**A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road, Margaretting** on Thursday 12th September 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: H Blurton (Vice-Chairman in Chair), L Edwards, A Smith & C Quilter

Two members of the public were also present.

**37. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from T Boem, Cllr I Grundy, P Savill, M Scott & K Young.

**38. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**39. Democratic Time**

**Railway –** W Henderson explained that new cables were being put in between Harold Wood and Brentwood. The section of Maldon Road, by the entrance to the site used by the railway contractors, has been resurfaced in such a way that surface water will not drain into the gulley. A Smith suggested a meeting should be arranged between Highways and the railway on site as it was clear that the site hadn’t been made good. H Blurton reported that two different contractors had repaired the road between Whitesbridge and the site.

**40. Minutes**

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

Item 32 Sentence to read;’ T Boem to chase up a response concerning the old oak tree’

**41. Matters Arising**

a. Parsonage Lane It was reported that the item has been placed on a list for inspection.

b. Bus Shelter/Vegetation Clerk reported that James Stubbs had responded and said the problem should be reported to Highways, **clerk** to report again.

c. Four Oaks H Blurton reported that the yard is padlocked. Chelmsford City Council is considering whether to issue a notice to knock the building down. In the meantime Chelmsford City Council confirmed that the site is still being monitored.

d. Café Sign **H Blurton** to speak to The Enforcement Officer.

e. Margaretting Book It was agreed that this be an agenda item for October.

f. Maztec H Blurton attended the recent Village Hall meeting he reported that the Village Hall would like Maztec to write to them and confirm that the recent donation was intended to be shared between the village hall and the parish council.

g. Moody Homes Nothing to report.

h. 30 mph/Roman Road It was reported that P Savill had requested that the speed limit on Roman Road be reduced from 40 to 30mph.

i. Yellow Lines P Savill had reported and workmen had been seen inspecting the area.

**42. Parish Council Vacancy**

H Blurton reported that the vacancy has been advertised in the newsletter, notices were to go onto the two notice boards for fourteen days. If no one came forward Peter Slay could be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**43. Accounts**

Authority was given for payment of the following;

M D Landscapes (Anglia) Limited £658.80

C Kochan £473.75

**44. Essex County Council**

H Blurton explained how to get onto the site and track problems.

**45. Planning**

Applications dealt with during August;

13/01089/CLEUD Marshalls Farm, Handley Green PC Comments: No Objections

Rental of part of the house as a self contained Annexe

13/01042/FUL Fristling Hall, swan Lane PC Comments: No Objections

Construction of Access Track

13/01009/FUL Spring Cottage, Maldon Road

Single storey rear and part first floor and two storey side extension. Enlarge bay window on front elevation. PC Comments: The views of the Parish Council are split over this application. Some have no objections to the proposed extension whilst others feel that they will take away the character of a cottage style and there size would have a detrimental impact on the landscape especially when approaching the property from the Galleywood direction.

Applications dealt with at September meeting;

13/01159/FUL Ivy Hill Hotel, Writtle Road PC Comments: No Objections

Single storey extension to existing conservatory roof to match new conservatory.

APP/W1525/D/13/2203113 Furze Lodge, Writtle Road

Notification of an Appeal 13/00307/FUL Proposal: Amendment to planning 12/01242/FUL (Alterations & extension to existing garage) to increase height of the garage. Appeal Ref; APP/W1525/D/13/2203113.

Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme

H Blurton reported that G Sharpes application for a judicial review has been granted and would be heard at the beginning of March.

**46. Village Projects**

Whitesbridge/Walkboards H Blurton reported that a meeting on site was to be arranged between Andy Bestwick, P Savill, H Blurton, M Scott and Mr & Mrs A Smith.

Village Gateways H Blurton reported that it was 24 weeks since he received a letter apologising for the delay in responding to the request about having gateways installed. **H Blurton** to forward a copy of the letter to Cllr Grundy requesting he try to get approval.

Parish Council OfficeIt was reported that P Savill was still pursuing and applying for grants and had already written to Maztec following this year’s V festival. EALC had advised her to approach The Secretary of State regarding obtaining a loan from the PWLB, this was agreed.

**47. Village Sites**

a. Repairs and Maintenance – **A Smith** to contact Brian Smith about work to be carried out on the railings surrounding the Mayors tree opposite the school.

 Lavender Bank – Margaretting Friends have suggested the parish council hold onto the money donated for railway sleepers at the lavender bank until an alternative project can be found.

Village Sign – H Blurton reported a quote of £5856 plus carriage, vat and installation. He was to obtain two more quotes. He reported that he and M Scott had arranged a site meeting with H-Sign for 23rd September.

b. Grass verges, Footpaths and Bridleways

C Quilter reported that following some of the trees being cut back on bridleway 44 some of the railings have been broken. L Edwards reported that the footpath across Peacocks field was sometimes difficult to walk. She agreed to monitor it.

Footpath 21 – It was reported that Network Rail were temporary closing the footpath, they were to apply to Essex County Council for closure, therefore the whistle board will no longer be used unless the application is refused.

c. Pond and Trees

H Blurton reported that Arthurs tree wasn’t looking very healthy.

d. Bus Shelter

Nothing to report on the new bus shelter next to The Black Bull, although it was on a priority list. The sign was still not fixed onto the shelter.

H Blurton outlined the quote received in September 2012 for work to the bus shelter opposite The Black Bull. It was agreed that he approach the contractor who gave the lowest quotation and ask if they will carry the quote over. It was agreed to discuss the finances for this project at the October meeting.

The bus stop sign opposite Church Lane had been damaged **Clerk** to report.

**48. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

(i) C Quilter and H Blurton yet to set a date to remove seats from shelter.

(ii) C Quilter confirmed that the hedge between the allotments and playing field had been cut. **Clerk** to write and thank parks department.

**49. Correspondence**

a. Voluntary Action Update – P Savill to read

b. RCCE Annual Review – M Scott to read.

c. CCC Planning Obligations/Consultation Draft 2001-2021 – H Blurton to file

d. Clerks and Councils Direct September 2013 – Clerk to read then H Blurton

**50. Any Other Business**

a. Little Tressels – H Blurton reported on court case he also reported that the enforcement notice finishes on 25th September to date site still hasn’t been cleared.

b. Village Hall Representative – K Young has stood down. H Blurton agreed to stand in until another representative is appointed.

c. L Edwards reported that she was keeping a diary of reported problems this was to be written in the newsletter for parishioners to report any problems. She reported that the 351 service seemed improved. There were problems with the zone for fares – eventually she would hope to have a meeting with the company.

d. C Quilter reported problems with cars parked on the road/verge along Roman Road opposite Ottley Place.

e. A Smith reported that there was a new Community Policewomen.

f. It was reported that Essex County Council were reviewing the street lighting policy.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 10th October 2013 at 7.30 p.m.