A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 11th April 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

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

K Young. Also present one member of the public.

**135. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from W Cant, Cllr I Grundy and C Kochan (Clerk).

**136. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests.

**137. Democratic Time**

Three issues were raised:

Pot Holes and slow response from Essex County Council (ECC) Highways. The number of pot holes in the village requiring attention reported to ECC Highways by Mr R Ashdown was noted. The parish council confirmed that the slow response from ECC Highways to defect reports received from the parish council had been reported to Cllr Ian Grundy.

Removal of temporary road signs. The parish council confirmed ECC Highways had raised an order for the removal of the temporary warning signs for the pedestrian refuge islands in Main Road.

Speed of traffic in Main Road. A suggestion that a mini roundabout at the cross roads would help reduce the speed of vehicles using Main Road was discussed. The parish council confirmed this idea had been raised previously with ECC Highways but had not been supported by the engineers. It was agreed to defer further discussion to the next meeting and to ask Cllr Grundy to confirm the status of the 2010 speed restriction review for the county’s A and B roads. **ACTION: P Savill**

**138. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2103 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**139. Matters Arising**

(i) Minute 126 - Matters Arising

Blocked Drains (Main Road) and Drainage (Nuns Crossing). The drains are still blocked.

It was agreed to check with the Clerk when she had reported these two problems. **ACTION: P Savill**

Barns House. It was agreed to continue monitoring this site for a further month. **ACTION: All**

Flooding (Parsonage Lane). It was confirmed that the parish council’s report of the flooding had been logged on the ECC’s Highways database but the problem had not been investigated. It was agreed to contact ECC Highways and request this report is given a high priority. **ACTION: P Savill**

(ii) Minute 133 – Correspondence

RCCE Best Kept Village Competition. Margaretting’s entry form has been submitted.

RCCE Statutory Planning. L Edwards reported that details of an EALC conference ‘The Localism Agenda – Planning’ to be held at Great Dunmow on 1 May can be found on the EALC website. She also reported on the EALC’s training on Statutory Planning for parish councils. It was agreed to find out if there is a fee for this training. **ACTION: L Edwards**

(iii) Minute 134 - Any Other Business

Black Bull Bus Shelter. An update had yet to be requested. **ACTION: P Savill**

Railway-Maldon Road. Network Rail is due to commence the pot hole repairs in approximately four weeks time. The parish council will be notified of the actual date once Network Railway has agreed a start date with the contractor. A Smith requested to be kept informed. **ACTION: P Savill**

**140. Accounts**

(i) End of Year Statement 2012/2013

The end of year statement showing income £16,856, expenditure £21,913 and funds carried forward £18,312 was approved for audit. **ACTION: Clerk**

(ii) Income and Expenditure 2013/2014

The following expenditure was noted and agreed:

£67.02 Broadband rental charges (direct debit)

£439.20 MDLandscapes (grass cutting)

**141. Planning**

(i) Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS)

The Environment Agency (EA) has completed the technical design of the flood storage area and is currently developing the landscaping proposals. It is working on improvements to the walk boards at Whites Bridge and on the design of the traffic management work along Swan Lane to include the introduction of a temporary speed restriction and wider passing bays. Initial site clearance and preparatory works are planned for the coming months to allow construction work to start this summer. The EA has organised a public drop-in and exhibition in the village hall on Friday, 7th June from 2pm to 7pm.

The concerns expressed by the owner of the field opposite the school about the EA’s plans to provide temporary access to the works planned for the railway embankment were discussed. It is proposed that the temporary access to the site will be a metal track way. At the location of the piling works and in areas of soft ground some temporary stone surfaces will be required to locally harden the ground. The stone will be placed on geotextile and will be removed upon completion of the works. No permanent access track is proposed. During the site clearance works access will be via a 4x4 lorry. The EA has confirmed that on completion of works it is proposed to plant 3 No Field Maple, 3 No Black Popular and 2 No Alder trees (3 - 3.5m high).

(ii) Plannng Applications and Decisions

The following applications were received comment:

13/00378/FUL: Foxgloves, Main Road. Single storey side/rear extension.

Comments: No objections.

13/00307/FUL: Furze Lodge, Writtle Road. Amendment to planning permission 12/01242/FUL (alterations to extension to existing garage). To increase the height of the garage.

Comments: No objections

The following decisions were noted:

13/00096/FUL & 13/00097/LBC: Red Lion Public House. Single storey side extension to provide additional restaurant space and the creation of a disabled W.C. Planning Permission Granted

13/00126/FUL: Ging House, Wantz Road. Construction of integral garage; single storey rear extension; oak framed car shelter with tiled roof. Planning Permission Granted.

**142. Village Projects**

(i) Whites Bridge Walk board. Nothing further to report.

(ii) Village Gateways. ECC Highways has apologised to H Blurton for the delay in responding to the parish council’s enquiry and confirmed the delay is well below an acceptable standard. A design brief and plan has now been passed to the Programme and Planning Team for a Validation Study. It is anticipated it will take twelve weeks to complete a design and obtain a target cost.

(iii) Parish Council Office. An e-mail received from MAZTEC confirms there had been a misunderstanding last year when it had received two applications referring to the village hall. MAZTEC had assumed that the money requested was for the same project hence one cheque being drawn in favour of the village hall committee. This matter will be referred to the village hall committee with the request that the MAZTEC grant be divided equally between the parish council and the village hall committee. **ACTION: M Scott and K Young**

M Scott read out an e-mail received from the RCCE’s Village Hall and Community Buildings Advisor listing four funding agencies to approach – Essex Environment Trust; ECC Community Initiative Fund, Lafarge Tarmac Environment Trust and The Tom Amos Charity. It was agreed to approach these organisations and one of the Essex Community Foundation’s charities. The estimated cost of £3,100 for the furniture and equipment required for the new office as presented by H Blurton will be included in the funding applications. **ACTION: P Savill**

The e-mail also raised and offered advice on a number of issues which were based on the premise that the village hall committee owned the village hall and recreation field. It was agreed to check the title deeds and inform RCCE’s advisor accordingly. **ACTION: M Scott**

**143. Village Sites**

(i) Repairs and Maintenance

Lavender Bank in Maldon Road: Two further quotations for the supply and installation of the railway sleepers have been received. It was agreed to accept the lowest quote - £542. **ACTION: H Blurton**

(ii) Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways

Bridleway and Footpath 43: The removal of the missing post, metal stake and padlock has been reported. ECC Highways has inspected and prioritised the bridge problem.

Main Road: It was agreed to ask the Clerk to confirm the date and to whom she had reported the overgrown hedging behind the bus stop opposite the Black Bull. **ACTION: P. Savill**

(iii) Pond and Trees

Pond: The vegetation surrounding the pond has been cleared and the lime ordered.

Trees: The war memorial ornamental weeping willow leafed pear trees have been pruned. Chelmsford City Council’s Tree Officer has been asked to check that the oak tree on the green in Maldon Road is dead. T Boem requested parish councillors, when walking around in the village, to remove any ivy seen growing on trees. **ACTION: All**

**144. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

(i) Allotments

All the allotments have been let and the annual rents are currently being collected.

(ii) Recreation Field and Play Area

C Quilter reported a problem with one of the multi goal fences which he is currently sorting out. H Blurton confirmed the youth shelter seats will be re-galvanised once the weather improves. It was noted that the annual ROSPA inspection will take place in May

**145. Parish Assembly 2013**

The annual parish assembly will take place in the Chelmer Room on Thursday, 2nd May at 7.30pm. Availability of the Chelmer Room to be checked with the hall booking secretary. **ACTION: P Savill**

**The Chelmer Room was not available. The Parish Assembly was rescheduled to 8th May.**

**146. Correspondence**

a. Two notice board posters. Little Baddow Open Gardens and County Council Election Information.

b. Voluntary Action Update. **L Skinner to read.**

c. RCCE Oyster Magazine. **T Boem to read.**

d. Chelmsford City Council Consultation Planning Documents. **H Blurton to read/respond.**

e. Public Notice. Temporary night time closure of Three Mile Hill from A12 Junction to roundabout at Widford for eight nights excluding weekends from 24 April 2013.

**147. Any Other Business**

The following issues were raised:

a. Village Spring Clean – 6 April: Twenty one volunteers took part this year. Other volunteers had been litter picking during the proceeding week. Litter picks have been given to a number of people in the village to enable them to continue litter picking. Jackie Lane (Chelmsford City Council) is to be asked for some more litter picks. **ACTION: M Scott**

b. 351 Bus Route: An informal report about the 351 bus timetable changing to a half hourly service is to be checked. **ACTION: L Skinner**

c. Ownership of Grass Verges: A resident had asked if permission was required to remove a grass mound in the grass verge in front of his property. It was agreed that the resident should check his title deeds and/or ECC Highways for confirmation of ownership/boundary line for the grass verge.

d. Four Oaks: Reports that house lights had been seen in the property on several occasions were noted. It was agreed to check the legal situation with regard to this property.  **ACTION: H Blurton**

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

Next meeting Thursday 9th May 2013 at 9.30p.m.