A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road, Margaretting on Thursday 14th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: M Barnes, H Blurton (Chairman), L Kerry, T Paoli-Burke, A Wallace, C Quilter, P Savill and A Smith.

In attendance were three members of the public and Cllr I Grundy.

**35. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**36. Democratic Time**

a. Mr Gary Banks attended the meeting with an interest of joining the Parish Council; he gave a brief outline about himself and his interests. H Blurton explained what being a parish councillor involved and different duties that would be expected. It was agreed to invite him to sit in at the October meeting.

b. Mr & Mrs Albon attended the meeting and explained that the enquiry for the Network Rail crossing was to be held on 18th October. H Blurton confirmed that he had sent a letter withdrawing the parish council’s objections, but had also explained the problems that would be caused for residents living on the other side of the railway.

c. Cllr I Grundy reported that there had been an appeal from G Sharpe regarding the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

d. Clerk to report the overgrown footpath from Church Lane to Canterbury’s (Number 33 leading onto 34)

e. T Paoli-Burke suggested a map of the footpaths be included in the newsletter to make it clearer where parishioners can walk and the different footpath and bridleway numbers. Cllr I Grundy to bring a copy of the map that Stock use to the October meeting.

f. Cllr I Grundy reported that there was to be a consultation for Quiet Lanes, residents in Swan Lane will get a chance to comment about Swan Lane becoming a Quiet Lane.

**37. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th July were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**38. Matters Arising**

a. Flooding by El-Rita. Clerk reported on the reply from Highways. It was agreed that H Blurton would take some photos after it rains for the clerk to forward on.

b. Loose Dog. L Kerry reported that the owners of the dog had been served a Notice from the Dog Warden; the dog was being kept under control now.

c. Bollard/Van Dykes – It was reported that the owner of the property has the missing post.

d. Planning Forum – M Barnes, H Blurton and A Wallace to attend.

e. Access Maldon Road Playing Field – H Blurton reported that he had written to Mr White informing him that the Parish Council did not support his request for access.

f. Eastern Angles – Nothing to report. M Barnes to find out the dates that they can play next year, choose a date and book the village hall.

**39. Accounts**

P Savill suggested that the Precept for 2018/19 be set. She reported that she had already contacted Maztec regarding the grant following the V Festival.

Authority was given for payment of the following;

H Blurton Stamps, Inkjet and Paper £ 67.01

Village Hall Electricity for Office £ 27.62

M Saville Work carried out to Noticeboard £270.00

M D Landscapes Grass cutting £658.80

**40. Community Matters**

a. Sovereign Safety Surface Repair M Barnes outlined her exchanges with sovereign regarding the safety surface repair. After a discussion it was agreed that A Wallace take photographs of the area and measurements before contacting Sovereign to discuss both jobs; a patch repair by the climbing frame and a repair under the swings. Clerk to forward A Wallace the contact number for the Legal Department at the EALC. H Blurton thanked M Barnes for all her work on this item.

**41. Village Sites**

(i) Repairs & Maintenance – It was reported that work to the Notice Board & posts at War Memorial had been completed.

Village Sign – H Blurton outlined the quotation of £4425.20 plus £90.00 carriage and vat (Sign of the Times) To apply for the Community Initiative Fund grant two quotes are needed, but it was agreed to put the grant application in using the quotation and paperwork from other companies to show that the parish council have been unsuccessful with any other quotes.

(ii) Pond & Trees – H Blurton thanked everyone that turned up to help tidy up around the pond and W Henderson for supplying weed killer for use around the pond. Clerk to request vegetation be removed. After a discussion about duck weed it was agreed that using chemicals would be too costly even though a neighbour of the pond had offered to make a donation .It was suggested trying barley straw, an old fashioned remedy. It was also agreed to put new shingle down in the spring. A Wallace, H Blurton and C Quilter to meet on site and look at what needs doing as this was going to be a big project. Clerk to pass the contact details for The Conservation Volunteers onto H Blurton. H Blurton to organise some new planks to replace the rotten ones.

(iii) Roads, Pavements, Grass Verges, Rights of Way & Bridleways – It was agreed that H Blurton fill out and return the Essex Highways Survey.

Clerk to report the blocked gulley at the War Memorial.

**42. Planning**

H Blurton reported on the planning meeting held on 4th September

17/01272/FUL Canterbury’s, Main Road No Objections

Change of use from agricultural land to garden

17/01396/FUL Furness Farm, Coptfold Hall Drive No Objections

Change of Use from office to residential dwelling

Councillors had received a copy of the Enforcement Notices, clerk to contact Enforcement Officer concerning Four Oaks.

**43. Correspondence**

a. P Savill to look at Margaretting Relief in Need end of year accounts.

b. There was a consultation of Public Spaces Protection Order: Dog Fouling

**44. Any Other Business**

a. Clerk to contact Mark Rowe concerning the fence around the bus shelter opposite The Black Bull enclosing a photograph.

b. H Blurton reported that one of the planters at the office was cracked. A Wallace to look at.

c. The fire alarm system was due to be checked at the end of September.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 12th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m.