

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2010 IN THE NORTON ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. G. Gold (Vice Chairman)
Mrs. S. Garnham
Mr. C. Litscher
Mr. P Wakeling (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Mr. J. Sears (District Councillor)
Plus 1 Member of the Public

292. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.
293. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received and accepted from Mr. J. Archer, Professor L. Barclay, and Mrs A. McDonald.
294. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 6th October 2010 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Approval of Payments

295. Campaign to Protect Rural England subscription renewal to 31.10.11 £29 Cheque No.924
296. Danbury Fencing to repairs to playing field gate Invoice No.5552 dated 22.10.10 £394.99 (£336.16 net) Cheque No.925
297. GB Office Group Limited 5 x black ink cartridges and 1 x colour cartridge Invoice No.IH330154 dated 22.10.10 £78.77 (£67.04) Cheque No.926
298. E-on Energy Street lighting for September 2010 Invoice No. H9E84C81E dated 03.10.10 £38.54 (£36.70 net) taken by direct debit on 13.10.10
299. Maria Dyer office expenses £22.80 Cheque No.927.
300. BF Ground Maintenance Limited Grass Cutting carried out in October 2010 Invoice No.2439 dated 05.10.10 £264.38 (£225 net) Cheque No.928.
301. Timberline deposit required for replacement decking for slide (25% of £250 + VAT) £73.44 Cheque No.929.

302. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th Oct 2010	£	547.46
Santander as at 2 nd October 2010	£	<u>34,725.46</u>
	£	35,272.92

303. **Payment Rules:** Members had been supplied with copy e-mail from MDC dated 12th October 2010 with a further update re Parish Councils and payment rules: new changes are planned to come in effect in 2011 which will mean that Parish Councils will be able to use modern banking methods such as electronic banking. Noted.
304. **NALC salary review:** Members were advised that there will be no increase for the year commencing April 2010; spinal scale for 2009-10 applies. Noted.
305. **Photocopier:** Members were advised that the photocopier had now developed a fault which could not be repaired and reminded that the machine was purchased second hand and that the previous clerk had advised over 5 years ago that it would need replacing shortly then, however with one repair a few years ago it has been usable for another five years. The Clerk had advised that a replacement of

similar type, which is a very basic model, will cost £195 ex VAT. Two Councillors suggested an alternative type, which Clerk will look into, but it was agreed that the Clerk be given a budget of up to £200 for a new photocopier.

ACTION: CLERK

PLANNING

306. Maldon District Council Decisions: the only decision relating to Cold Norton was the following:

Appeal Decision: OUT/MAL/09/00512 APP/X1545/A/10/2126320

Bardwells Yard, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, Essex

Demolition of existing industrial units and erection of ten 3, 4 and 5 bedroom dwellings and associated parking. Appeal by Mr S Bardwell

APPEAL ALLOWED

6 October 2010

Due to faulty photocopier Clerk was unable to supply copies of the full appeal decision, but will forward to Councillors ASAP.

ACTION: CLERK

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

FUL/MAL/10/00769 17 St Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Construction of two dormers to front and one dormer to rear of house roof. Remove garage roof and erect replacement garage roof with side dormer. Construction of rear ground floor extension. Week No.40 dated 8th October 2010:

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:

- The proposed development detracts from the harmony of the current street scene:
- It is unsightly and 'bulky'
- It is over developed

FUL/MAL/10/000839 Lords Acre Nursery, Lower Burnham Road, Cold Norton. Erection of 4 poly tunnels and farm shop in connection with existing nursery business. Farm shop to provide home grown and home made products. Week No.40 dated 8th October 2010:

Cold Norton Parish Council was very mindful of the sensitivity of the landscape in its consideration of this application; the property is a long way outside the village development boundary and therefore development would not generally be considered appropriate. However, there is already a 'shop' on this site and it is therefore not unreasonable to allow the applicant to undertake modest expansion in order to make the business more viable.

The Council does have concerns regarding the proposed size of these poly tunnels and if permission is granted would only wish them to remain in situ whilst they are in use as set out in the application and that this was a condition of the planning permission; the Council would further suggest that if planning permission is granted it is initially only for a trial/temporary period of, say, three years, after which the applicant would need to reapply for planning permission.

HOUSE/MAL/10/000824 10 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Dormers to rear roof and loft conversion. Week No.41 dated 15th October 2010:

Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the works proposed within the above application.

FUL/MAL/10/000828 Two Square, St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Demolish existing dwelling house, garage sheds and all other outbuildings. Erect replacement dwelling house and cart lodge and change of use of nursery/paddock (amended proposal from current planning approval FUL/MAL/09/00716 dated 9th Nov 2009). Week No.41 dated 15th October 2010:

Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the works proposed within the above application.

FUL/MAL/10/00875 Great Canney Studios, Hackmans Lane, Cold Norton. Refurbishment, conversion with alterations and change use to B1 office from workshop studios Week 43 dated 29th October 2010:

Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the works proposed within the above application.

For information only: NMA/MAL/10/00927 9 Henney Close, Cold Norton. Application for non material amendment following grant of planning permission for erection of conservatory to rear elevation and family room to side elevation (HOUSE/MAL/10/00458) – provide Velux roof light to left elevation of family room and provide French casement doors in place of approved family room front elevation window.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

308. Highways Schedule

Re the directional sign on Latchingdon Road to indicate Village Hall location Members had been advised that it will be included on highways list for consideration by Highways Panel, but that Clerk is still to contact Highways re cost of sign and advise them that there is a post already in position.

ACTION: CLERK

Re reinstatement of Zebra crossing lines Members were advised that this has been reported to highways. Noted

Re Speed/Traffic survey undertaken along Stow Road Members were advised that Clerk has received results of this from a resident, Clerk was requested to follow this up with the Police/Highways.

ACTION: CLERK

Clerk confirmed that problem with phasing of traffic lights at bridge had been reported to Highways. Members advised that this had now been attended to.

School hedges along St. Stephens Road – Clerk was requested to ask School to arrange for these to be trimmed back as they are encroaching on the footway.

ACTION: CLERK

309. Maldon District Local Highways Panel – Members were advised that details of above are being passed to the Cold Norton representative on the panel.

ACTION: CLERK

VILLAGE HALL

310. Report from Parish Council Representatives: Members were advised that the next VHMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9th November 2010 and that the Treasurer for the VHMC had advised that a valuation of the village hall for insurance purposes was carried out in June 2010 after the refurbishment and that the rebuilding cost is estimated to be £750,000 excluding VAT, contents, inflation (costs are as at May 2010) and all external areas.

311. Village Hall Project: Mr Wakeling advised that a report will be sent to the Big Lottery this month advising marketing activity and usage since the refurbishment programme; the RCCE Village Halls Annual Conference was held in the hall attended by 50 people from other village halls – Mr Wakeling opened the meeting by talking about the CN village hall project. Members were advised that the lighting problem in the chair store has been rectified.

312. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS: no matters raised.

313. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: District Councillor Sears advised that job evaluation is still ongoing and that there was a budget meeting scheduled for today i.e. 2nd November 2010.

OPEN SPACES

314. Cowpiece Nature Reserve

Members were advised that Mr Litscher and Mr Paul are continuing with the work at this site which will remain closed until new entranceway and other works are completed. Clerk to contact Village Caretaker to assist with this project within the hours allocated to caretaker work.

ACTION: CLERK

315. Playing Field

Members were advised that the repair to entrance gate had been completed; Removal of temporary gate/installation of fencing and new panel for Timberline slide in hand; Football Club still to advise their plans for next season. Mrs Gold advised that nut on one of the swings needed attention. Clerk to contact caretaker.

ACTION: CLERK

Re fencing around younger children's play area, Mrs Garnham had analysed the Caretakers reports from April 2006 and noted 18 reports had advised vandalism to the fencing. Members requested that the Clerk write to Pre School to obtain their view regarding the ongoing vandalism and to advise that as currently there are insufficient funds to replace the fencing with more robust metal fencing, the Parish Council is considering removing this fencing altogether. **ACTION: CLERK**

316. Village Caretaker work – report for work to 18th October 2010:

Around the village hall and playground I have continued to inspect the area. I have collected litter and noted the state of the area including the equipment. I will continue to sweep up twigs etc. from the car park. I note that more of the new planting has died. I will continue to monitor these plants for damage and failure. I regret to report that in addition to damage of the fabric covering on some of the play equipment, the wood beneath the fabric is now also being damaged.

I note that the damage to the village hall soffits apparently caused by footballs kicked up above the windows is still evident. I shall monitor them for further damage, and understand that repairs are in hand. I continue to replace rivets and fasteners on the skate board equipment.

I continue to inspect the triangle area and to remove litter. My general inspection of the verges around the village has not indicated any recent fly-tipping.

In the Cow Piece Nature Reserve I am currently only carrying out inspections at the entrance, as I note that the nature reserve is cordoned off with a safety barrier. I presume that no-one is entering at present, and I await the completion of the ongoing access improvements, and/or your further instructions, before I enter.

In the Memorial Garden I continue to tidy and tend the rose bed. My wife, an experienced professional gardener, came with me this month to inspect and tidy the rose bed before the winter: only very minor pruning and dead-heading would be required in the autumn. To her concern, someone has chopped the roses almost to the ground, an inappropriate intervention and using an incorrect technique which is likely to cause die-back, with potential for invasion of the damaged plants by pests and diseases – and reduced flowering at present.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS.

- 317. Sunday 14th November 2010 10am Remembrance Day Service at St. Stephens Church:** Members were advised that Mr Wakeling will be laying a wreath on behalf of the village. Noted
- 318. Monday 15th November 2010 7.30pm in Mayland: MDC Budgetary Situation and Spending Priorities - Fiona Marshall Chief Executive MDC.** Clerk to attend, plus Mr Wakeling if work commitments permit. **ACTION: MR WAKELING/ CLERK**
- 319. Tuesday 30th November 2010 7pm to 9pm in Mundon Purleigh and surrounding villages NAP (Neighbourhood Action Panel) meeting.** Mr Wakeling advised subject to work commitments he may attend. **ACTION: MR WAKELING**
- 320. Wednesday 19th January 2011 7.30pm in Bradwell next meeting of Dengie Hundred Group of PCs.** Noted

CORRESPONDENCE

- 321. Mid Essex PCT Draft Pharmaceutical Assessment:** It was agreed that Mrs Garnham would review and respond. **ACTION: MRS GARNHAM**
- 322. ECC Minerals and Waste Planning Consultation:** It was agreed that Mrs Gold would review and respond **ACTION: MRS GOLD**
- 323. VILLAGE PLAN:** Members were updated as to progress to date; next meeting of working party to be arranged.

324. STANDING ORDERS: Members had been supplied with a draft copy of the recommended version as produced by the working party (plus a copy of the NALC Model Standing Orders from which it had been produced). It was unanimously agreed to adopt the working party's version. Clerk to check /revise numbering as appropriate and supply hard copies to all Members.

ACTION: CLERK

325. 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.)

No matters raised.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2010: Wednesday 1st December and in 2011: Wednesday 12th January.

Chairman.....

Date.....