A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 8th December 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: H Blurton, W Cant, P Savill (Chairman), M Scott, C Quilter and K Young. Also present was one member of the public.

**86.** Apologies were received from T Boem, N Marshall, A Smith and Cllr I Grundy.

**87. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**88. Democratic Time**

(a) Recycling. P Savill advised W Henderson that waste polystyrene should be thrown into the normal black household bin.

(b) Parsonage Lane/Maldon Road.  **P Savill** to contact Highways regarding having a traffic sign erected in Maldon Road to warn motorists there is a road junction on a bend.

(c) Metal Theft. W Henderson reported that he had some aluminium cabinets stolen. P Savill confirmed the theft had been reported to the police.

(d) Dog Waste Bins. **Clerk** to enquire about having a red bin stationed at Parsonage Lane.

**89. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated 10th November 2011 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record after the following amendment to minute 85a:

‘owner’ to be deleted from sentence.

**90. Matters Arising**

a. Swan Lane H Blurton reported that the speed of cars using this road had been monitored for seven days and the 60 mph speed limit had not been exceeded. **H Blurton** to inform Liz Haines at The White Hart.

b. Grass verge at Margaretting Tye H Blurton reported that the verge had been repaired. Unfortunately, another lorry had done exactly the same thing again. **H Blurton** offered to rake and level the verge.

c. Whites Bridge - Fly tipping

A Smith reported that the rubbish had been cleared from the river and the bank.

**91. Accounts**

Authority was given for payment of the following;

Essex & Suffolk Water £ 341.02

CBC Playing Field £ 50.00

P Savill (Chairman’s Exp) £ 50.00

Margaretting PCC £ 475.00

Mrs Newman – shelter clean £ 75.00

H Blurton £ 32.48

M D Landscapes £ 540.00

C Kochan – expenses £ 173.75

C Kochan – salary £ 143.70

H M Revenue & Customs £ 156.30

P Savill reported that £1,222.05 from CBC (Planning Gain) had been deposited into the bank.

It was agreed that from 1st January 2012 responsibility for the allotments water supply would fall to the allotmenteers. **W Cant and K Young** to meet the allotment holders and report back at the next meeting.

Precept The precept was set at £12,270.00. It was agreed that professional fees for the office build would come out of the general contingency fund. **Clerk** to return the precept form to CBC.

**92. Village Sites**

War Memorial H Blurton reported that permission had been received to trim, bring the canopy into shape and remove new and straggly growth to the two willow leafed pear trees either side of the War Memorial. Mrs Ling had thanked the Parish Council for her flowers. The posts and chain surrounding the memorial were to be painted in the Spring.

Bus Shelter Nothing new to report. **Clerk** to order a free standing waste bin for the new shelter.

Grass Verges H Blurton put forward the view that bollards were needed to stop cars damaging the greens in Maldon Road and Margaretting Tye.

**93. Pond and Trees**

P Savill reported that CBC was offering an oak tree to every parish to commemorate the Queen’s diamond jubilee. Lyn Cameron had suggested planting it on the green in Maldon Road to replace the dead oak tree. Lyn Cameron had also mentioned the Green Flag Award and suggested entering the pond, the woodland garden in Orton Close and the village clean up.

**94. Duck House**

H Blurton outlined some costs for a duck house. M Scott explained that it would have to be cleaned regularly and also a duck would not go back time and time again to lay eggs. It was agreed that if someone wanted to donate a duck house (provided its design met with parish council approval) and look after it they would be welcome to take on this responsibility.

**95. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

Allotments K Young reported that there had been no problems

Play Area It was reported that everything was okay and there had been no problems. H Blurton had the new bolts for the teen shelter seats but was waiting for the better weather before installing them. P Savill outlined two different quotes for the skate ramps. **K Young** to telephone the representative from Proludic and meet her on site for another quote. **P Savill** to chase up the legal department at CBC.

**96. Village Projects**

(a) Village Gateways H Blurton reported that he had chased up Highways several times and was still waiting for a response. He was to continue to chase up. However, he had been told that there were no finances available.

(b) Council Office H Blurton outlined the professional fees as quoted by Andrew Sheppherd from Ingletons. The fees would not be a single £6,500 payment. They would be split into staged payments. He agreed to explain to Mr Shepherd that when the parish council receives the quotes for the project there would be a break while grants are applied for. It was unanimously agreed to accept Ingleton’s quotation.

(c) Whitesbridge Walk Boards H Blurton reported on the two quotes received so far (£27,167.53 and £24,300.00). The lower quote did not include the clearing of vegetation or traffic management. It was noted that this would be a very costly project. **P Savill** to investigate further as to whether a grant would be available from the heritage lottery if it included a heritage trail. H Blurton offered to help.

**97. Village Website**

M Scott spoke about the logo to be used for the site; it was taken from a photo of St Margaret from the church. The St Margaret logo was approved and agreed. Councillors looked at the content of the website and the various links. M Scott reported there had been some useful comments from villagers. **M Scott & P Savill** to get together to work on the website before the next meeting.

**98. Queen’s Jubilee**

P Savill reported on the recent public meeting, which had a good attendance. The hog roast, marquee and children’s magician had all been booked. It was agreed that **K Young** book the barn dance with a live band and caller. The next planning meeting will take place on Thursday, 19th January 2012.

**99. Planning**

Decisions

11/05617/CAT War Memorial Granted

11/01540/FUL Keepers Cottage Granted

11/01625/ETL Ivy Hill Hotel Granted

Applications

11/01713/FUL Spread Eagle No objections

Demolition of fire damaged public house and erection of 3 no. 4 bed houses

H Blurton and M Scott had attended the meeting at CBC; the new community infrastructure levy (CIL) had been explained.

**100. Correspondence**

a. Oyster Magazine Issue 31 Autumn 2011 – **A Smith** to read

b. Chelmsford Voluntary Service booklet – **P Savill** to read

c. Mobile Library Van - Timetable from 4thJanuary. The service will visit between 15.20 – 15.35

d. Essex County Council – Minerals & waste planning consultation – H Blurton to read

e. Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Scheme – Planning application to be submitted 2012. Work to commence 2013.

**101. Any Other Business**

a. Bridleway 22 **M Scott** to report and ask advice about the boards going over the river on bridleway 22; they are old and slippery.

b. Bridleway 22 C Quilter asked about having a mounting block put on bridleway 22 to prevent horse riders having to use the gate to mount their horse.

c. Village Hall Broadband M Scott reported on BT’s offer of free Wi Fi.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.53p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 12th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m.