

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th January 2007 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. A. Allen
Mr. J. Archer (part)
Prof. L. Barclay
Mrs. G. Gold (Chairman)
Mr. C. Litscher
Mr. P. Wakeling

In attendance: Mr. L. Cooper (District Councillor)
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

456. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Parish Councillor Mrs. S. Garnham
457. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 6th December 2006 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

458. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice no. 42 dated 05.01.07 £135 cheque No. 467
459. MAIA Services for updating two pages on the web site (approved minutes for November and report from December meeting) Invoice no. 050107-1 dated 05.01.07 £17.62 (£15 net) cheque No.468
460. Winstonmead – office stationery: toner for photocopier, A4 paper for printer and photocopier and 3 black ink cartridges for printer Inv No. 1/IA9144 dated 29.12.06 £51.94 (£44.21 net) cheque No. 469
461. Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee Various items purchased/used by volunteers re kitchen refurbishment Invoice dated 07.12.06 £406.24 (£345.75 net) Cheque No. 470
462. Lubbock Fine external audit for year ended 31.03.06 invoice no. AUD007 – F3.51-06 dated 11.12.06 £211.50 (£180 net) Cheque No. 471
463. M. Dyer office expenses £19.11 Cheque No. 472
464. E-on Energy: street lighting for November 2006 invoice no.126214829 dated 19.12.06 direct debit will be processed 09.01.07 £39.10 (£37.24)
465. Inland Revenue Tax/NI to 05.01.07 £ 16.29 Cheque No. 473.

466. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st January 2007	£	125.38
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th December	£	5,123.76
Abbey as at 1 st January 2007	£	<u>1,063.69</u>
	£	<u>6,312.83</u>

467. **Precept** – was agreed at £19,000. MDC form to be completed. **ACTION: CLERK**
468. **Completion of Audit for year ended 31st March 2006.**

Annual return form with signed audit certificate and opinion – copies had been supplied to all members. The alteration of figures in the external auditor's report is as advised to the auditor once it was realised that the computerised accounts programme had failed, but with the transference of one payment from 'other payments' category to 'staff costs' category. Completion of audit and above duly noted by all Members.

PLANNING

469. **Maldon District Council Decisions** - a detailed list had been copied to members, which is summarised below:

FUL/MAL/06/01191 Cold Norton
Additional floor to bungalow, new roof and integral garage
25 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JE
(UPRN - 100090555814)
Mr Steve Ralph **APPROVED**

470. **Planning Application received by the Parish Council** – the following was considered and response was as indicated:

FUL/MAL/06/01377 The Norton, 54 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Extend conservatory and provide decking for additional seating for public house. Week No.51 dated 21st December 2006:

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.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

471. **Pedestrian Crossing**

Awaiting results from loop system put down to measure speed/effect of VAS signs. Problems with VAS signs in hand. School has advised that they cannot apply to the new funding programme to encourage walking buses as they have had a grant for this in the past. PCSO Butler has advised that he has also had conversations with the school and will be making spot checks again in St. Stephens Road re the parking/safety aspects/encouraging use of new crossing and is planning to help restart the walking bus again.

472. **Highways Schedule**

Natural spring on Latchingdon between coal yard and No.15 is on priority list for this month and is scheduled to start 29th January.
List of PPV actions had been supplied to Members
Pram ramps at bridge - tactile paving alternative being investigated – no decision yet
Station road entrance onto Latchingdon – dropped kerb and footway resurface work – awaiting date
Jetting of drain at top of Station Crescent – was carried out on 06.12.06 awaiting confirmation if drain cover will need to be lifted.
Drain opposite coal yard – to be dug out: Work scheduled to start 29th January
Subsidence at sides of St. Stephens Road – Highways aware that section from Church to Fambridge Road is getting worse – awaiting their response. Clerk to advise Highways that section before church is also deteriorating. **ACTION: CLERK**
Honeypot Lane resurfacing/recycling treatment - is on the action list for next spring
New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road – no date yet
Surging manhole between Nos. 10 and 12 St. Stephens Road seems to have rectified itself after Essex & Suffolk Water completed work at school boundary on Latchingdon Road, but highways still plan to carry out drainage repair work, which will commence after spring and drain work above.

473. **ECC Highways - Part Night Street Lighting**

Members were advised that if 19 of the 21 lights were switched off between the hours of 12 and 5 am the monthly charge would be reduced to approx £23.76 net as opposed to £37.24 net at present. This represents a saving of £13.48 per month/£161.76 per year/36% at current rates. Members agreed to participate in the trials.

VILLAGE HALL

474. **Report from Parish Council Representatives** - no report as there hasn't been a VHMC meeting

475. **Village Hall Project:** lottery grant application is ready to go, but still awaiting information from the architect. Deadline is April.

476. **VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS**

No vandalism reported this month. PC England and PCSO Butler attended the meeting and confirmed that PCSO Butler is doing regular patrols of the village hall/ playing field areas and Cowpiece. The Officers briefly detailed incidents which had occurred in the village recently. PCSO Butler will attend the monthly PC meeting whenever possible.

477. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Councillor Cooper advised that the recent application re Oak trees in St. Stephens Road had been referred pending further investigation. Members requested that the Clerk write to MDC stating that the Parish Council still upholds in view regarding these trees. **ACTION: CLERK**

OPEN SPACES

478. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Village Caretaker and Mr Litscher liaising re fencing job/ quote awaited

479. **Playing Field**

Inspection report: Members were advised that ROSPA inspections will be taking place in May in Essex – decision re which inspection company to use will need to be made by March.

Football Foundation information on Football Funding for Your Parish – Clerk to discuss with Mr Wakeling

North Fambridge YFC requested use the playing field for 6 junior football matches. PC Members agreed. Clerk to arrange for use of hall/toilets by this team to be put to the VHMC at their next meeting on 24th January. **ACTION: CLERK**

480. **Village Caretaker work** – report as follows:

I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall. I am painting and preserving the playground equipment and fences as weather permits. I see from the weather forecasts that we may be expecting severe weather over the next few weeks. Would you wish me to grit the car park and pedestrian areas around the village hall?

I am pleased to report that the vandals have taken a Christmas and New Year holiday and that there has been no damage since my last report.

Further to the report on the playground and equipment I shall take steps to comply with its findings. I am chasing Wicksteed Play Equipment for a formal quotation for swing replacement parts.

I shall be replacing the small trees in the playing field that were vandalised in the early spring.

I have weed-killed in the car park and play areas and I shall repeat as needed.

In Cowpiece Nature reserve I continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. I am clearing the foot paths and observation platform as required.

In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area, I have pruned and deadheaded the roses and preserved the bench with teak oil.

I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge and remove any litter and continue with the leaf sweeping

There has been no further fly tipping this month in the village hall car park

I will continue with my usual work for the Parish Council please let me know if there is any particular aspect of my work that the Parish Council wishes me to attend to.

481. **Allotments;** looking good; details of availability advertised in the January issue of The Beacon.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

482. **Ferris Avenue Path:** Number of forms returned to date remains at ten. Request further proofs of usage in The Beacon. **ACTION: CLERK**

483. **Footpath 3:** Self closing gates have now been installed replacing the 2 stiles. Members were pleased with this change and requested that as this footpath ends with just a gap in the hedge onto Hackmans Lane could the PRow be approached to install a gate for safety reasons. **ACTION: CLERK**

484. **Footpath 8:** Complaint made by Ramblers Assoc re a vine being planted across this footpath. Clerk to write to the PRow to confirm that the PC would like the situation resolved. **ACTION: CLERK**

485. **Footpath 13 (Golf Course):** Style of gate still to be agreed with golf club. Existing fingerpost will be replaced with a new wooden one shortly.

486. **Footpath 14:** New dog waste bin – PCC have also approved proposed site for this, just raising the point that they do cut the grass along this area as it is a 'parking' area for the Church. Clerk can now order bin. A new wooden fingerpost will shortly replace the current one across from the Church. **ACTION: CLERK**

487. **Footpath 15:** Churning up of the slope still a problem – the PRow and contractor visited the site on 3rd January - they are looking at options re a material that can be put down which won't be washed away by rain. 'Grounded' fingerpost – PRow is aware and is dealing with accordingly

488. **Footpath 19 (and 14):** Regarding the new gate to accommodate walkers and the sheep the PRow is meeting with the PCC on 16th January to show designs/plan. PRow to advise landowners comments/approval

489. **Footpath 20:** Problem with drainage in field: The PRow is arranging for vegetation to be cut back where it is extremely wet, removal of stiles and replacing the little bridge, but on first inspection with contractor drainage is still a problem as there doesn't appear to be anywhere to direct the water to - they will be looking at it again. New wooden fingerpost will be installed.

490. **Footpath 23:** Existing old style fingerpost will be replaced with new wooden one shortly. (NB the aim is that all the fingerposts in St. Stephens Road will soon be 'matching' - Footpath 15 has already been done)

491. **Footpath Map:** Will form part of P3 partnership activities

492. **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3):** Next step is for P3 to meet with Roger Hawes and Clerk to outline procedures. Prof. Barclay asked to be involved in this meeting. **ACTION: CLERK**

493. **Land Registry – voluntary first registration of CNPC landholdings** - no action yet

494. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE:** approved minutes and meeting report supplied to web manager

495. **Freedom of Information** **ACTION: PROF BARCLAY/ CLERK**

496. **Files/Documents to Archive/ Retain/Destroy** **ACTION: PROF BARCLAY/ MRS GARNHAM**

CORRESPONDENCE

- 497. **Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Service** – CNPC will assume distribution membership status, receiving the quarterly newsletter only.
- 498. **EALC** - minutes from 30th November 2006 meeting, plus notice of AGM on 20th June - noted
- 499. **PCT** - Briefing and Information supplied to Members:
- 500. **Maldon Police** – Recruiting Campaign for Special Constabulary - noted)
- 501. **MDC** – Maldon District Community Safety Partnership Conference 1st March - noted
- 502. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils** – next meeting 17th January – no one available to attend
- 503. **CPRE** – January newsletter supplied to Members
- 504. **East Essex Transport Forum** – next meeting 24th January – no one available to attend

- 505. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Councillor Archer advised Members that he had approached Highways regarding the condition of the footways between Cold Norton and Stow Maries and pot holes on the bridge, but that no one is available to rectify at present; also that due to parking problems with parents at the school residents in St. Stephens Road are threatening to block the road. Members requested that 'emergency planning' be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2007: Wednesday 7th February, 7th March and 4th April.

Chairman.....

Date.....