**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 14th November 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** T Boem, H Blurton, L Edwards, P Savill, M Scott, P Slade, A Smith and C Quilter.

In attendance Cllr I Grundy and two members of the public.

**65. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from K Young.

**66. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**67. Democratic Time**

a. Nunns Crossing W Henderson explained that the area is in a very bad condition and that it will become dangerous when the weather gets colder. P Savill had already reported these concerns to Network Rail and Highways and she had received an acknowledgement that they had received her email. **P Savill** to contact both of them again.

b. Mrs Magness (Webbs Farm) attended the meeting and explained that she intended to apply for planning permission to renovate the farmhouse which had been empty for 20 years.

**68. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th October 2013 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record after the following amendment to minute 61(d).

The first sentence of the minute to read: ‘The Parish Council agreed to accept Essex County Council’s offer to buy and install a shelter for the Red Lion bus stop.’

**69. Matters Arising**

**a. Maztec** M Scott reported that it had been clarified that the VHMC needed to donate £500 to the Parish Council from the original donation given by Maztec.

**b. Garden opposite the school** A Smith reported that work hadn’t yet started.

**c. War Memorial Posts** Nothing to report. **Clerk** to contact Aviva for an update.

**d. Speed Limit/Main Road** Cllr Grundy reported that the speed checking was in the first stage of a long process.

**e. Little Tressels** H Blurton explained that a substantial amount of rubbish had been moved. The rubbish in the lagoon will be left until the spring.

**f. Parish Council Membership**  P Savill reported that she had spoken to K Young who was very busy and concerned that he had been unable to attend recent meetings. **P Savill** to contact EALC to find out the rules on meeting attendance. **Clerk** to email K Young for an update on the skate board ramps.

**h. Margaretting Book** P Savill reported that there was a contact that was being pursued.

**i. Lavender Bank** P Savill reported that she contacted Highways Customer Services and a request for permission for the sleepers to be installed had been referred to the Highways Maintenance Section.

**70. Accounts**

Authority was given for payment of the following;

M D Landscapes (Anglia) Limited £394.80

Essex & Suffolk Water £ 34.72

P Savill outlined the accounts and balances held.

**71. Planning**

H Blurton reported the following decisions

13/1266/FUL Tollgate Farm Granted

13/05203/TPO Land adjacent to Chalksfield Granted

Applications

13/01536/FUL Highview, Private Road No Comments

13/01346/FUL Whites Place Farm The Parish Council had some concerns with this application, H Blurton had requested some more information .

**72. Village Projects**

**a. Bulb Planting** It was agreed to allocate £50 towards the cost of this year’s bulb planting scheme. Funds to be transferred from the grass cutting fund. Bulbs are to be planted at the crossroads and Orton Close.

**b. Whitesbridge and Whitesbridge Walkboards** Nothing to report

**c. Village Gateways** H Blurton reported that he had received an email from Amanda Palmer which included a different design as the preferred one chosen. The locations suggested by the Parish Council had been confirmed. It was agreed that H Blurton respond and ask if the original design as submitted in October 2011 could be used and whether the Parish Council could choose their own contractors.

**d. Office** H Blurton reported that T Greens original quotation had increased by 6%. P Savill reported that the Parish Council had been awarded funding (£12,439) from Essex Environment Trust towards the Parish Council office.

Accordingly it was resolved to enter into the deed with Essex Environment Trust in the form before the meeting and to authorise P Savill to execute the deed on behalf of the Parish Council and to agree any minor amendments which may be necessary and to execute any supplementary deeds or documents required by the deed. **P Savill** to acknowledge Essex Environment Trust’s offer of funding and provide the information required to execute the deed.

**e. Village Sign**  A Smith had looked at the sign in Abbess Roding. He reported that J Currie still had the original mould for the sign. It was suggested that HSigns may be able to use the mould to build the fibre glass construction. **H Blurton** to contact HSigns.

**73. Village Sites**

a. Village Hall Road Sign There had been a couple of requests for a sign to be installed at the cross roads to indicate the direction of the village hall. It was agreed a sign was needed. **H Blurton** to obtain a quotation.

b. Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways C Quilter reported that the bollard had been replaced although the broken fence and railing were still outstanding; the river was exposed and was dangerous to anyone using the area. **Clerk** to chase up.

c. Rangers **Clerk** to contact and ask if they could clear vegetation behind bus stop opposite the Black Bull and bridleway at The Tye.

d. Pond and Trees T Boem reported that there was fish in the pond. A working party was to be arranged for January. It was agreed that T Boem, M Scott, C Quilter and H Blurton get together to cut back and tidy the area. H Blurton suggested getting some pea shingle for the path. T Boem to have another look at ‘Arthur’s’ tree and place the fenders around it when the working party is at the pond.

e. Bus Shelters. It was confirmed that the original quote of £5,874.00 plus VAT for the repairs to shelter opposite the Black Bull will not be increased. **H Blurton** to suggest to the contractor that the repairs commence in the spring.  **P Savill** to re-report the broken sign at the bus stop next to The Black Bull.

**74. Maldon Road Recreation Field – Allotments and Play Area**

T Boem reported that he couldn’t find the dead/diseased tree. Nothing to report on the allotments in K Young’s absence. There were no problems to report at the play area. It was reported that Di Smith had been approached regarding square polythene bags for the litter bin.

**75. Correspondence**

a. AON – Guidance on severe weather conditions.

**76. Any Other Business**

(i) Internet Connection at the Village Hall. M Scott reported that the service wasn’t used very often and the Parish Council could probably get a better deal from another provider. It was agreed that he research and get some new prices. **L Edwards and P Savill** to get some prices as well. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item in December.

(ii) 351 bus service. L Edwards reported problems with the service including the zones which determine fares. **Cllr I Grundy and L Edwards** to look into who decides where the zones go.

(iii) Maldon Road drainage. **Clerk** to report drainage problems from the Almshouses to the railway bridge.

(iv) Emergency Planning. Cllr Grundy suggested plans should be in place in case of an emergency. **Agenda Item for December.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 12th December 2013 at 7.30 p.m.