A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road, Margaretting

On Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m

Present; H Blurton (Chairman), L Kerry, T Paoli-Burke, P Savill, A Smith, C Quilter and A Wallace. Also present were Cllr I Grundy and two members of the public.

**68. Apologies for absence** were received from M Barnes and G Banks. It was agreed that H Blurton speak to G Banks regarding his commitment to the Parish Council.

**69. Declarations of Interest** There were no Declarations of Interest.

**70. Democratic Time**

a. It was agreed that the clerk contact G Sharp to try and find out who owns the road in Parsonage Lane from under the railway bridge onwards as it is in a bad state of repair.

b. It was reported that the footpath across the railway in Parsonage Lane was still open and being used. Network rail had re-fenced along the bank up to the church.

**71. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated Thursday 9th November 2017 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**72. Matters Arising**

a. Footpath Map – T Paoli-Burke to follow up.

b. Flooding El-Rita – there had still been insufficient rain to take a good photograph showing the problem.

c. Eastern Angles – It was reported that the event had been booked. J Scott was to take telephone enquiries. M Barnes to meet with H Blurton on her return from New Zealand.

d. Dog Warden – clerk to contact the Dog Warden to find out about dog poo dispensers which could be positioned at the entrance to the playing field. A Wallace suggested fencing off the play area; P Savill explained that this option had already been explored. P Savill to write a detailed article for the newsletter outlining the fine that could be imposed when dog owners fail to clear up after their dogs. Clerk to write a polite letter to nearby residents.

**73. Allotments**

The clerk reported that a resident from Ingatestone had visited the allotments but regrettably they were too overgrown for him to take one on. A Wallace suggested having a working party to strim and tidy the vacant overgrown ones. P Savill to contact the school to see if they wanted to take one on for a project. C Quilter to get a quote for cutting back the hedge.

**74. Accounts**

P Savill outlined the accounts and balances in the bank. The precept figure had been returned to Chelmsford City Council and set at £12,422.00.

Authority was given for payment of the following;

 BT Telephone/broadband £ 61.56

Grant for village sign – Cllr I Grundy to chase up and H Blurton to contact J Simmons.

**75. Community Matters**

Maldon Road Playing Field Clerk to respond to the residents of Broad oaks regarding the trees in the playing field damaging their fencing; the Parish Council were seeking quotations. A Wallace to look at the safety surfacing for the see-saw which is lifting and the safety surface around the roundabout which is shrinking back, it was thought that this might be due to the weather and it was therefore agreed to monitor it.

**76. Village Sites**

a. Repairs & Maintenance – H Blurton reported that he was to repair the bus shelter opposite the Red Lion and also the wooden board at the dipping platform at the pond. He reported that because the wall had collapsed into the pond all the ivy had been stripped back. It was agreed that in March some barley straw would be purchased to try to cut back the amount of algae in the pond.

b. H Blurton to obtain some quotes for the re-stain of the gate at the Maldon Road playing field.

c. Roads, pavements, grass verges, rights of way & Bridleways – clerk to contact Paul Van Damm regarding the broken fence at Bridleway 44 in Swan Lane.

**77. Planning**

Applications Dunedin, Maldon Road 17/02192/FUL Single storey front porch and detached outbuilding. P.C’s comments; The Parish Council hope that any comments from neighbours will be taken into consideration, also as an office is planned the PC assume a business will be run from this address.

Decisions

Whitewebbs Cottage, Main Road 17/01825/FUL Refused

Barr House, Writtle Road 17/01815/FUL Granted

Paddocks, Main Road 17/01654/FUL Granted

Bullfinches, Writtle Road 17/01557/FUL Granted

Ivy Hill Hotel, Writtle Road 17/01726/FUL Granted

Eweland Hall Cottage, Main Road 17/01654/FUL Granted

The Briars, Pennys Lane 17/01732/FUL Granted

H Blurton and A Wallace to attend a planning meeting on 26th February.

**78. Correspondence**

L Kerry and the clerk to attend a Highways meeting on 25th January.

**79. Any Other Business**

a. Clerk to contact the Highways department to find out about having a salt bin positioned on the corner of Main/Maldon Road.

b. A Wallace to get a quote to cut the front area of the Churchyard, he was to contact M Scott to arrange a meeting on site.

c. The Parish Council Surgery rota was discussed and filled in.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 8th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m.