

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2006 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. A. Allen
Prof. L. Barclay
Mrs. S. Garnham (Chairman)
Mrs. G. Gold
Mr. P. Wakeling

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Mr. L. Cooper (District Councillor)
Mrs. M. Bryant + 2 members of the public

390. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Mr. J. Archer and Mr. C. Litscher.
391. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 14th December 2005 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

392. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice dated 5th January 2006 £121.50 Cheque No. 356
393. P.H. Coote repair to street light at corner of Crown Road Invoice No.12265-23682 £179.90 (£152.94 net) Cheque No.357
394. P. How for attending to shrubbery at corner of Greentrees Avenue in 2005 £30 Cheque No. 358
395. e-on for street lighting electricity October 2005 invoice no. 102137369 £39.10 (£37.24 net) direct debit 5/1/06
396. e-on electricity Nov 05 inv.no 102127370 £39.10 (£37.24 net) direct debit 5/1/06
397. e-on electricity Dec 05 inv.no.102152998 £39.10 (£37.24 net) direct debit 13/1/06
398. Tax & NI for M. Dyer to tax quarter ending 5/1/06 (covers tax/NI for Sept, Oct & Nov Salaries) £15.66 Cheque No. 359
399. Cold Norton Parochial Church Council for use of The Beacon for Parish Council Reports 12 issues during financial year 2005 – 2006 £130 Cheque No. 360
400. M. Dyer office expenses and office supplies from 1/6/05 to 31/12/06 excluding phone calls and mileage to training session £124.24 (£108.70 net) Cheque No. 361

401. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st January	£	121.30
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17th December	£	17,597.52
Abbey as at 1 st January 2006	£	<u>256.73</u>
	£	17,975.55

402. **Budget Estimates for 2006/7 and precept calculations** following discussion it was agreed to increase the precept by £500 to £18,300. Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

PLANNING

403. Maldon District Council Decisions

A detailed list had been copied to Members, which is summarised below:

FUL/MAL/05/01196 Cold Norton
Single storey front and rear extensions and alterations
26 The Fairways Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JJ
(UPRN - 200000909872)
Mr and Mrs R Archer **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/01209 Cold Norton
Replacement garaging with store/workshop and WC with games room over
Toad Hall Station Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN – 100091257160)
Mr C Mead/Miss M Williams

REFUSED

AGR/MAL/05/01316 North Fambridge
One building divided into three for storage of feed and machinery and to house diesel generator. Proposed extension to two existing turkey sheds.
Lords Acre Nursery Lower Burnham Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN – 200000909836)
Michael Sommerville

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

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

FUL/MAL/05/01360 40 St. Stephens Road. Single storey two bed detached building for elderly parents.
Week No.50 w/e 15th December 2005:

Cold Norton Parish Council objects to the proposals contained in the above planning application & recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.
Reasons are as follows:

The proposed development would be:

- obtrusive within the street scene
- significantly out of alignment with existing properties

FUL/MAL/05/01399 Norton Hall Cottages, 51 St. Stephens Road. Erection of annex to existing dwelling and reposition of access. Week No.51 w/e 22nd December 2005:

Cold Norton Parish Council objects to the proposals contained in the above planning application & recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.
Reasons for the objections are:

- Not because of the annex per se, but because of the size of the annex
- The proposed development is outside the development boundary and is of significant size

FUL/MAL/05/01244 (Resubmission 05/00496) Watts Hill, Burnham Road, Purleigh. Provision of a bungalow in lieu of a mobile home. Amended application for information only. Noted. Mr. Cooper advised that it was approved at the NW meeting on the previous Monday.

- 405. Sherae, Latchingdon Road** – Mrs Garnham to visit MDC Planning Offices

ACTION: MRS GARNHAM

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

- 406. Pedestrian Crossing** – Members had been supplied with a copy of the Cabinet Member's action form. Clerk advised that no information regarding timing etc was available. Noted by members.

- 407. Highways Schedule**

Form still to be updated in line with liaison meeting – will be supplied ASAP

However updated information had been received in relation to some items on the schedule: Regarding St Stephens Road near school – recovery of the lines with the new layout has been ordered.
Signing improvements on Fambridge Road have been designed, but cannot be done until next financial year.

- 408. Closure of High Street, Maldon** – details had been supplied to Members, information duly noted.

- 409. Water on road near coal yard** – Clerk to investigate with both Highways and the Water Board.

ACTION: CLERK

VILLAGE HALL

410. **Report from Parish Council Representatives** – Public Entertainment Licence has been applied for.
411. **Village Hall Project-** being handled very professionally by the special committee. The 2nd draft of the business plan was distributed today (11/01/06). Grants will be applied for in two stages, one for the kitchen (contractor had been agreed) and a second for the main extension, which if granted would see building work starting by the end of 2007. Frequent meetings are being held by a very enthusiastic team. Members advised that any expenses incurred on this project should be submitted to the VHMC for settlement. Clerk to advise Mrs Bryant and VHMC Treasurer. Launch of project funding will be communicated through the February issue of The Beacon, which will be distributed to every house in the village, costs will be met by the PC. There will be monthly fund raising events starting in February, together with the 'sponsor a brick' at £10 each scheme.

ACTION: CLERK

412. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

Damage to children's playground equipment, namely the wooden tunnel, although this time it is believed to be children rather than teenagers.

413. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cooper advised he had attended the NW meeting on the previous Monday (see planning) and mentioned the Planning Obligation regarding Foxwood, Crown Road (Clerk had already e-mailed and delivered copies of this to Members on 10th January 2006). Mr Cooper has also attended 8 or 9 Licensing hearings. Regarding the £500,000 deficit at MDC there have been two meetings to discuss measures to reduce this – official confirmation regarding the proposed measures expected shortly. Mrs Allen complemented the new playground behind Tesco – Mr Cooper advised that this comes within Heybridge area. Mrs Garnham advised that the Prom Park is looking good following all the renovation/alterations.

OPEN SPACES

414. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve** – Clerk to talk to Mr. Litscher re the fencing NB following the meeting Mrs Bryant offered to follow this up with the supplier. **ACTION: CLERK**
415. **Playing Field** – Clerk still waiting for letter from football club interested in using the field.
416. **Village Caretaker work – report as follows:**

Further to my last communication, there has been no further problem with builders' rubbish being dumped in the Parish, as noted following an inspection of the verges this week. Thank you for advising me that you are making the Council aware of the dump by the rail bridge in the Ferris Avenue Alleyway behind the sub-station.

With regard the theft of bark chippings I have an estimate for purchasing two tons of chippings from Mayflower Nursery: please see attached flyer indicating that this will cost £90 including delivery. I believe this to be the best local price unless any Parish Council members know differently. Mayflower Nursery is happy to accept a Parish Council cheque. Please confirm if this is acceptable to you – I recommend two tons as one ton would be barely adequate to put a surface layer on both play areas, and more depth is required for safety.

I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall, remove overhanging branches and dead trees from the thicket, and carry out ongoing litter and leaf clearance. I have cleared the edging to the car park, and the disabled people's ramp to the village hall. I note that the concrete pathway from the field gate down into the playing field is rarely used, people taking a short cut down the grassy bank direct to the playground. This is creating a muddy and potentially dangerous slippery area. I would be happy to quote for measures to rectify this, such as provision of a handrail/fence along the ramp to encourage its proper use, or creation of a stepped area to the play area, in the muddy area where people naturally gain access.

I have carried out cleaning and refurbishment of the play equipment, and will be painting or preserving as necessary, when the weather is suitable. This week I repaired the damage caused by vandalism to the play equipment which was the subject of our earlier emails. I am itemising the cost of this work separately.

In Cowpiece Nature reserve I continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. As vegetation continues to die back I continue the clearance of pathways and overhanging vegetation to ensure the area is maintained, and to enhance nature conservation. I will treat the picnic table and bench with wood preservative to enhance their lifespan and appearance once the weather is suitable.

As per my November report when I noted that the wildlife pond was completely overgrown, I have arranged for additional labour at the same hourly rate as myself to assist with the safe clearance of this area. This will be done later in 2006 when the weather is suitable for the task.

In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I have renovated the bench and fixed it more firmly to the ground, as it was subject of repeated vandalism. When the weather is suitable I will treat the wood to preserve and enhance its appearance. I also set up a professional regime of pruning the roses, so was disappointed to note that someone else has roughly cut back these bushes in such a way that I will have to do further work to try to reshape them. Perhaps the Parish Council would care to make it known to those concerned that this work comes within my remit.

I note that the gate latch at St Stephen's main church gate is broken and am happy to replace this and re-align the gates if this task comes within my area of work

I continue leaf and litter clearing of the area over the old railway bridge and along the triangle by the bridge.

I will proceed with the above schedule of works unless you advise me otherwise. Please let me know if there is any particular aspect of my work that the Parish Council wishes me to attend to.

Following discussion Clerk was requested to ask Mr. Bull to obtain quotes for coloured bark and authorised Clerk/ Mr. Bull to purchase coloured bark if it is not more than 20% dearer than the 'wood' coloured already quoted for. Re the pathway into the field Mr Bull to quote based on his suggestions. Mr Bull to be advised that the Church gate is the responsibility of the PCC and the Clerk will talk to the PCC re the pruning of the roses in the Queen Mother Memorial Garden which dies come under his area of work.

ACTION: CLERK

417. Allotments

The PC had been asked to supply a letter of support for Healthy Living Unit's application to obtain funding to put water onto the site etc, this was being prepared and then the subject of Community Service Volunteers was introduced into the 'mix'. Paul McNeill sent through a letter, which had been copied to all PC Members updating the PC and explaining the involvement of the CSV. It was agreed that Mrs Allen would speak to Mrs. Church at the school to check if she is happy with this arrangement.

ACTION: MRS ALLEN

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

418. Ferris Avenue Path – to date 2 completed forms have been received.

419. Footpath 14 (dog waste bin) - Clerk to meet with MDC re location **ACTION: CLERK**

420. Footpath 15 - Staggered Barrier has been installed. Mr Brown has also upgraded the bridge and installed a staggered barrier field side of the bridge opposite the Church on Footpath 14

421. Footpath 19 – not yet dried out sufficiently to reseed

422. Footpath 20 – Chris Brown and Ellen Barkley visited the site on 10th January and advised that the wet surface in question was not sewage, but possibly just field water that had gathered – there is no boundary ditch. They were advised by a resident in Cherry Blossom Lane that whenever it rains the water always runs down the fields and Cherry Blossom Lane itself into that field and that's why they have built up the Lane. The family who have donkeys in that field suggested that this problem only seems to have arisen since some form of development had taken place in the vicinity of the Village Hall some years ago. Mrs Barkley states that the 'problem' appears to be a landowner (unknown, believed to be abroad) issue coupled with the course of nature i.e. where field water had gathered with nowhere to run out to. Mrs Barkley's budget does not allow her to install any form of drainage system, but she will continue to try and ascertain who the landowner is and asked if the PC can help.

PC Members advised that they did not know who the landowner, but advised that the field is wet all year, and proposed that the diversion is considered. Clerk to advise Chris Brown/Mrs Barkley accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

423. Purleigh Footpath 13 – a PC Member advised that by Whitmans the footpath is 'cut' by a fence which needs to be removed or adapted to allow access. **ACTION: CLERK**

424. Footpath Map – map to be drawn **ACTION: MRS GARNHAM**

425. New bridleway -Members noted that Mr. Brown has not yet met up with landowner but will advise as soon as he has. County Hall has also offered to find volunteers. It was noted that the Stow end of the bridleway is being used by horses and is being churned up. **ACTION: CLERK**

426. Golf course footpath (Footpath 13) – Members were advised that the 'Permissive Path' had now been way marked. The Golf Club has agreed to a kissing gate which ECC will install but there is the query as to whether a pedestrian kissing gate will suffice - push chairs and wheelchairs cannot currently go through there and therefore across a golf course. PC Members would prefer to allow full access.

ACTION: CLERK

427. Rear of Church – pram/wheelchair friendly kissing gate – no date yet for installation

428. Land Registry – voluntary first registration of CNPC landholdings –still to be looked into

429. COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE – needs updating Mr. Wakeling /Clerk to contact Mr. Hallam

ACTION: MR. WAKLELING/CLERK

CORRESPONDENCE

430. Essex NHS Strategic Health Authority Board Meeting Wednesday 25th January 2006 - noted

431. MDC Parish & Town Council Liaison on Planning Issues – Members advised that they would like a visit from the planning department and that an evening seminar would be preferable. Clerk to reply accordingly
ACTION: CLERK

432. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils meeting Wednesday 18th January 7.30 Althorne – noted

433. Essex Training Partnership - Planning for the Future of Your Village Wed 1st February - noted

434. Consultation on Draft Maldon District Youth Strategy – members advised that it can be viewed at www.maldon.gov.uk - comments needed by 20th January.

435. Planning & Compulsory Act 2004 Draft Statement of Community Involvement – copies circulating
Consultation period runs until 2nd February

436. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – there was none

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2006: Wednesday 15th February, 8th March, 5th April, 3rd May*, 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December.

* Suggested as date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Chairman.....

Date.....