**A Meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 12th June 2014 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present;**  H Blurton, P Savill (Chairman), M Scott, P Slade and A Wallace. P Savill welcomed Andy Wallace to the Parish Council, a newly co-opted member following K Young’s resignation.

**In attendance** five youngsters and two members of the public.

**13. Apologies for absence** were received from T Boem, L Edwards, A Smith, C Quilter and Cllr I Grundy.

**14. Declarations of Interest** There were no Declarations of Interest

**15. Democratic Time**

(a) Five youngsters attended the meeting to talk about having skateboard ramps installed at the Maldon Road playing field. They estimated that the project would cost approximately £25,000 and planned to start raising funds themselves by having a stall at the village fete and Christmas bazaar; they were advised to contact Suzie Wood with regard to the stall at the fete. Councillors discussed the proposal and thought it was a good idea. The youngsters were told Chelmsford City Council, as owners of the playing field, would have to be contacted and nearby residents would also have to be consulted. They were also told that most funding agencies would expect them to raise funds for the project.

(b) Mr & Mrs Albion attended the meeting and explained that they had nothing to report regarding the flood alleviation scheme. However, they were concerned that some of the work that had been carried out had not been done properly and were meeting with the agency to discuss a new pathway that was to go in front of their property round to their neighbour’s house. **P Savill** to contact Chelmsford City Council and the Environment Agency for an update on the scheme. H Blurton reported that a new planning application had been submitted regarding the sluice gates. The PC would not be asked to comment as the application was finalising details.

**16. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated Thursday 8th May 2014 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**17. Matters Arising**

a. Drain by W Henderson’s yard – It was reported that the road level had been changed and road patched up. The road was due to be re-surfaced in July.

b. Parsonage Lane Ditch – P Savill had nothing further to report. M Scott reported that he had walked the area and noticed nothing wrong.

c. Footpath 21 – Nothing to report.

d. Posts at War Memorial – **H Blurton** to give information on the posts to A Wallace.

e. Internet Connection Speed – M Scott reported that two parishioners were pursuing this item.

f. Posts on the Green at Margaretting Tye – Nothing to report.

**18. Co-option of New Councillor**

Mr Andrew Wallace was co-opted onto the parish council to serve a term expiring in May 2015.

**19. Maldon Road Playing Field**

a. Allotments P Savill reported that the allotment money had been collected and banked.

b. Play Area There were no reported problems. The removal of the seating in the teen shelter is still outstanding. The youngsters request for the skateboard ramps was discussed and it was agreed to support the project. P Savill suggested in the first instance to get the paperwork back from Keith Young and work out some firm figures. A Wallace asked about raising money for the skateboard ramps – he was to look at the site as it was a project that he wanted to be involved in.

**20. Accounts**

Authorisation for the following was agreed;

A Gibbons £ 90.00 Installation of Litter Bin at new Bus Stop

Di’s Supplies £ 46.36 Supplies for refurbishment of fence opposite school

M D Landscapes £ 658.80 Grasscutting

C Kochan £ 473.75 Clerks Salary and Expenses

P Savill outlined balances in the bank. The Internal audit for the year 2013/14 had been carried out.

The final statement of accounts was circulated and discussed; balances in the bank at 31st March 2014 were £44,684.89. **Clerk** to forward the figures as presented to the external auditors.

**21. Village Projects**

a.Parish Council Office H Blurton reported that the office was complete and finished except for the furnishings. **P Savill & H Blurton** to draw up a list of furniture needed and send it out for quotes. The question of whether or not there was a need for railings for the ramp outside the office was discussed. P Slade suggested using planters between the bollards; this was agreed.

b. Village Hall Road Sign H Blurton reported that he had been advised to approach the Brentwood Local Highways Panel. **P Savill** to get in touch with the Chelmsford Highways Liaison Officer, Jon Simmons, to find out why the Parish Council had been advised to do this.

c. Village Gateways H Blurton explained that John Woodhouse had left the council but Liz Powles, Highways Technical Adviser, would ask a new contact to get in touch with him.

d. Garden Railings opposite the school Project was complete. Councillors thanked A Smith in his absence for organising the project and for paying the volunteer to paint the railings.

e. Whitesbridge Walkboards Nothing to report.

**22. Village Sites**

(i) Repairs & Maintenance – Nothing to Report

(ii) Bus Shelters, Litter Bins & Dog Waste Bins

It was agreed that work on the Bus Shelter opposite the Black Bull should commence, **H Blurton** to contact the agreed carpenter. Requests for two dog waste bins were discussed – one for Orton Close and one for Parsonage Lane. **P Savill** to contact residents in Orton Close to find out if there is a genuine need for a bin in Orton Close at the cul-de-sac end. The bin for Parsonage Lane was agreed. **Clerk** to contact Julie Elliott and arrange to meet her and discuss a suitable site for a dog bin.

(iii) Footpath 17 – Carried forward to the July meeting.

(iv) Pond & Trees – **P Slade** to look at the Silver Birch and see if it is dead. It was agreed that photographs of the wall by Pond Cottage should be taken if and when the tree work commences. **Clerk** to contact Carla Davis from the Conservation Volunteers following her e-mail to ask if they could help with the working party to clear/tidy the pond. **H Blurton** to ask T Boem if he had obtained a quote for the trees in the playing field. **P Slade & H Blurton** to look at trees at the pond, Margaretting Tye and the playing field and to get a quote for work that needs carrying out.

**23. Planning**

Applications

14/00835/CLEUD The Leys, Maldon Road

The continued occupation of a residential dwelling contrary to condition 4 requiring the occupation of the dwelling to be limited to a person employed locally in agriculture. No Comment

14/00047/HHPA Webbs Farm, Main Road (Householder Prior Approval)

14/00796/CLOPUD Webbs Farm, Main Road

4 meter side extension, 8 meter rear extension & 1.6 meter side extension all single storey

The PC was informed about the applications so comments were not required.

14/00709/FUL Great Tressells, Margaretting Tye

Proposed new porch to front. Change of materials finish to side extension and two storey gable to feather edge boarding. Existing blind window to front elevation, open up to take new timber sliding sash window. Windows to rear two storey extensions changed from approved drawing and French doors to side omitted and changed to windows. Over kitchen area new flat glazed lantern on existing flat roof PC comments; none

Decisions

14/00530/FUL Elmhurst, Maldon Road Granted

14/00595/FUL 23 Orton Close Granted

14/00694/FUL Sunset, Main Road Granted

**24. Correspondence**

a. Notice from Highways for Notice Boards regarding speed restrictions at different dates while events are taking place at Hylands House.

b. Voluntary Update booklet **– P Slade** to read

c. Winter salt Safety information – **Clerk** to forward to A Smith.

**25. Any Other Business**

a. Shed on piece of land opposite the golf course – It was reported that the land was owned by a public landowner. Chelmsford City Council’s Enforcement Officer is liaising with the land owner’s agent.

b. St Margaret’s Church - M Scott explained that he had organised a meeting at the village hall to discuss the future of the church. Attendances were at an all-time low and there was a fear that the church may have to close.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.13 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 10th July at 7.30 p.m.