintenance

Bus Shelter H Blurton and A Smith had met on site and agreed that the shelter cannot be moved forward. It could be moved backwards a metre to allow a larger shelter to fit in but permission would have to be gained from Greene King. **P Savill** to chase up the situation regarding the larger shelter.

b. Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways

Lavender Bank H Blurton reported that the sleepers would cost £280 and would take a couple of days to put them into place. **Clerk** to contact two local parishioners and ask them to contact H Blurton if they are interested in the work. **P Savill** to ask T Boem if he knows anyone.

Bridleway 43 C Quilter reported that he has cut the wire himself and therefore made safe.

Bridleway 22 C Quilter reported that he was in contact with the authorities.

c. Pond and Trees

H Blurton confirmed that he was in possession of the rings for the trees. The plaques for the bench to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee will cost £116.67 + vat, it was agreed that he should order them.

Mayors Tree – Two prices were given for the metal railings around the tree opposite the school, it was agreed to accept the lowest, Brian Green’s quote of £50.60 (materials).

**94. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

(i) Allotments – It was reported that there were a few free, P Savill knew someone that might be interested in one. K Young reported that the water survey people hadn’t been in touch with him.

(ii) Play Area- Nothing to report on play area. Skateboard park still in hand. K Young reported that he had spoken to Andy Conway regarding the brambles along the fence between his property and the driveway to the allotments, he didn’t mind if the parish council trimmed them back a bit.

**95. Correspondence**

a. EALC County Update – to be passed onto L Edwards

**96. Any Other Business**

**Clerk** to find out when the salt is to be delivered to Whitesbridge Farm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.52 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 10th January 2013, 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall.