**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 13th March 2014 at 7.30p.m.**

**Present:** H Blurton, L Edwards, P Savill (Chairman), C Quilter, M Scott and A Smith.

**In Attendance:** Three members of the public.

**Apologies for absence:** T Boem, P Slade and Cllr I Grundy.

**120.** **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**121. Democratic Time**

Mr and Mrs Albon reported that as part of the flood alleviation scheme work had begun on cleaning the brook. P Savill reported that the condition of Swan Lane was very poor and it was understood that to prevent further damage some road repairs would be carried out by the Environment Agency and Essex Highways.

**122. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th February were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**123. Matters Arising**

**a. War Memorial posts** - **H Blurton** to speak to A Bestwick for a lead on who can make some moulds so as the damaged posts can be replaced.

**b. Lavender Bank –** To date no response has been received from Highways.

**c. Reduced Speed Limit for Wantz Road, Writtle Road and Main Road** – To be discussed at the April meeting of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel.

**d. Parish Council Vacancy** – The Clerk reported that she had informed the City Council of the vacancy.

**e. Telephone Box Damage –** The Clerk reported that she had reported the damage to BT

**f. Pot Holes –** P Savill had reported two pot holes – one in Wantz Road and one in Pennys Lane.

**124. Village Spring Clean**

A date was set for Saturday 12th April. Meeting at The Black Bull at 10.30 am. **Clerk** to organise litter pickers and hoops for the black bin bags. Chelmsford’s Street Care Team will be in the village on Thursday 8th May

**125. Accounts**

 Authorisation for the following was agreed;

 Ingleton Wood £565.22

 C Kochan £473.75.

It was agreed that the money in the National Savings account be withdrawn. Clerk to bring book to the next meeting.

**126. Village Projects**

**(1) Parish Council Office**. H Blurton reported that work was due to commence on 17th March. He reported that he had photographic evidence of fractures around the building as taken by the builders.

**(2) Village Sign** – A Smith reported that the mould for the sign could not be located, although he was to contact Christina Currie again.

**(3) Village Hall Road Sign** – H Blurton reported that he had sent all the information to Highways and he had been informed not to proceed further until a decision had been made.

**(4) Garden Railings opposite the school** – A Smith reported that work had commenced and that there would be no charge.

**(5) Whites Bridge Walk Boards** – It was reported that Andy Bestwick was putting a notional programme together.

**(6) Village gateways** – H Blurton reported that Highways had insisted that the gates be made of plastic. L Edwards knew of a company that manufactured them, she was to pass information onto H Blurton.

**127. Village Sites**

a. Repairs and Maintenance. It was agreed that the new bin for the Red Lion bus shelter was to be positioned on the school side of the shelter.

b. Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways. The damage to the verge in Parsonage Lane had been reported to Highways and Chelmsford City Council.

Jamie Stubbs from Enforcement is looking at a new access route that had appeared following the sale of some land in Pennys Lane.

**H Blurton** to speak to Jamie Stubbs about the concerns relating to The Barns House, Main Road.

c. Pond & Trees. Nothing to report.

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

P Savill reported that a local resident had expressed concerns about youths from outside the village visiting the youth shelter in the play area. These concerns had been passed on to the Police.

It was confirmed that the hedge at the allotments was due to be cut on 8th May.

**129. Planning**

The following decisions were reported:

14/00048/FUL Whitewebbs Part two storey, part single storey rear extension. Granted

13/01851/FUL 2 Wantfield Cottages Part two storey, part single storey and rear extension. Granted

The following applications were received for comment:

14/00338/FUL The Old Vicarage, Church Lane Part single, part two storey rear extension No Objections

14/00338/FUL and 14/00350/LBC Red Lion Public House. Assorted illuminated and non-illuminated signage. No Objections although the Parish Council would mention that the wish is to have the lights turned off by midnight

**130 Village Hall Internet Connection**

M Scott reported that only one resident had showed any interest in fibre optic broadband, therefore the Parish Council decided not to carry out any further surveys and to stay with BT.

**131 Emergency Planning**

**P Savill** to contact Brenda Smith (Village Agent) for a list of residents who could be considered vulnerable and at risk in an emergency situation. **M Scott** to look at the most recent census results.

**131. Correspondence**

a. Voluntary Update Booklet. **L Edwards** to read

b. Notification of temporary closure of Footpath 34. **M Scott** to clarify with Gemma Hills (Technician) where the footpath is.

c. Control of Street Trading CCC. **Clerk** to file.

**132. Any Other Business**

a. Orton Close. P Savill reported that she had been approached by a resident who had requested having a doggy poo bin installed in Orton Close. **P Savill** to ask for more information as to why and where one is needed.

b. Flood Alleviation Scheme. C Quilter raised some issues affecting Swan Lane. **C Quilter** to report to David Gee or Ian Dodson.

c. Speedwell Garage. A Smith reported that the cars being sold in the garage next to the school were being parked along the road. **P Savill** to report

d. Best Kept Village. **M Scott** to forward The Best Kept Village entry to all for comments before submitting.

e. A414. P Savill reported that she had been told someone was residing in the shed on the site of the old council salt store. **P Savill** to report to Highways and Travellers Unit.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 10th April 2014 at 7.30 p.m.