

A Meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place in The Meeting Room at Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Present; D Smith, T Paoli-Burke, C Quilter, S Upton, A Wallace (Chairman). In attendance Cllr G Bonnett and one member of the public.

91. Apologies for absence were received from H Blurton.

92. Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interest.

93. Democratic Time.

A member of the public attended the meeting as they were concerned about the overgrown vegetation on the footpath between Church Lane and Ingatestone which was in need of cutting back the footpath is regularly used by walkers, runners and cyclists. Clerk to report to Highways and to contact Ingatestone Parish Council to find out who the verge belongs to and to outline the problem.

Clerk also to contact Speedwell Garage and A & C Autos behind Speedwell Garage to ask if they could park some of the vehicles that are on the verge onto their site as a health and safety issue following a recent near accident.

94. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2026 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

95. Matters Arising.

a. Council Tax. Cllr G Bonnett explained that The Council Tax Bills would remain to be paid over ten months unless requested to be paid over twelve months by the householder.

96. Accounts

Authority was given for payment of the following;

Communicate UK	£245.68	Maintenance of the fire alarm
C Kochan	£545.00	Clerks Salary & Expenses
PWLB	£399.59	Direct debit 30/03/2026

It was agreed that if the invoice for the bollards was received between meetings the clerk could arrange to have it signed.

97. Planning.

26/00021/PIP Land between A12 and The Oaks, Wantz Road Application Permitted.

Rymers, Wantz Road. Clerk to contact and request that the verge is reinstated after work has finished.

Clovelly, Maldon Road. Clerk to contact and request that the verge is reinstated and tidied.

98. Community Matters

- a. Maldon Road Playing Field & Lease. Clerk reported that she had made contact with the person in charge of repairs and was hopeful that the safety surface would be repaired before the inspection. Cllr G Bonnett advised that CHP would be cutting the conifer trees on 18th/19th March. Councillors had received the email regarding the lease which would cost £500 per annum from 2034 and then reviewed every 5,10 & 15 year thereafter. S Upton made some suggestions, and it was agreed that Cllr G Bonnett would speak to someone at the City Council regarding these. It was agreed that professional help would be required to look over the lease.
- b. Allotments. There were some suggestions about the best way to make use of the area where there were vacant overgrown allotments.
- c. Bollards. Nothing new to report, clerk was waiting for the invoice so work can commence.
- d. War Memorial. On hold.
- e. Pylons. S Upton reported that permission for the pylons hadn't been given yet. Ivy Barn Lane was down to be used as a through way with a lay down compound site. Councillors were asked to consider a financial contribution to help pay towards the barrister and advisers. A donation of £2000 was suggested. S Upton to find out from Mike Steel how many other parishes have donated.
- f. Whites Bridge Walk Boards. In hand
- g. Village Security. Cllr G Bonnett outlined the figures she had obtained from the Community Constables in March 2024- the end of February 2025 there were 23 reported vehicle thefts and in the same period 2025-2026 there were 16 reported vehicle thefts. It was very important to report crimes and get a reference number to build up the data. Clerk to ask P Savill to mention this in the Newsletter.

99. Village Hall Report.

D Smith reported on the decorating progress. Coffee Mornings have been booked. A Quiz Night has been organised for 18th April and The Race Night had been organised for 16th October. The Mates group were also having some charity football matches. It was also sadly reported that Bob Culliton had passed away he had worked tirelessly for the football clubs for many years.

100. Village Sites.

- a. Trees. A Wallace had reported the damaged/fallen trees on Three Mile Hill.
- b. Roads, Pavements, Grass Verges, Rights of Way & Bridleways. Nothing to report.

101. Any Other Business.

- a. Cllr G Bonnett reported that an announcement was to be made soon about the decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex.
- b. S Upton reported on the tidy-up at the Churchyard and the excellent work by the Tree Surgeons and the volunteers.
- c. A Wallace. At this juncture The Chairman A Wallace resigned from the Parish Council. Members of The Parish Council thanked him for all his hard work and the input that he had contributed to the village.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Next Meeting Thursday 9th April 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in The Meeting Room at The Village Hall.