

A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road, Margaretting on Thursday 13th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: H. Blurton (Chairman), L. Kerry, C. Quilter, P. Savill (Minutes) and A. Smith.

In attendance: one member of the public

23. Apologies for absence

M. Barnes, T. Paoli-Burke, A. Wallace, Cllr I. Grundy and C. Kochan.

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

25. Democratic Time

(i) Maldon Road - flooding

The continuing flooding problem in the vicinity of El Rita, Maldon Road was discussed. It was noted that when it rains the surface water now extends to the opposite side of the road. Cllr Grundy, at an earlier meeting, had agreed to follow up this matter with Highways. The clerk had been asked to re-report the problem at the parish council's June Meeting. **ACTION:** H. Blurton to check with Cllr Grundy and the clerk to find out if they had been in contact with Highways.

(ii) Main Road – old shell petrol station site

Questions were asked about the recently erected wire fencing and entrance gates to the site. The parish council confirmed it had not received any planning applications.

26. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8th June were agreed as a correct record of the meeting with the following two amendments. Those listed present at the meeting to include P. Savill. The spelling of Michael and Jennie Scott's names in Minute 13 (a) to be corrected.

27. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

(i) Minute 13 Democratic Time

(b) Parsonage Lane Rail Crossing - H. Blurton confirmed the letter informing Network Rail that the parish council had withdrawn its objections had been sent. The letter included the parish council's concerns regarding the inconvenience and disturbance to residents living on the other side of the railway line.

One of the landowners affected by the proposal to close the footpath 21 rail crossing and create a new bridleway had received a large file of papers which included details of every proposed footpath and rail crossing in the county. The Ramblers Association's objections to the closure of the footpath 21 crossing had not been included.

(d) Loose dogs - There was nothing further to report on this matter.

It was agreed it would be helpful, in keeping up-to-date with the action taken on issues raised by residents, if emailed reports could be copied to the members of the parish council. **ACTION:** H. Blurton to ask the clerk to copy the parish council into all emails sent on behalf of the parish council.

(ii) Minute 15 Matters Arising

(a) Margaretting Brook - The chairman reported the meeting with Environment Agency (E.A.) held on 14th June had been useful. The E.A. representatives had provided answers to the main questions raised.

Clearing the debris: The E.A. is not responsible for clearing the debris from Margaretting Brook. Keeping the brook clear of debris is the responsibility of the landowners with land adjoining or with the brook running

through it. In some villages volunteers carry out this work. Details of the landowner's legal responsibilities can be found in an E.A. booklet 'Living on the Edge'. The parish council has a copy.

Main Road flood risk: The E.A. will investigate re-establishing the flood alerts. The Red Lion and the houses opposite are located within the local floodplain and as such should receive free flood warning alerts. The E.A. does not provide sandbags. Although the City Council provides emergency aid to householders in the event of flooding it does not provide sandbags.

Margaretting Flood Alleviation Scheme: The E.A. representatives were unaware of the E.A. and City Council's Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Following up the idea of recruiting volunteers to keep Margaretting Brook clear was discussed. H. Blurton suggested once the vegetation growing along the edges of the brook had died down the parish council could undertake a survey to identify the spots in the brook that need clearing. This suggestion was supported by those members present.

(d) Bollard - C. Quilter reported a bollard at the entrance to Van Dyke, Margaretting Tye was removed when the house was being demolished and it had not been reinstalled. **ACTION:** H. Blurton to investigate

(f) Planning Forum – Owing to lack of interest this meeting has been postponed to September.

(iii) Minute 17 Emergency Planning

There has been one response to the request for volunteers with medical expertise.

(iv) Minute 22 Any Other Business – village representative

L. Kerry reported she had attended her first village hall committee meeting. She has been included on the bingo rota and she agreed to help clean the hall chairs later this month.

28. Maldon Road Playing Field Access

Mr White's request for access, via the playing field, to his land backing onto the rear of the gardens for 3 to 8 Bank End was discussed. It was noted Mr White had been invited to attend the meeting to present his request and to answer any questions. After discussing the details, outlined in Mr White's email, members of the parish council identified several unacceptable risks. These included the playing field gateway width, number of lorry movements, unspecified loads and the size of the lorries. To allow lorry access would require removing the entrance gates and running the risk of damaging the playing field surface, underground utilities (waste pipes and water mains) and items of play equipment. After further discussion which included the terms of the playing field lease it was unanimously agreed the parish council could not support Mr White's request for access. **ACTION:** H. Blurton to notify Mr White of the parish council's decision.

29. Eastern Angles

This item was deferred to the next meeting

30. Accounts

Income to date totals £6,766 (£6,211 precept; £500 Maztec grant and £55 allotment rents).

There has been no recorded expenditure since the last meeting. Expenditure to date totals £4,259.

31. Community Matters

Maldon Road Playing Field – The exchange of emails with Sovereign's customer support team regarding the unsatisfactory repairs to the safety surface to the children's swing area and dome climber were discussed. It was noted Sovereign's quotation/contract did not guarantee the repairs would not uplift. C. Quilter pointed out the contractor did not fulfil the agreed repair specification. It was agreed M. Barnes will draft a formal reply for the chairman to sign. **ACTION:** H. Blurton to contact M. Barnes.

Allotments – Two residents have expressed an interest in renting two of the four vacant allotments. Their details have been forwarded to Tracey Nixon.

32. Village Sites

(i) Repairs and Maintenance – Two of the three requested quotes have been received for the work to the war memorial bollards and the Maldon Road notice board.

(ii) Pond and Trees - Tim Boem, if time permits, will join the working party on Saturday 5th August and help tidy up the pond and clear the weeds from the shingle path. W. Henderson's offer of some weed killer was accepted. It was noted there are a couple of wooden boards in need of attention. The extent of the green algae currently covering the pond and possible actions to resolve this was discussed. The path when weeded will need re-shingling and it was suggested to inhibit further weeds to lay matting first.

ACTION: H. Blurton to contact W. Henderson to see if the weed killer being offered is suitable to use at a pond location and if not purchase a suitable quantity of safe to use weed killer.

(iii) Roads, Pavements, Grass Verges, Rights of Way & Bridleways - A public road closure notice warning of road works scheduled to take place in Ingatestone within the next eighteen months was read out at the meeting. The notice takes effect 1 August 2018 and gives alternative routes. The High Street will be temporarily closed from its junction with The Furlongs, Ingatestone to the junction with Maldon Road, Margaretting.

(iv) Village Sign – H. Blurton reported an Expression of Interest application for grant funding to replace the sign with a 'like for like' sign has been sent to Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund.

33. Planning – Applications & Decisions.

The following planning decision was noted:

Application No. 17/00679/FUL: Mole Hill Cottage, Margaretting Tye.

Proposal: First floor side extension and a single storey rear extension. Front porch roof to be lowered to make room for window along front elevation.

Decision: Grant Planning Permission

Two planning applications were received for comment at our planning meeting held on 3rd July.

Application No. 17/00911/FUL: Peacock's Cottage, Main Road, Margaretting.

Proposal: Single storey side extension. Five roof lights to ground floor pitched roof.

Parish Council comments: No Objections

Application No 17/00912/LBC: Peacock's Cottage, Main Road, Margaretting.

Proposal: Single storey side extension. Alterations to windows and doors to existing dwelling and five roof lights to ground floor pitched roof. Addition of window to rear elevation. Alterations to roof tiles to ground floor pitched roof. Internal alterations.

Parish Council comments: No Objections

34. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

There being no other business the meeting closes at 8:40pm

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 14th September at 7:30pm