

A Meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place in The Meeting Room at Margaretting Village Hall on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present; H Blurton, T Paoli-Burke, C Quilter, D Smith and A Wallace (Chairman). And one member of the public.

61. Apologies for absence were received from S Upton and Cllr I Grundy.

62. There were no Declarations of Interest.

63. Democratic Time.

Marion Downie attended the meeting she was concerned that things in the design statement regarding planning were not being adhered to. H Blurton explained how the planning system at the city council worked and the rules with Listed Buildings applying for consent. Eastfield Farm had an enforcement notice served regarding the gates and siting of a mobile home. A Wallace explained that any resident can report concerns to the enforcement/planning department. T Paoli-Burke suggested that she post the link for reporting on the WhatsApp group and to also ask Penny Savill to include the link in the next Newsletter along with a link to report vegetation which needs clearing. Clerk to report the overgrown vegetation encroaching on the footpath between the bus shelter and Eagle Place. Marion Downie also reported that The Red Lion was being cleared and residents at the bottom of the hill were thankful to Highways who had been very professional and prompt in clearing the brook.

64. Minutes

The meeting of the meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2023 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

65. Matters Arising

a. Bollards at Barr House. It was reported that the bollards had been inspected and do not require planning permission.

b. Post Box at Margaretting Tye. Clerk reported that the repair was on a list for work to be carried out by Royal Mail.

66. Accounts

Authority was given for payment of the following;

Margaretting P.C.C.	£600.00	Donation for the upkeep of the churchyard.
A Wallace	£ 50.00	Chairmans Expenses

H Blurton reported that the electric tariff was due to increase in February and that he would read the meter on the day it changes.

66. Community Matters

a. Maldon Road Playing Field. Following the churning up of the playing field the clerk reported that she had sent a letter and photographs to the tree surgeon who carried out the work at the rear of 9 Bank End Cottages it was agreed that a copy of the letter is sent to Mr Jones's daughter. A Wallace

reported that he had spoken to resident of 8 Bank End Cottages and the building waste had already been cleared.

b. Allotments. Nothing to report.

c. Parking at Hylands Park. Nothing to report.

d. Bollards opposite Bishops Court – Clerk yet to find a good enough map for H Blurton.

e. Bench – Maldon Road Playing Field. In hand.

f. Pylons – Notes from the meeting S Upton attended had been circulated.

g. A12 Roadworks. Notification of a new date that the slip road was scheduled to open. Clerk had spoken to Carley Davis (Morgan Sindall) and would telephone her to ask her to ensure that all signs are in place when the road is closed overnight concerning HGV lorries.

67. Village Hall Report.

D Smith reported that the Village Hall Committee were going back to monthly meetings. It had been agreed that flowers were not to be left on the memorial benches in the playing field. The cleaner had handed in her notice, but it looked like a replacement had already been found. Electric and Pat Testing were to be carried out this year. A local company had made a donation which would go towards repairing the roof/ceiling in the meeting room, Margaretting Relief in Need were also assisting in the repair of the roof. It was agreed that the pre-school nursery would not work out as it involved too many changes. Bookings were increasing and the new booking secretary had settled in. The AGM had been booked for May 7th. Councillors were asked to think of any ideas for raising money for the village hall.

68. Village Sites.

a. Copper Beech Tree at the pond. H Blurton reported that he hadn't heard anything from The City Council. Councillors discussed the tree carving in Maldon Road.

b. Roads, Pavements, Grass Verges, Rights of Way & Bridleways. It was reported that the collapsed drain in Wantz Road had been marked out for repair. P Torr had confirmed that the verge nearest his property on the footpath to the school did not fall within his boundary. It was therefore agreed that the clerk contact highways to enquire whether highways would send a quote to get the area cut back or would the parish council be able to independently cut it back.

69. Any Other Business.

a. Clerk to report blocked gulleys in Maldon Road.

b. H Blurton gave his apologies for the February meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 8th February 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in The Meeting Room at The village Hall.