

# COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 IN THE NORTON ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

### THOSE PRESENT:

#### Councillors:

Mr J Archer  
Professor L Barclay (Vice Chairman)  
Mrs S Garnham  
Mrs V Jennings  
Mr C Litscher

**In attendance:** Mrs M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)  
Plus 9 Members of the Public

Professor Barclay Chairing the meeting advised that the agenda items relating to Cowpiece and the Village Caretaker would be deferred to the next ordinary meeting.

Members of the Public present were asked if they wished to speak on any topic on the agenda.

One Member of the Public spoke about permitted development in relation to agricultural applications.

**496. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** apologies were received and accepted from Mr Rivers and Mr Wakeling, plus County Cllr Mrs Channer and District Cllr Ms White

**497. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** Members were required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest was a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time. Members have dispensation to discuss and vote in respect of matters relating to the Precept.

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

### PLANNING

**498. Planning Applications received by the Parish Council:** the following were considered and the responses were as indicated:

**HOUSE/MAL/14/00612 PP-03491264. Toad Hall, Station Road.** Proposed double garage and rooms above with single storey link from existing dwellings. Week No.44 dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014:

Cold Norton Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal contained within the above application and recommends that Maldon District Council REFUSE CONSENT.

The Parish Council's reasons for this recommendation are:

- It is outside the village development boundary and therefore contrary to the Parish Council's Planning Policy
- Because the proposed works represent a substantial increase in size

**COUPA/MAL/14/01034 Little Cooks, Lower Burnham Road.** Prior notification of a proposed change of use of 2 x agricultural barns to 2 x dwelling houses Week No.46 dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014:

This property is outside the development boundary and the application pack supplied to the Parish Council contained no description only plans and a few notes, not enough information for the Council to assess. Therefore on that basis the Parish Council OBJECTS to the above proposal.

**AGR/MAL/14/01097 Land at corner of Fambridge Road and St Stephens Road.** Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of farm machinery and shelter for animals during adverse weather. Week No.46 dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014:

Cold Norton Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal contained within the above application and recommends that Maldon District Council REFUSE CONSENT as there is no need for a second barn on this site. In regards to the site proposed, it is an exposed location near the road junction and will be visually obtrusive.

Whilst the Parish Council understands that as this is an 'Agricultural' application that comments are limited to siting of the building, design and means of access, this site is close to a nature reserve where Great Crested Newts have been spotted in the past, the Parish Council is very concerned for this protected species and request that AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS CARRIED OUT before the applicant is able to proceed further.

The Great Crested Newt is a protected species and building and development can harm Great Crested Newts and their habitats, for example by removing a habitat or compromising the habitat, fragmenting or isolating habitats, or by changing habitats of other species, thereby reducing the newts' food sources.

## VILLAGE HALL

**499. Solar Panels:** Mrs Garnham updated Members, advising that 3 quotes had now been received and reviewed also by Professor Barclay; that the feed-in tariff goes down again in December; solar panels would produce a small income for the Village Hall. Whilst grants could be applied for, this would take time and further reductions in the feed-in tariffs are expected, therefore Mrs Garnham recommended that the Parish Council take out a Public Loan through the PWLB to cover the cheapest quote received. Professor Barclay proposed a PWLB loan of £15,000 over a 15 year period be investigated, so that works could commence before the end of December to benefit from the higher feed-in tariff. All Members were in agreement regarding installation of Solar Panel and applying for a PWLB loan. The Clerk expressed concern over the timing as she believed that the loan paperwork/sanction process had to initially go through the EALC. Clerk to contact EALC as soon as possible to establish the current process. **ACTION: CLERK**

**500. Parking:** the Clerk reported back on the meeting with a contractor regarding installation of mats on the playing field to provide additional parking for village hall users, advising that the contractor did recommend this method as the ground currently has drainage problems/is too wet and the matting would sink down under the weight of vehicles. More research to be undertaken. **ACTION: CLERK**

**501. COWPIECE:** deferred to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting

**502. VILLAGE CARETAKER:** deferred to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting

**503. MATTERS TO REPORT** (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.)

Gutters need attention on the playing field side of the Village Hall

Clarification needed re recent notification relating to the new entrance to Bridleway 29.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.34pm

Chairman.....

Date.....