

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mr. J. Archer
Mrs. G. Gold (Chairman)
Mr. P. Guppy
Mr. C. Litscher
Mrs. A. McDonald
Mr. P. Wakeling
In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
6 members of the public

337. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** had been received from Prof Barclay, Mr Sears (District Councillor) and PCSO Butler
338. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 10th October 2007 were approved and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

339. Dave Bull general village caretaker work Invoice No. 57 dated 07.11.07 £141.75 Cheque No. 603
340. Bradley Faulkner grass cutting Oct. Inv. No. 1437 dated 31.10.07 £264.38 (net £225) Cheque No. 604
341. Winstonmead 5 black and 2 colour ink cartridges £70.61 (net £60.10) Cheque No. 605
342. Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee Invoice dated 26.10.07 use of committee room from July to October 2007 inclusive (3 x 2hour sessions and 3 x 1/2hour sessions plus £5 contribution to VHMC Christmas Fayre raffle prizes) £33.13. Cheque No. 606
343. EALC Inv No. EALC520/2007 dated 09.10.07 2 x packs for new councillors £15.00 Cheque No. 607
344. EALC Invoice No. EALC527/2007 dated 10.10.07 2 delegates on Councillor Training Day 1 18th October 2007 £100. Cheque No. 607.
345. EALC Invoice No.ETP147/2007 dated 15.10.07 1 place on Council Finance Course 1st November 2007 £50. Cheque No. 607.
346. Dale Hire and Sales Invoice No.CH147148 dated 18.10.07 Hire of security fencing form 01.08.07 to 30.09.07 £321.48 (£273.60 net). Cheque No. 608.
347. Graham Cornell Inv No.0740 dated 31.10.07 repairs to glass of PC notice board £67 Cheque NO. 609.
348. CPRE Membership from 01.11.07 to 31.10.08 £27. Cheque No. 610.
349. E-on Energy invoice No.H5COFF99A dated 09.10.07 street lighting for September 2007 £39.10 (£37.24 net) taken by direct debit on 19.10.07.
350. E-on Energy Invoice No. H5DD56066 dated 05.11.07 street lighting for October 2007 £38.54 (£36.70 net) will be taken by direct debit on 15.11.07
351. EALC Invoice No.ETP162/2007 dated 07.11.07 1 place on Risk Management Course 21st November 2007 £50. Cheque No. 607.
352. Maria Dyer office expenses £52.46. Cheque No. 611.

353. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st November	£	130.16
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th October	£	3,299.54
Abbey as at 1 st October 2007	£	<u>12,768.08</u>
	£	16,197.78

354. **National Association of Local Councils Revised Salary Scales for Local Council Clerks from April 2007 received** – rate/scale/backdated approved by PC Members.

PLANNING

355. **Maldon District Council Decisions** – a detailed list had been copied to Members, which is summarised below:

TPO/MAL/07/00635 Cold Norton

TPO 15/96 Remove T18 and T19 Oak trees. (Marked T1 and T2 on Application)
Wyvern House 29A St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100090555818)
Mr and Mrs Shields **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/07/00911 Purleigh

Change of use of garage and studio to affordable housing unit to replace mobile home (previously removed)
Valentines Cottage Crown Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091256517)
M Ewers & V Jennings **APPROVED**

TPO/MAL/07/01058 Cold Norton

TPO 15/96 - T27 (T1 on plan) Ash tree - Fell and replace.
35 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JE
(UPRN - 100090555826)
Mr Hawkes **APPROVED**

356. **Planning Applications received by the Parish Council** – the following were considered and response was as follows:

FUL/MAL/07/01059 Cranswick Lodge, Crown Road, Cold Norton. Walls and hedging with gates to part of east boundary of the property. Week No 43 dated 26th October 2007:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application.

FUL/MAL/07/01119 Bluebell Barn, Lower Burnham Road, Cold Norton. Boundary enclosure. Week no. 43 dated 26th October 2007:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed boundary fencing/enclosure contained in the above application would not be harmful, subject to:

- The gate height being consistent with the height of the fencing i.e. 1.8/1.85m or the maximum allowed of 2m, including within that figure the wrought ironworks on the top of the proposed gate.

FUL/MAL/07/01160 28 St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. First floor rear extension and front extension to double garage. Week No. 44 dated 2nd November 2007:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application.

357. **Appeal Decisions reference Palepit Farm** APP/X1545/C/06/2024174 (dismissed enforcement upheld) and APP/X1545/A2041396 (dismissed) and APP/X1545/A/07/2047689 (allowed subject to conditions) – noted.

358. **MDC Facing the Future Core Strategy** – Clerk to contact MDC re a workshop in the New Year.
ACTION: CLERK

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

359. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge – rescheduled for mid December.

Drain at top of Station Crescent – rescheduled for mid December.

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue – should be completed by end of November

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – should be completed by end of November.

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – highways arranging for this to be trimmed Back.

Hedge/bush by notice board/bus stop opposite The Norton - Clerk liaising with nearest homeowner.

Fence outside school (broken and leaning out towards footway) School has advised that the PTA is arranging repair.

Mr. Litscher advised one street light by crossing not operating **ACTION: CLERK**

360. Road closure through Stow Maries – point raised by a resident re diversion route down Honey Pot Lane. Members advised that this was not the authorised diversion advised by Highways Department. Clerk to talk to Highways **ACTION: CLERK**

361. ECC Temporary Road Closure – B1018 Burnham Road, Latchingdon for 20 weeks from 29th November NB 24 hours a day throughout. NB since meeting Highways have advised that this will now take place in the New Year – date to be advised.

VILLAGE HALL

362. Report from Parish Council Representatives.

A VHMC meeting was held on 7th November: main items: the committee have paid to have a fire risk assessment carried out and have been advised to have an audible fire alarm installed, plus to implement other procedures (a copy of the report will be given to the PC VH reps) Re the village hall project there is now just over £17,000 in the special account set up to save towards the VHMC contribution if the Lottery grant is forthcoming. Have located a source of free paint so the walls of the main hall will be painted during the February half term break. A butt box is being investigated for outside the hall. The foliage around the sides of the hall need clearing the VHMC are asking if Dave could be asked to do this (is included in the fire risk report). Members advised 'yes'. Also a sign to advise Assembly Point re fire needs to be erected in the car park VHMC need permission from the PC. - Members agreed. Also there are a few vans/cars using the village hall car park as permanent parking places - the committee are initially going to put a notice under windcreens of the offending vehicles – caused problems at weekend when the youth football team were playing and didn't have enough parking places outside the hall and then parked all up Cherry Blossom Lane.

363. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS – Members had been given a copy of the village crime report for October and confirmation that PCSO Butler will remain as the village policeman.

364. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – District Councillor Archer advised adverse financial situation MDC is facing re concessionary fares

OPEN SPACES

- 365. Cowpiece Nature Reserve** - fencing still to be erected. ROSPA report now reviewed – Clerk to arrange implementation as advised by Members. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 366. Playing Field**
Re sinking play equipment - as at 8th November sinking equipment dismantled and new in place, but site still to be cleared and photographed by manufacturer. Caretaker will then need to go in and refurbish other items per Parish Council's instructions re ROSPA report, which has now been reviewed and handed back to Clerk to arrange implementation. **ACTION: CLERK**
Increased bark requirement in play areas – still awaiting costs/alternative material/grant possibility.
Picnic bench – Caretaker to fix
Caretaker had advised that the only remaining metal goalpost does not now meet with safety standards and needs to be removed – Members requested further details and will inspect. **ACTION: CLERK**
Hard standing – haven't heard back yet from the fire department H/Q; quotes for repair still to be obtained. **ACTION: CLERK**
Baby swing hanging lopsided – Clerk to advise Caretaker **ACTION: CLERK**
- 367. Village Caretaker work** – report as follows:
I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall and remove rubbish from behind the temporary fencing.
In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area and tend to the roses. I am concerned that the oak tree beside the garden and bench is touching the overhead power lines and suggest this needs professional attention as it could cause an extremely dangerous incident. (Clerk has already alerted the Church re this)
I continue to remove rubbish from the Cowpiece nature reserve and have continued to maintain the paths and furniture. There have been further instances of fly-tipping along St. Stephen's Rd. but they appear to have been cleared away.
I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge, remove any litter and clear away the fallen leaves. I will look at the graffiti this week and see how to remove it. I suggest you may wish to inform the local police, as they are keeping a log of all the graffiti in this area.
There has been further dumping of rubbish bags and garden rubbish in the village hall car park which I have tidied up and placed in the bin, (grass clippings and weeds.)
As per my earlier estimate, I will progress the work on the Cowpiece Nature Reserve fence as soon as it is practical for Mr. Litscher to deliver materials to the site.
- 368. Beacon at back of Church** - Safety inspection requested through MDC was carried out last month. It is leaning slightly, but it is safe/will not fall over, but MDC are going to rectify this – they are going to liaise directly with the farmer and the work will be carried out when convenient to the farmer.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- 369. Footpath 12** - Local resident contacted Clerk re this; PRoW has advised "This is a grass cutting issue on the golf course which adjoins her land which the Golf Course hasn't cut. I will have it cut and add it to our cutting schedule (it's only about 50 metres)."

370. **Footpath 14** - Following on from the query re the barbed wire the dog walkers asked if the handrail by the boarding could be extended. Following inspection the PRow has advised: "You can see from the photo supplied that the end of the bridge and rail is at least 3 feet from the wire. As one steps off the bridge they walk onto level ground plus the width of the path at this point exceeds 1.5 metres so I do not believe the rail needs to be extended." Clerk sent this information to the dog walkers and they have advised that: "The request was for the handrail to be extended up the slope not on the woods side of the bridge as this gets very muddy in the winter" A misunderstanding as this request followed on from the barbed wire query. Therefore Clerk forwarded this onto the PRow for this to be reviewed.
371. **Footpath 15/New Bridleway** - PRow has advised he will continue to endeavour to resolve the slippery slope problem.
372. **Footpath 16** - Reinstatement of the cross field section of the path has been done. PRow also checked the northern section of this path and advised it is satisfactory.
373. **Footpath 20** - The PC's suggestion of a platform being constructed over the wet area has been put to the PRow and his initial response was that he would support this option subject to expense and stability of such a structure given the condition of the ground. The PRow will visit the site with the contractor to ascertain if this is a possibility. Cutting back PC also requested will be carried out again.
374. **Footpath 23** - Report from PRow: Entrance to FP 23 (Lower Burnham Road end) has now been cleared. Way marking ongoing.
375. **Undefined Paths** - CN23: Landowner extending headland width, way marking still to be done – PRow has advised: "Could be a good one for PPP volunteers but will pass by County Hall" No further news yet.
376. **P3 Report from Roger Hawes**: "Only footpath issue currently is FP20 which Clerk has advised current situation" (see above)
377. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE** - no decision yet regarding revamp
378. **Emergency Planning** - Mrs Garnham aims to report back on this by the end of the year
379. **New Model Code of Conduct/Standing Orders** – copy of letter from Simon Quelch (MDC) and paper from Standards Board re "Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias, and the Code" had been copied to Members. Discussion regarding whether changes to Standings Orders are required deferred to next meeting
380. **TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS** – Members were reminded that the Clerk will be attending a Risk Assessment Course and a Planning Course in November. Details of 2008 courses had been supplied to Members with October's agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

381. **ECC Questionnaire re Transport** – Members were reminded that at present all transport related matters come to the Clerk, but that the Clerk had not attended any transport meetings. Clerk to ascertain (via The Beacon), if there is a village resident who has a keen interest in this topic and would like to be the named representative for Cold Norton. **ACTION: CLERK**

382. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Members are reminded that no decisions may lawfully be made under this agenda item - however matters may be discussed which involve exchanges of information only.). Members were advised that there is a Flood Fair in Maldon on 30th November. For 2008 Remembrance Day Members requested Clerk investigate alternative style of Poppy Wreath.
ACTION: CLERK

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2007: 12th December.

Chairman.....

Date.....