A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday, 9th February 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: H Blurton, T Boem, W Cant, C Quilter, P Savill, M Scott, A Smith and K Young.

Also present were four members of the public and Cllr Ian Grundy.

**116. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**117. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**118. Democratic Time**

a. The Tye: W Henderson reported that a water lagoon was being filled in. **P Savill** reported this matter was in hand and she would chase up with Environmental Services.

b. Maldon Road: Following concerns about work at Nuns Crossing A Smith reported that he was waiting for confirmation from Network Rail that they would make good the damage to the grass verges caused by their contractors. **P Savill** to contact Network Rail’s Community Relations.

c. Flood Alleviation: J Currie reported that he had insufficient information on the project and that G Sharpe as a land owner wanted to be involved in any meetings. Martin Stevens questioned whether the impact that the scheme will have on local resident's land and properties and to the landscape in Margaretting had been fully appreciated. P Savill expressed her disappointment that the PC had not received any information or a progress report from the Environment Agency since the time Sadia Moeed was project manager for the scheme.

It was agreed that **P Savill** contact the Environment Agency and invite Ian Dodson (current project manager) to the next meeting. **I Grundy** agreed to contact the Leader of the Borough Council.

d. Bridleway from Swan Lane called ‘Green Lane’: H Blurton explained that the gates and sheds that have been built at the far end of Parsonage Lane did not have planning permission but the owner has now applied for a ‘certificate of lawfulness’

e. Footpaths: Martin Stevens expressed concerns that a bull is being kept in the field crossed by a public footpath. M Scott explained that bulls, if accompanied by cows, are allowed free range in a field.

**119. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2012 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record after the following amendment: P Quilter to read C Quilter

**120. Matters Arising**

a. Dog Poo Bin - Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Dog Warden who would inspect site.

b. Road Signs and Overgrown Paths - P Savill reported that the Rangers Team were to clean the road signs and Highways were to investigate who owns the land so that the pedestrian paths in Main Road could be cleared of vegetation.

c. Speed Review - I Grundy reported that the Speed Review which had been carried out was waiting to be ‘rubber stamped’.

d. Peacocks - Following a mixture of complaints, a landowner’s offer of a home to the peacocks and views that they should be left as they are, it was agreed to take no action. **P Savill** to mention the peacocks in the newsletter.

e. Elm Cottage - nothing to report.

**121. Parish Council Vacancy**

**Clerk** to notify the Borough Council that no one came forward to take Nick Marshall’s seat and therefore the PC would advertise to co-opt a member.

**122. Margaretting Relief in Need Trust Vacancy**

After a short discussion H Blurton proposed A Smith for this position, P Savill seconded the proposal. A Smith accepted. **P Savill** to contact Maurice Wright.

**123. The Queens Diamond Jubilee**

The following had already been put into place or was being organised for the jubilee;

Barn Dance and Hog Roast had been booked - parishioners were to bring their own drinks; Marquee needed to be ordered; Magic show (£75) and Bouncy Castle had been booked (£180). £150 for this would come from the money put aside for the summer play scheme. P Savill had applied for a £400 grant. There would be a fancy dress competition, mini Olympics, games and a tea party. The Headmaster at the village school was to encourage the children to get involved. It was agreed that the young children of the village would receive a commemorative mug. **P Savill** to write a piece in the newsletter to find out how many mugs were needed. It was also agreed that the Maztec donation of £800 would be ploughed into the Jubilee fund.

**124. Accounts**

P Savill outlined the income and expenditure sheet. There were no invoices for presentation at this meeting.

**125. Village Sites – Repairs and Maintenance**

a. Bus Shelter - nothing to report

b. Grass Verge, Footpaths and Bridleways

**H Blurton** to investigate having protection on the grass verge island at The Tye. M Scott reported that he had spoken to the Footpaths Officer about Bridleway 22; the only suggestion was to replace the boards and keep them treated.  **Clerk** to contact G Sharpe about the mounting blocks.

c. Trees and Pond

Trees - T Boem reported that the old oak tree on the green in Maldon Road had had its branches taken off. He was waiting for Lynn Cameron to get in touch with him regarding his enquiry as to whether the tree will be taken down and also where the new tree should go.

Arthur’s Tree - **M Scott** to check with the Cricket Club whether the nets could be re-stationed.

**126. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

Allotments - K Young reported that everything was fine on the allotments; he was to speak to the allotmenteers regarding future payments for the water supply.

Play Area - P Savill reported that there had been no problems; C Quilter to be given some forms to record inspections. K Young reported that he was still waiting for the third quote for the skateboard ramp.

**127. Village Projects**

(i) Village Gateways - nothing to report

(ii) Parish Council Office - in hand

(iii) Whites Bridge - A Smith reported on the traffic calming plans drawn up by the bridge engineer. A site meeting will take place when further details are available.

(iv) Walkboards - the third quote had been received, so a project could now be put together and the PC start looking for funding. **P Savill** suggested raising the project with the Environment Agency when they attend the next meeting.

**128. Planning**

Applications

Wells Farm, Ivy Barn Lane 12/00123/FUL

Detached garage and cart lodge No objections

1 & 2 Ivy Cottage 12/00135/FUL

Amendments to implemented planning permission 11/00664/FUL No objections

Paddocks, Roman Road Approved under planning. Application needed for conservation

Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement three bedroom dwelling

Decisions

Westridge, Pennys Lane 11/01857/CLOPUD Refused

Eweland Hall Cottage 11/01855/FUL Approved

Planning meeting 19th January

Applications

The Black Bull 11/01999/ADV

Application for a non-illuminated sign.

PC Comments; The PC believe that this sign has been erected on a grass verge belonging to Essex County Council.

Whites Place Farm 12/00033/FUL

Construction of a new access road and improvements of existing access and landscaping.

PC Comments; The PC objects on the grounds that the proposed roadway would be on a green field site within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

**129. Correspondence**

a. Spring Litter Clean arranged for 24th March meeting at the Black Bull at 10.30 am

b. Sport & Play Scheme Leisure – **P Savill** to read

c. ROSPA Playground Inspections – **P Savill** to file

d. The Playing Field Newsletter – **C Quilter** to read

e. Making the Links Newsletter – **T Boem** to read

f. Bus Passenger News – No mention of services to Margaretting – **W Cant** to file

g. Ingatestone Council - E-mail from Penny Fordham (Clerk) regarding a Neighbourhood Plan – Margaretting already has a design statement.

h. County Update No 101 – **A Smith** to read

**130. Any Other Business**

(i) Salt Distribution: A Smith was commended for all his hard work in distributing the salt during the recent bad weather.

(ii) Ingatestone Car Parks: **P Savill** to write a letter objecting to the proposed parking fees in Ingatestone.

(iii) Olympic Torch - I Grundy explained that there would be an event at Hylands Park on 6th July to welcome the Olympic torch; anyone could apply via the internet.

(iv) Three Mile Hill Cycle Path - **I Grundy** to find out if the cycle path can be extended to the main gate for Hylands Park.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 8th March 2012 at 7.30 p.m.