

A Meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place in the Meeting Room at Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

Present; H Blurton, C Quilter, D Smith, A Wallace (Chairman) and S Upton. In attendance Cllr G Bonnett.

92. Apologies for absence were received from T Paoli-Burke.

93. Declarations of Interest. A Wallace removed his Declaration of Interest for the Grass Cutting Maintenance item on the agenda.

94. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th February 2025 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

95. Matters Arising.

a. Car Parking at Hylands Park. Clerk reported that £1,277,661.42 has been accounted for since the parking meters were installed at Hylands Park.

b. Defibrillator. It was agreed that the clerk order new pads and charge pack for the defibrillator at the Village Hall.

c. Mobile Signs around the village. There was a discussion about the mobile signs around the village and the rules about the distance there has to be to the kerb edge.

d. Flag Master. In hand.

96. Accounts.

Authority was given for payment of the following:

Contribution to Electric costs at the office	£168.00
Clerks Salary and Expenses	£500.00
Contribution to Village Hall Insurance	£733.64

It was reported that the payment to the P.W.L.B had decreased to £399.59 every six months following the lump sum payment of £5080.16 which was paid off of the loan in February 2025.

S Upton confirmed that the 25-year lease on the Maldon Road playing field was until 2034.

97. Planning.

H Blurton reported on the following applications.

25/00273/FUL Tandridge, Maldon Road.

Hip to gable loft conversion to create first floor. Two front dormers and rear box dormer. Internal alterations and alterations to top fenestration.

25/00251/CLOPUD Willow Pond View, Maldon Road.

Demolish existing outbuilding and construct a new outbuilding.

98. Community Matters.

a. Maldon Road Playing Field. No problems to report.

b. Allotments. D Smith reported that D Cannon had made a start on strimming the unused allotments. He would be washing signs and doing the bollards at Margaretting Tye in April.

c. Bollards opposite Bishops Court. Cllr Bonnett to speak to Cllr Sue Dobson for advice about doing the bollards through another avenue. It was agreed that the clerk draw up a list of things that need doing and invite Cllr Dobson for a walk around the village to discuss them.

d. Refurbishment of War Memorial. H Blurton outlined the response from The War Memorial Trust concerning the plaque for the unnamed soldiers which was a generic reply. There may be a good reason why the names were left off. H Blurton to do a report on the War Memorial and send it off to see the response that comes back. Cllr G Bonnett had spoken to the Conservation Officer who would not have a problem with a plaque.

e. Pylons. S Upton summed up the £250 towards electricity costs for those living near the pylons. Some of the maps that have been drawn up show some minor changes and the lay down area in Ivy Barn Lane has been moved.

f. Grass Cutting Maintenance. Clerk reported that she had asked for M D Landscapes to return the key to the Maldon Road playing field. The four village areas that needed cutting were confirmed as; War Memorial, Strip in front of the pond, playing field at Maldon Road and Playing field at the Village Hall. Clerk to contact Highways and explain that the parish council were repricing the mowing services and ask for permission to cut the verge down to the school from Peacocks three times a year for the children's safety. Clerk to find out how many cuts had taken place over the past three years as a guide when seeking quotations for a new contractor.

99. Village Hall Report.

D Smith reported that the dance night at the village hall raised £685.00 after costs. The Coffee morning and book sale raised £342.87 minus some expenses to deduct. The next coffee morning was scheduled for 24th May where some of the regular hirers of the hall will be invited to have a stall. Patrick Wreathall had offered to carry out some tree work and remove all rubbish. The finances were slowly increasing. Cllr G Bonnett suggested contacting Danielle Frost at the city council to find out about parish council donations to the village hall.

100. Village Sites.

a. Trees. C Quilter reported that he had spoken to the landowner of the overhanging tree on Bridleway 22/23. Clerk reported that the tree had been inspected by Highways.

b. Roads, Pavements, Grass Verges, Rights of Way and Bridleways. Clerk to find the reference number for the two damaged styles on footpath 24. Clerk to report the mobile signs obstructing the view when pulling out of Maldon Road at the crossroads. Clerk to report the faded road markings in the road at the crossroads. Clerk to report pothole just inside Maldon Road and the one under the railway bridge in Maldon Road. Parking in Wantz Road was discussed as it was much improved.

101. Parish Assembly

It was agreed that the Parish Assembly would take place on 8th May at 6.30 p.m. followed by the AGM at 7.00 p.m. followed by the May Parish Council meeting at 7.30 p.m.

102. Any Other Business.

a. It was reported that D Cannon would clean the telephone box.

b. Cllr G Bonnett reported on Council Tax increases.

c. Cllr G Bonnett reported on the admission charge for the Museum that was to come into force in April of £4.

d. Clerk to request a litter pick in Writtle Road and on the A12.

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

Next meeting Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in The Meeting Room at The Village Hall.