**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 13th February 2014 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

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

**Apologies:** A. Smith and C. Kochan.

**106. Declaration of Interest**

 H. Blurton declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 – Planning Application concerning a property at The Tye.

**107. Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme: update on the Margaretting flood storage area works**

Ian Dodson (Environment Agency) and Chris Fosbeary (Royal Haskoning) attended the meeting to give a presentation on the current status of the scheme. This included details of advance work to be undertaken (clearance work to west side of river, formation of a site compound, installation of passing bays in Swan Lane, construction of a temporary bridge across the river Wid, removal of hedges, and trees. All of which is to be completed before the end of February. The Environment Agency (EA) is looking to appoint a contractor for the main construction work by late April/early May with the view to the project being completed before the end of November. The returned tenders for the work are currently being evaluated by the EA. Discussions are taking place with BT and with the power companies for the location of a small transfer unit (1 metre cubed). A 30mph temporary speed limit has been introduced for Swan Lane.

Those present expressed concerns about a number of issues which included the 20% of trees to be removed from the main embankment area, railway piling area and Brook Farm. Doubts were expressed that the scale of the tree removal had not been highlighted previously. Assurance was given by Mr Dodson that In order to mitigate the loss of the trees extensive planting of trees, shrubs and hedging would be undertaken. Assurance was also given that the damage to the green at The Tye and verges in Swan Lane caused by the contractor’s lorries on 12th February would be made good, bollards installed to prevent further damage and the contractor and the lorry drivers given instructions not to drive over the verges.

Confirmation was sought and given that no heavy lorries would be allowed through the village. Access to the main site would be via Galleywood and traffic movements in Swan Lane would be restricted between 12 and 2pm. Confirmation was also sought and given that the traffic access point opposite the school would not be used during the school’s peak hours. The question of whether a flood risk to properties in the vicinity of The Red Lion would occur in the event of the River Wid water being held back in the flood storage area was discussed. Both Mr Dodson and Mr Fosbeary explained there would be no danger of flooding because Main Road was higher than the River Wid valley. Operational staff would keep an eye on water levels and on how long to hold back the water. The question of the actual flood risk to Chelmsford was also discussed. Mr Dodson advised that 548 properties in Chelmsford were at risk of flooding. The scheme formed part of the EA’s flood risk management strategy and Chelmsford City’s ‘Planning for the Future’.

How the scheme would be maintained when completed was discussed. Assurance was given the scheme will be classified as a Category A site which means the EA will place a high value on its maintenance. This will include annual inspections and grass cutting.

A drop in session will be held in the village hall. It will be contractor led and possibly take place in late April.

Since the meeting the parish council has received the following information from Mr Dodson on the proposed planting*: ‘Brook Farm and railway piling - 63 trees and over 3,500 shrubs and hedging plants. Main Embankment – 465 trees and over 8,700 shrubs and hedging plants.’*

It has also been confirmed by Mr Dodson that: *‘detailed plans of the site clearance works were included in the planning application and the planning officer in his report to the planning committee identified the scale of the tree works proposed.’*

**108. Democratic Time**

 Comments on a planning application for the demolition of a house and construction of a five bed roomed house at The Tye were noted by the parish council.

**109. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9th January 2014 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**110. Matters Arising**

(i) Minute 97 - Matters Arising

* 1. **War Memorial Posts**. To date no response has been received from Aviva.
	2. **Lavender Bank.** To date no response has been received from Highways.
	3. **351 Bus Service.** L. Edwards reported she had received confirmation that the Margaretting zone begins at The Black Bull and that it had never been changed. Bus drivers have been informed accordingly. A copy of the new timetable has been posted at the bus stops.
	4. **Village Hall Internet Connection**. M. Scott reported he had received one response to the information published in the newsletter. **ACTION: Agenda item for March.**

(ii) Minute 102 – Action with Communities in Rural England ACRE

According to advice received from the RCCE some of the proposed changes could affect our ability as a parish council to reclaim VAT and any feedback to the consultation would be welcomed. It was agreed to respond to ACRE’s consultation expressing the view that if VAT reclaims were abolished it would have an adverse affect on our budget and precept. **ACTION: P. Savill**

**111. Reduced Speed limit for Wantz Road, Writtle Road and Main Road**

The results of the Automatic Traffic Count (Speed/Volume) survey undertaken on the B1008 Main Road and Wantz Road, Margaretting during December 2013 and January 2014 were noted. The results confirmed there are a considerable number of vehicles that do not adhere to the present speed limit. They also show the high volume of traffic using Main Road - north east bound total volume 21,475 and south west bound total volume 20,160. Comments were made on the location and timing for the survey in Main Road - the first week in January (a holiday period) and at a location nearby a pedestrian refuge island (where vehicles slow down). However, the parish council unanimously agreed these results did support its earlier view and local residents' requests that the speed limit for Main Road and Wantz Road should be lowered to 30mph. In order that our request can be submitted to the Local Highways Panel on 25 February it was agreed a letter should be sent to Jon Simmons (Highways Liaison Officer for Chelmsford City and Maldon District Local Highways Panels) informing him of the outcome of the parish council’s discussion. **ACTION: P. Savill**

**112. Parish Council Vacancy**

It was agreed to inform Chelmsford City Council that there is a vacancy on the parish council. Details will be posted on the village notice boards and appear in the parish newsletter.  **ACTION: Clerk and P. Savill**

**113. Accounts 2013/2014**

Details of expenditure (£8,937) and income (£36,575) to date were circulated at the meeting.

The following expenditure was authorised: £252 – litter bin for the Red Lion bus shelter.

**114. Village Projects**

(i) Parish Council Office. The contract figures showing construction costs £57,581, Ingleton Wood’s fees £8,124 and fees already paid £5,395 were circulated at the meeting. H. Blurton explained these figures included an increase to cover the extra ground works required by Chelmsford’s Building Inspector and a contingency sum of £4,915. The contractor has proposed a start date of 17th March. If the works begin on time the first payment would be due on 28th April. The PWLB money has been received. Following a discussion on the figures as presented, during which L. Edwards expressed her concerns about the immense amount of money being spent on the room, the contract figures and start date were approved. It was agreed that H. Blurton would inform Ingleton Wood accordingly. **ACTION: H.Blurton**

(ii) Village Sign. **A. Smith** to report back at the next meeting.

(iii) Village Hall Road Sign. A drawing of the metal road sign together with a letter giving notice that the parish council will be installing two signs at the crossroads are to be sent to Highways**. ACTION: H. Blurton**

(iv) Railings for the garden opposite the school. **A. Smith** to report back at the next meeting.

(v) Whites Bridge and Whites Bridge Walk Boards. It was noted there is no indication of the actual depth of the water when the Whites Bridge walk boards are flooded. It was agreed that a water depth stick should be included in the walk board project. **ACTION: H. Blurton, P. Savill, M. Scott and A. Smith**

(vi) Village Gateways. Cllr Grundy reported the approval of £7,500 by Chelmsford City and Maldon District Local Highways Panel for our village gateway project.

**115. Village Sites**

(i) Repairs and Maintenance. It was confirmed that the litter bin for the new bus shelter outside The Red Lion had been ordered.

 (ii) Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways. The extensive damage caused by cars driving over the wide verge fronting Glenside, Parsonage Lane was reported. It was noted this is a reoccurring problem and past damage caused by Glenside residents driving over the verge had been reported previously. It was agreed to notify Chelmsford City Council. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

The flooding in the vicinity of ‘The Parsonage’, Parsonage Lane caused by a ditch being filled in by the house owner is still causing problems. The flooding has been reported to Highways and to date no action has been taken to sort out this problem. It was agreed to write to the owners of ‘The Parsonage’ asking what action they propose to take to sort out their ditch problem. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

No date has been given for the diversion planned for Footpath 32. Information received from the Footpaths Definitive Map Officer confirms there has been a delay due to a number of problems related to land ownership which need to be resolved.

(iii) Pond & Trees. T. Boem reported that ‘Arthur’s Tree’ is okay but the Jubilee Oak planted on the Maldon Road Green is definitely dead. It was agreed to contact Chelmsford City Council’s Tree Officer to see if a replacement tree is available. It was agreed also to convene a working party for the pond work – adding shingle to the path and the lime to the pond. **ACTION: T. Boem**

(iv) Telephone Box. The phone in the red telephone box outside the pond has been damaged. It was agreed to report the damage to BT. **ACTION: Clerk**

**116. Maldon Road Recreation Field – Allotments and Play Area**

There have been no reported incidents since the last meeting. It was noted the arrangements for dismantling and transporting the youth shelter seats for regalvanising will be agreed when the weather improves. **ACTION: T. Boem and H. Blurton**

**117. Planning**

The following decision was noted:

Grant Planning Permission. Bullfinches, Writtle Road.

Change of use of agricultural buildings and land. Construction of horse walker and manege in connection with a new equestrian training business.

Application No. 13/01710/FUL

The following application was considered for comment on 10th February:

Whitewebs, Main Road.

Part two storey and part single storey rear extension. Alterations to fenestration including new first floor windows to side elevation.

Application No. 14/00048/FUL

Parish Council Comments: The PC has no objections to this application as long as the materials used on the new extension match, as near as possible, those of the existing house.

The following application was received for comment:

Van Dykes, Margaretting Tye.

Demolition of existing house and construction of a new five bed roomed house with pool, pool house, detached garage, tennis court with 3 metre high fencing, greenhouse and a new driveway.

Application No. 13/01858/FUL

Parish Council Comments: The PC has no specific objections to this application. However, with regard to the new driveway exit and entrance being proposed it would support the view of Highways and would expect the views of adjacent neighbours to be taken into consideration by the planning officer.

**118. Emergency Planning.** It was agreed to defer this item to the March meeting.

**119. Any Other Business**

(i) Palm Wine and Stout. East Anglia’s regional touring theatre company Eastern Angles will be performing this play in the village hall on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm. Box Office is M. Scott, Yew Tree Cottage, Main Road. Tickets - £8. 16 year olds and under - £5.

(ii) Parish Cleansing Days. The available dates for Chelmsford City Council’s Street Care Team to visit and carry out work in the parishes were noted. **ACTION:**  Clerk and P. Savill to draw up a list of work required and the parish council’s preferred dates.

(iii) John Currie: A card had been received from Mrs Currie thanking the parish council for our message of sympathy.

(iv) Active Communities Coffee Morning: This RCCE event is free - 10am to 12 noon on Thursday, 27th March. **ACTION:** Agenda item for March meeting.

(v) Potholes: The ever increasing number in need of attention. It was noted these can be reported direct to Highways on line via Essex County Council’s website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

**Date of the next meeting:** Thursday, 13th March, 2014 at 7.30pm