**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road, Margaretting on Thursday 10th October 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present;** H Blurton, P Savill (Chairman), A Smith and C Quilter

Cllr I Grundy was in attendance and two members of the public.

**51. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from T Boem, L Edwards, M Scott and K Young.

**52. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**53. Democratic Time**

**Railway**: P Savill confirmed she had contacted Network Rail and Highways about the flooding problem and road repairs in Maldon Road to the entrance of the site where Network Rail had been working. Network Rail had agreed to investigate the flooding problem. W Henderson requested that he be involved in any site meeting. **H Blurton** agreed to take a photo of the problem when it next rained so the exact site of the problem could be identified.

**54. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2013 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record after the following amendment was made;

Minute 42 Peter Slay to read Peter Slade.

**55. Matters Arising**

**a. Bus Shelter/Vegetation**  Clerk reported that that the problem had been reported twice to Highways.

**b. Café Sign** Clerk reported that she had spoken to the owners of the café and they had since moved the sign inside the gate.

**c. Maztec**  H Blurton reported that M Scott was to write to Maztec for confirmation of who the donation was intended for.

**d. Garden opposite the school** A Smith confirmed that Brian Smith was to carry out work to the railings surrounding the Mayors tree.

**e. War Memorial Posts** Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Insurance Company who was waiting to hear from a third party.

**f. Speed Limit/Main Road** P Savill reported that the Parish Council’s request for a reduction to the speed limit in Main Road had not been acknowledged by Highways. Cllr Grundy explained that Highways had agreed to a speed survey on the road.

**g**. **Little Tressels** H Blurton reported that the land had been sold at auction with the proviso that the land be cleared.

**h. Car parking on Roman Road** P Savill reported that she had observed that the cars were parked on the road and not on the verge, therefore nothing could be done.

**i. Street Lighting** Three residents had voiced their concerns about the street lights being turned off at midnight. Cllr Grundy explained that although the scheme will be ‘fine-tuned’ it was doubtful that the scheme would be abandoned and the lights turned on again.

**56. PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Following advertising in the newsletter and on the notice board it was noted no one else other than Mr Peter Slade had come forward wishing to become a parish councillor. Therefore, P Savill proposed that Mr Peter Slade be co-opted onto the Parish Council this was seconded by H Burton. H Blurton agreed to continue his role on the village hall committee with a view that P Slade may take the role on in the future.

**57. MARGARETTING BOOK**

P Savill reported that Mrs Jan Loudon had moved away and the Parish Council had no forwarding address or telephone number for her. Mrs Loudon has been writing the book since 2000 and when last asked about the book seemed reluctant to pass any forwarding details or paperwork on. It was agreed that **P Savill** would place a notice in the newsletter asking if anyone had a forwarding address for Mrs Loudon.

**58. ACCOUNTS**

Authority was given for payment of the following;

M D Landscapes (Anglia) Limited £658.80

PKF Littlejohn (Auditors) £120.00

The clerk reported that the accounts 2012 – 2013 had been signed off as correct by the auditors.

**59. PLANNING**

Applications

Tollgate Farm, Main Road. 13/01266/FUL No Objections

Single storey extension to provide annexe.

Land adjacent to Chalksfield, Margaretting Tye 13/05203/TPO

Willow (T1) adjacent to well on land adjacent Chalksfield – reduce away from service cables to create a 1.5 – 2m clearance, cutting to suitable growing points; remove deadwood over 25mm in diameter.

Decisions

Van Dykes, Margaretting Tye 11/01995/CLOPUD & 11/01996/CLOPUD Refused

Spring Cottage, Maldon Road 13/01130/FUL Granted

Ivy Hill Hotel, Writtle Road 13/01159/FUL Granted

Appeal Furze Lodge, Writtle Road 13/00307/FUL Appeal Dismissed

**60. VILLAGE PROJECTS**

**a. Whitesbridge and Whitesbridge Walkboards** P Savill reported on the meeting with Andy Bestwick, Mr & Mrs A Smith, H Blurton and herself. Chelmsford City Council and The Environment Agency were keen to progress with the planning and costing of the project so that if planning permission for the flood alleviation scheme is upheld by the judicial review the project will be in a position to commence.

**b. Village Gateways** Nothing to report. **Cllr I Grundy** to follow up.

**c. Parish Council Office** The application for borrowing approval for town/parish councils from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for a PWLB loan of £53,240 for a period of 20 years to cover the cost of the construction works was discussed. P Savill referred to her report that had been circulated at the meeting giving details of the project budget, grants applied for and EALC advice received on applying for a loan from the PWLB. H Blurton proposed that the Parish Council go forward with the loan application this was seconded by C Quilter and agreed by all. H Blurton thanked P Savill for doing all the financial work for this project.

**d. Village Sign**  H Blurton outlined quotes for the project, it was agreed to explore whether a grant could be obtained.  **H Blurton** to contact H Sign and inform them that a grant is being investigated. A Smith to let the clerk know the telephone number of the clerk at Abyss Roding who has used H Sign for their village sign.  **P Savill** to investigate grants. **AGENDA ITEM NOVEMBER.**

**61. VILLAGE SITES**

a Repairs & Maintenance

Lavender Bank – P Savill reported that she was waiting for a call about the Highways decision to refuse the Parish Council permission to install sleepers to prevent earth spilling onto the pavement.

b. Grass Verges, Footpaths and Bridleways

C Quilter reported that problems on bridleway 21 had still not been resolved. **Clerk**  to re-report.

c. Pond and Trees

It was reported that L Cameron had sent some information on an orchard planting scheme (Edible Essex). T Boem was getting some resistant elm trees for planting via the Great British Elm Project. P Slade reported that he was concerned about the newly planted trees on the green in Maldon Road. **P Savill** to e mail T Boem about setting up a working party to carry out work at the pond.

d. Bus Shelter

The Parish Council agreed to accept Essex County Council’s offer to buy and install a shelter for the Red Lion bus stop. **P Savill** to contact the ECC’s Passenger Transport Officer (Moira Mason) and inform her that the EEC’s offer had been accepted. Discussions on the repairs to the bus shelter opposite the Black Bull were deferred to the November meeting; costs for the repairs will be met by the Parish Council reserves. **AGENDA ITEM NOVEMBER.**

**62. MALDON ROAD RECREATION FIELD – ALLOTMENTS & PLAY AREA**

C Quilter reported that there were no problems in the play area. P Savill had emptied the bins although the bags seemed weak. It was agreed that **H Blurton** contact Di Smith and find out about stronger lining bags. It was reported that the allotment hedge hadn’t been cut, **Clerk** to follow up.

**P Savill** to contact T Boem to ask if he can provide transport to get the teen shelter seats to Witham so as they can be galvanized.

**63. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. RCCE Oyster Magazine – **Clerk** to pass onto T Boem

2. Annual Report & Financial Statement from Margaretting Relief in Need Trust – **Clerk** to file

3. Posters for notice board – Electoral Commission & Bus Strategy.

4. Complaint from Mr McGregor about paving and kerb stones in Orton Close – **Clerk** to report.

**64. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

P Savill reported that she had been approached by a resident who thought a road sign should be placed in the village to indicate the location of the Village Hall. **AGENDA ITEM NOVEMBER.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 14th November at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall