

A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

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

In attendance; Cllr I. Grundy.

26 Declarations of Interest: There were none.

#### 27. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

#### 28. Matters Arising

a. Environment Agency – P Savill reported that she had spoken to Mr and Mrs Albon who had brought to her attention a letter published in the Essex Chronicle concerning the flood alleviation scheme.

b. Best Kept Village Competition – It was reported that Margaretting had won a Merit Award.

P Savill thanked M Scott for filling out the forms and entering the competition. **M Scott** to request a copy of the Judges' Comments.

c. War Memorial Posts – A Wallace reported that he had spoken to a fabricator who would be able to do the posts for approximately £100-£150 per post. It was agreed that **A Wallace** get a written estimate and pass onto the clerk for the insurance company. The estimate was to be for making a mould, making three casts and installation.

d. Salt – It was confirmed that the village did not need any salt for the roads this winter as there was still plenty left from last winter.

e. Church Meeting – M Scott reported that 18 people attended the meeting and 11 sent their apologies. The organist (Claire) has become a Church Warden and Canon John Brown gave his blessing for her to lead the meeting. It had been agreed that M Scott would write a piece for the newsletter, P Savill would take the lead in forming a 'St Margaret's support group' and a questionnaire would be circulated in the newsletter.

M Scott also outlined what might happen if the church closed.

#### 29. Pond and Trees

Pond **T Boem** to contact the conservation volunteers in the autumn and arrange a meeting on site with a view to clearing the pond and some vegetation.

Trees T Boem reported that the tree over the pond was dead, although there was no immediate danger. A tree surgeon had suggested cutting it back; but not to the wall, it would cost £600 for three men to do it. H Blurton reiterated that before any work commences photographs should be taken and sent to the insurance company with an explanation of the work that is to be carried out. T Boem confirmed that the Jubilee Oak on the green in Maldon Road was dead; he had applied for a grant to replace it. It was agreed that **H Blurton and T Boem** would both get quotes for cutting a cherry tree at the recreation ground and the willow tree at The Tye. **H Blurton** also to get a quote for the tree at the pond. T Boem reported that the elm is still growing nicely in his garden.

#### 30. Maldon Road Recreation Ground

Allotments It was reported that all the allotments were taken.

Play Area C Quilter reported that there were no problems to report.

Skate Ramps P Savill reported that this item was first on the agenda in the autumn of 2010 and at that time Chelmsford Council had no objections to installing skate ramps. **A Wallace** agreed to take

this item over and get some quotes and facts and figures from the bigger companies. He explained that the Headmaster from the local school had agreed to help and involve the children if need be.

### 31. Accounts

Authority was given for payment of the following:

H Blurton	£64.99	(Lock and mat for office)
M D Landscapes	£439.20	
RCCE	£55.00	(Subs)
Tom Green	£30,321.99	(Office )
Village Hall	£32.68	(Office Insurance)
Ingleton Wood	£1,613.46	
Rospa	£88.80	Playground Inspection

P Savill outlined the balances in the bank. Clerk to re- claim vat.

### 32. Village Projects

(a) Office – H Blurton outlined some extra costs for the office furnishings. All councillors received their own key. It was agreed that all the mail would be delivered to the Village Hall for safety reasons. It was agreed that **A Wallace and L Edwards** to get quotes for office furniture. **P Savill** to find out the contact name and number for the resident in Pennys Lane who helped before when setting up the internet. **M Scott** to contact BT. It was agreed also to purchase 3 planters to place between the bollards at the top of the ramp. **A Wallace** to look for three matching ones from a reclaim yard. Margaretting Friends had given a donation towards the planters. L Edwards agreed to water the plants.

(b) Village Sign – Nothing to report

(c) Village Gateways – H Blurton and M Scott reported on their meeting with Highways. H Blurton confirmed that there was no law to say the gates had to be plastic (this was purely a safety issue). There was also no issue with the siting of the gates. **H Blurton** to register the request with Highways Panel. The village hall road sign was also going to be looked into by Highways.

(d) P Savill reported that the Parish Council were still waiting for a licence to install an edging for the lavender bank.

(e) Whitesbridge Walk Boards – Nothing to report.

(f) Youth Shelter Seat – **A Wallace and H Blurton** to work together getting the seats removed and galvanised.

### 33. Village Sites

(a) Repairs & Maintenance – Nothing to report.

(b) Bus Shelters – H Blurton reported there was no need to have a temporary bus stop while work is being carried out to the bus shelter opposite the Black Bull. **H Blurton** to inform Essex Highways Passenger Transport Officer when work is going to commence.

(c) Dog Bin – Clerk reported that she had requested a dog bin to be put in at Parsonage Lane. The one in Orton Close was to be explored further.

(d) Grass Verges – P Savill reported that she had put a complaint in to Highways about the verges in Main Road **P Savill** to ask Highways what they had planned for next year as far as the cutting goes and to write a piece in the newsletter about the responsibilities of the Parish Council and the areas that the Parish Council has to pay to be cut.

(e) Footpaths – P Savill reported that the footpath beside Larmar Engineering is overgrown. M Scott outlined the problems with Footpath 17 running from Pennys Lane to Ivy Barn Lane. Cllr I Grundy suggested M Scott contact Jamie Stubbs or Wayne Jewell from The Enforcement Team.

### 34. Planning

There were no planning applications. H Blurton outlined the decisions. It was agreed that H Blurton would email everyone over the summer break informing them of new applications.

### 35. Correspondence

1 EALC County Update – **P Slade** to read

2. Voluntary Update Booklet – P Slade reported that he had read the booklet which was very interesting. **Clerk** to file

### 36. Any Other Business

a. Ynamit, Maldon Road. It was reported that the house and land had been sold separately. It was agreed to monitor the site.

b. Chelmsford Council Grand Awards. M Scott reported that the Village Hall had applied for a grant and the committee wanted everyone to vote on line for them.

c. Bus Routes. L Edwards reported that First Bus had had their review; the results were yet to be published.

d. Parking. A Smith was concerned about the parking in Wantz Road. It was noted the parking wasn't illegal. **P Savill** to speak to the neighbourhood Policewomen for her views.

e. Advertising Boards. I Grundy reported that the council were trying to have all the advertising boards on roundabouts removed.

f. Speed Limit. A Wallace was concerned about speed limits by the school and Three Mile Hill.

P Savill explained that a speed check had taken place in Main Road and the speed limit is going to be reduced to 30mph. **P Savill** to forward information to A Wallace on how to request Highways to carry out a speed check for Three Mile Hill. M Scott thought there should be a more prominent sign showing a footpath when it crosses the road.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30 p.m.