

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

Present; H Blurton, T Paoli-Burke, C Quilter (Vice Chairman in Chair), D Smith and S Upton. In attendance Cllr G Bonnett.

81. Apologies for absence were received from A Wallace.

82. Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interest.

83. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

84. Matters Arising. There were no Matters Arising that were not an agenda item.

85. Accounts.

The balance sheet was discussed. There were no invoices to settle. H Blurton to work out the electricity cost for the office during the month.

86. Planning

26/00057/FUL Van Dyke, Swan Lane, Margaretting Tye

Construction of a swimming pool with associated landscaping.

25/00867/S73/1 Baskervilles, Main Road, Margaretting

Variation of condition 2 of approved application 25/00867/full (demolition of the existing commercial kennels and cattery buildings and residential dwelling and redevelopment of the site comprising of 7no. Dwellings) to revise house types and layout.

H Blurton confirmed that Hawthorns in Wantz Road won an appeal to put up three houses while the application for one property to be built between The Oaks and Hawthorns has been approved by The City Council.

87. Community Matters.

a. Maldon Road Playing Field & Lease. Clerk to re-report safety surface defect and ask whether it will be done before the end of the financial year as the annual safety inspection is due in the spring. Cllr G Bonnett to contact CHP at the end of February to find out when the conifers will be cut. Cllr G Bonnett to look at the lease extension again and contact the City Council if necessary.

b. Allotments. Nothing new to report due to the wet weather.

c. Bollards. The Clerk had circulated the proposal from Highways before the meeting which would be carried out by Ringway Jacobs costing £6667.01 plus VAT. After a discussion it was agreed to proceed with the scheme. C Quilter (Vice Chairman) signed the paperwork, clerk to return.

d. Whites Bridge Walk Boards. Cllr G Bonnett reported that she had spoken to Cllr S Dobson who suggested that there might be some grants that the parish council could apply for from English Heritage. It was agreed that the clerk email Cllr S Dobson with regular photographs and some old photographs of the railings, walk boards and the bridge. Points that needed to be mentioned were;

- \* The walk Boards are not just for flooding they used to be used to walk on for safety reasons.
  - \* There are several dangerous rails sticking out which could cause harm if there was an impalement.
  - \* The bridge is Grade 2 listed.
  - \* There used to be a narrow bridge sign which is no longer there on The Swan Lane side of the bridge.
- e. War Memorial. Nothing new to report. T Paoli-Burke reported that she was to change the flag.
- f. Pylons. S Upton reported about the planning inspectorate procedure which was taking place. S Upton has been representing himself and the parish council. He had spoken to Mike Steel who has agreed to include Margaretting Parish along with the other villages he represents.
- g. Village Security. T Paoli-Burke explained that there had been a number of vehicle thefts in the village. It was agreed that T Paoli-Burke put a piece on the WhatsApp group that all thefts are reported and that an incident number is given. Cllr G Bonnett to contact P.C. Scott Smith to find out how many incidents had been reported.

#### 88. Village Hall Report

D Smith reported that the Village Hall website is being updated. The Meeting Room and Hallway was soon to be decorated. The bar floor had been fixed. Dripping taps were ongoing. Some coffee mornings may be changed to a Sunday as there is a clash of bookings. The committee were hoping to hold at least one event a month to raise funds.

#### 89. Village Sites.

- a. Trees. It was agreed that H Blurton confirm the work on the Willow tree at Margaretting Tye with Bartletts.
- b. Roads, Pavements, Grass Verges, Rights of Way & Bridleways. Clerk to report several issues that had been brought to the parish councils' attention.

#### 90. Any Other Business.

- a. Cllr G Bonnett explained the changes to Essex County Councils electoral boundaries, reviewed and agreed in 2024. Stock and Margaretting will fall within the new Broomfield and Writtle County division.
- b. Cllr G Bonnett reported that the City Council were planning to collect council tax fees over twelve months instead of ten.
- c. Dog Waste Bins. C Quilter reported that there had been no problems recently with the service. Cllr G Bonnett reported that over the next financial year the service should improve as extra money has been set aside to do so.
- d. T Paoli-Burke reported that there was lots of cardboard and plastic being dropped by the dustmen. Clerk to report litter both sides of Margaretting and Writtle Road.
- e. S Upton reported a working party at the Churchyard on 6<sup>th</sup> March, T Paoli-Burke to mention it on the WhatsApp group.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. in The Meeting Room

