A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 12th July 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also present were four members of the public.

**28. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr I Grundy

**29. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

L Edwards signed the Declarations of Interest book and was welcomed by the members of the Parish Council

**30. Democratic Time**

a. Maldon Road - W Henderson enquired about having the hedges near to where he lives cut back. He also reported blocked drains at the entrance to the site being used by Rail Track. **P Savill** to contact Highways.

b. Parsonage Lane/New Fencing - It was reported and confirmed that P Torr owned that area of land.

c. Flood Alleviation Scheme - M Morley reported that the area at Halsted where a flood alleviation scheme was up and running was an eyesore and had not been cared for. She also commented on some of the questions and answers which had arisen at the public meeting on 16th June 2012. There was concern about the passing places in Swan Lane whilst construction is taking place. H Blurton commented that traffic management needed to be discussed further. **H Blurton** to request a copy of the traffic management plan from the Environment Agency. G Sharpe informed the parish council that a compound to house approximately 20 caravans for workers constructing the flood alleviation scheme had been requested for the area of land behind Chalksfield.

d. Swan Lane - **P Savill** to report a pot hole in Swan Lane as an emergency.

e. The Green Margaretting Tye – It was explained that the idea to install bollards was to stop vehicles driving across the green when they can’t get round it.

f. Whites Bridge/Walk boards - P Savill reported that A Bestwick (Chelmsford Council) was organising a meeting with a landscape architect/ Environment Agency to discuss the walk boards. A Smith thought the boards should be replaced and maintained by Essex County Council. M Scott explained that it was no longer the Council’s duty to maintain the bridge. It was agreed that money could be put aside in the precept to maintain the area.

**31 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated 14th June 2012 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record after the following amendment was made:

 Minute 18a. should read – ‘A Smith suggested levelling the slope’.

**32. Matters Arising**

Minute 18a - Hand Rail by the Notice Board. M Scott reported that he had a list of nine parishioners who have said they would benefit from a rail. H Blurton gave a quote of £500 to supply and install. K Young suggested having wooden poles. It was noted that the money to pay for a rail would have to come out of the contingency fund. **H Blurton** to obtain quotes and to write to Highways.

Minute 19 - Diamond Jubilee. P Savill reported that the only outstanding invoice was for the burgers from The Black Bull and there would be some money left over in the kitty. H Blurton suggested using this money to replace one or two of the benches at the village hall. He had seen a bench that was £879 that would seat five people and was on offer at £686, the price would be held until the weekend. It was agreed that the plaques on the old benches could be placed either end of the new bench. A Smith suggested having a rounding up meeting of the Diamond Jubilee Committee.

**33. Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme Consultation - Questions and Comments Document**

Some of the questions had not been properly answered these included: dredging, traffic management and the flood plain by The Red Lion. **P Savill** to follow up.

**34. Accounts**

Authority was given for payment of the following;

 M D Landscapes £528.00

**35. Maldon Road Playing Field**

Play Area C Quilter reported that there had been some minor rubbish, which he had cleared. The annual site inspection recently carried out by RoSPA had noticed a trip hazard by the see-saw. It was agreed to put some soil down in the area. K Young and P Savill to get together and discuss grants for the skateboard ramp. **P Savill** to find out the meeting dates for the allocation of Essex Environment Trust grants.

Allotments No problems were reported.

**36. Planning**

There were no new applications. The following decisions made by Chelmsford Council were reported:

Fristling Hall 12/00668/FUL Refused

Erect two sheep rearing barns with shepherds hut and resurface and extend access track.

Wells Farm 12/00796/CLOPUD Refused

Detached garage and cart lodge

Land Adjacent to Chalksfield 12/05104/TPO Granted

T1 Work to willow tree

Berwyn 12/00763/FUL Application Withdrawn

Two storey side extensions and a two storey rear extension.

H Blurton reported the following cases on the enforcement notice list.

1. Whitewebbs Cottage (sub divided into two flats).
2. Little Tressels Farm is allowed to stay as it is until 9th July - the waste in the lagoon is shredded and is not causing a problem. The Environment Agency is seeking legal advice over this matter.

Four Oaks is not on the enforcement list. **H Blurton** to contact the department.

**37. Village Sites**

a. Bench Opposite School – H Blurton reported that no one seemed interested in doing any work to the railings around the bench. P Savill suggested contacting Brian Smith. **H Blurton** to contact.

H Blurton reported that he had found out where a circular tree protector could be purchased for Arthur’s tree. **Clerk** to contact the cricket club to find out if they still want the tree to be moved.

b. Bus Shelter Repairs – The clerk reported that she had written to the owner of Whitewebbs Cottage concerning the removal of vegetation around the bus shelter. H Blurton reported that he had one quote for the repairs and another one was in hand. M Scott reported that residents using the new bus shelter said it was too small and not deep enough to protect them from the rain. It was agreed that the Parish Council should request that it be replaced with the original shelter that was requested. **P Savill** to action.

c. Grass Verges – H Blurton reported he was waiting for a response from Essex County Council concerning the verges and village gateways.

d. Footpaths – **P Savill** to contact I Grundy about the poor state of the footpath on the hill leading down to the new crossing. This had been identified when the pedestrian island was installed as work needing to be done along with the vegetation and hedging which needs cutting back.

**Clerk** to contact Chelmer Housing to request the hedge opposite Parsonage Lane be cut back.

e. Bridleways - **M Scott** and **C Quilter** to meet and look at Bridleway No 22 – Old Green Lane

f. Parish Paths Partnership – M Scott reported that although the parish council was no longer part of this scheme this didn’t alter the way things get reported. M Scott suggested another footpath survey should take place in ten years. **M Scott** to write something for the newsletter.

**38. Pond & Trees**

T Boem reported that he had looked at two cherry trees in Maldon Road which were diseased and would do some research to identify what was wrong with them. He was also going to look at the trees in Parsonage Lane which someone had raised a concern about. **T Boem** to inform P Torr about the hollow tree in the field opposite the school by the bridge. **T Boem** to arrange for a new contractor to do the work on the tree at the pond and also to arrange some dates for a day at the pond to carry out some work.

**39. Parish Council Office**

After a discussion it was agreed to go with the cheapest quote from Tom Green of £53,240.00.

**P Savill and H Blurton** to apply for grants.

**40. Village Gateways**

Nothing to report.

**41. Whites Bridge Walk Boards**

Waiting for a meeting to be arranged.

**42. Correspondence**

a. Chelmsford Council for Voluntary Service – P Savill to read

b. Essex County Council – W Cant to respond to the enclosed form.

c. Tree Warden Newsletter – T Boem to read

d. Best Kept Village Competition – The clerk reported that Margaretting had gained a merit in the competition.

e. EALC/Update – L Edwards to read.

**43. Any Other Business**

1. 351 bus service – **P Savill** to find a contact number for L Edwards so she could talk to someone about problems with the service.

2. Spring bulb planting – H Blurton reported Margaretting Friends would like to plant some bulbs in the lavender bank, Maldon Road.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 13th September 2012 at 7.30 p.m.