

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2008 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: District Councillor Mr. J. Sears
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

421. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA:** Mr. Litscher declared an interest in the planning section of the agenda - FUL/MAL/08/00009.
422. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** had been received from Prof. Barclay.
423. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 12th December 2007 and **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** held on Wednesday 19th December 2007 were both approved and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

424. Dave Bull general village caretaker work Invoice No. 59 dated 10.01.08 £101.25 Cheque No. 623
425. Winstonmead Invoice No. IE2736 dated 19.12.07 Paper for printer and photocopier, plus 4 x black and 1 x colour ink cartridges £62.11 (£52.86 net) cheque No.624
426. Lubbock Fine invoice No. AUD008 - F3.51-07 dated 12.12.07 Audit of Annual Return for year ended 31.03.07 £334.88 (£285 net) Cheque No. 625
427. E-on Energy invoice No.H6OB3415A dated 03.01.08 street lighting for December 2007 £38.54 (£36.70 net) will be taken by direct debit on 13.01.08
428. Maria Dyer office expenses £17.32 Cheque No. 626
429. Inland Revenue £202.35 Cheque No. 627

430. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st January	£	130.16
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th December	£	3,299.54
Abbey as at 1 st January 2007	<u>£</u>	<u>6,830.53</u>
	£	10,260.23

431. **Annual Return – Year Ended 31st March 2007:** copies of the signed audit certificate and opinion from Lubbock Fine had been supplied to members – duly noted. (Clerk reminded Members that the reason for the error in the figures as stated by the Auditor is due to the problem with the computerised accounts package whereby an amount of £421 at the beginning of the accounting year appeared on screen to be a cleared amount but had not been included in the figures and that it was all documented to the auditor.) Also duly noted: point 2 of the auditors report referring to risk assessment.

432. Precept for 2008/9 agreed at £19,000

ACTION: CLERK

433. **Refund re Risk Management Course** – Members were advised that the cost of this course attended by the Clerk has been reimbursed by ECC.

PLANNING

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

FUL/MAL/07/01119 Cold Norton

Boundary enclosure
Bluebell Barn Lower Burnham Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 010000237580)
Mr & Mrs G Smith **REFUSED**

FUL/MAL/07/01160 Cold Norton

First floor rear extension and front extension to double garage
28 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JE
(UPRN - 100090555817)
Mr & Mrs Collins **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/06/00751 Stow Maries

Alterations to allow retention of garden wall and railings following appeal decision.
Stow Bullocks Stow Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091257239)
Mr & Mrs Nunney **APPROVED**

435. **Planning Applications received by the Parish Council** – the following were considered and responses were as below:

FUL/MAL/07/01380 Stow Bullocks, Stow Road, Cold Norton. Extension to swimming pool building
Week No.1 dated 4th January 2008:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development contained within the above application to be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.

The Parish Council's reasons for this recommendation are:

- The plans are proposing a significant sized development outside the village boundary
- The proposed 'two storey' design coupled with dormer windows for this extension is far too 'domestic' in its appearance for a swimming pool building

The Councillors have asked to say that they did not feel the plans/papers supplied with this application were adequate in terms of demonstrating clearly what is currently on the site, and what is proposed.

FUL/MAL/08/00009 Land adjacent 1 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Change of use from coal yard to residential and erection of eight x two bedroom flats and one x two bedroom cottage with associated parking and amenity space. Week No 2 dated 11th January 2008:

N.B. Mr. Archer abstained from discussions/voting on this application.

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development contained within the above application would not be harmful, providing:

- Highways Department approval is received – there is concern as the site is located close to two side roads entering the main road/the entrance to the village

- no parking is allowed on the road way for the same safety concerns above
- no parking is permitted at the front of the actual site, and that:
- all the proposed landscaping is implemented and maintained, especially that proposed at the front of the site which will ensure that parking is not possible at this point
- the roofline of the development is consistent with adjoining properties

Cold Norton Parish Council supports the development of low cost housing; therefore if The Highways Department approves the development plans and the other points above are included as conditions of the permission for the development to proceed, the Councillors would recommend that Maldon District Council approve this application.

- 436 The Norton:** following an update of the current situation it was agreed that the Clerk should write to MDC to advise that there is no sign of any active marketing of the building as a pub taking place at present. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 437. TPOs:** in relation to the outcome of the Perrin & Anor v Northampton BC case, Members requested Clerk ascertain from the MDC Tree Officer what bearing this would have in future on the protection of trees with TPOs attached. **ACTION: CLERK**

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

438. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge – did not proceed in December. Site visit with Highways representative scheduled for Tuesday 22nd January to discuss.

**ACTION: MR. ARCHER/
MR LITSCHER/
CLERK**

Drain at top of Station Crescent – now in progress.

New signs Farnbridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue – have now been advised: *“The side road warning signs have been designed and we shall be able to order these at the beginning of the next fiscal year when resources are more abundant.”*

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – was advised in December that: *“The speed restriction roundels (upright signs and carriageway markings) were ordered together but these jobs are carried out by different contractors; hence the upright signs are in place and the carriageway markings are not. A mixture of the current weather and other schemes has prevented the markings from being out down as yet but I envisage their completion in the next few weeks.”* Some of the upright signs are being obscured by hedgerows – Clerk still needs to contact landowners

ACTION: CLERK

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – landowner cannot be contacted highways are now arranging for this to be trimmed back (conversation with Highways 9th January 2008)

Hedge/bush by notice board/bus stop opposite The Norton – Clerk to contact home owner again ASAP

ACTION: CLERK

Fence outside school (broken and leaning out towards footway) – not sticking out now but there is a gap – Clerk to contact the school/PTA to see if this is how it is going to remain.

ACTION: CLERK

Footway just over bridge cracking – will be reported to highways to Highways at meeting on 22nd January

ACTION: CLERK

- 439. Street Light near Bardwells Yard and one on corner of Howe Green Road:** out of order **ACTION: CLERK**

VILLAGE HALL

440. **Report from Parish Council Representatives:** Mrs McDonald reported on the last VHMC meeting held on 8th January and relayed the committee requests for the car parking bays are reinstated and a sign to be installed in the car park to advise that it is not a public car park. Members requested VHMC be requested to supply quotes for both items. **ACTION: MRS MCDONALD**
441. **Village Hall Project:** Mr Wakeling updated members:
- through to stage 2 of Big Lottery Fund/awarded grant towards additional paperwork required
 - business plan in progress
 - fund raising by VHMC has produced £17,000 to date
 - paperwork to be progressed: bank account details to be supplied by Clerk, certificate of title etc needs to be prepared by a solicitor
 - VHMC structure will need to be reviewed if the grant application is successful

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

442. **Neighbourhood Action Panel Report:** Mr Guppy reported back on the meeting he had attended on 7th January: 7 people at the meeting, speeding and village patrols were discussed.
443. **Maldon & District Crime Reduction Panel:** meeting on 6th February. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**
444. **Graffiti:** Clerk trying to contact the landowners of old fire station/Dear Dolly site
ACTION: CLERK
445. **Village Crime Reports for November and December and Report from the District Commander had been supplied to Members.**
446. **Maldon District Community Safety Partnership** – details of Conference and 2007 activities had been supplied to Members. No one available to attend the conference.
447. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – District Councillor Archer advised that it is a busy time with the main focus centred on the setting of budgets.

OPEN SPACES

448. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Fencing will be erected at end of January. Recommendations from ROSPA report proceeding except life buoy. Members advised Clerk that the handrail is down, Clerk to notify Caretaker
ACTION: CLERK
449. **Playing Field**
- Enclosed play area for younger children: Bark /alternative surface being investigated/costed. Caretaker carrying out other works. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**
- Increased bark requirement 300ml or alternative material in open play areas – being investigated as above. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**
- Picnic bench – still to be fixed.

The remaining metal goalpost: Clerk still to contact FA re alternative to removing and Norton FC re loose pieces of goal posts.

ACTION: CLERK

Hard standing – quotes in hand

ACTION: MR GUPPY

Members had been supplied with a Report from North Farnbridge Youth Football Club, which included a request to carry on using the field for up to two further years. Members agreed to this request.

450. 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 continue to remove rubbish from the Cowpiece nature reserve and have continued to maintain the paths and furniture.

I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge, remove any litter and clear away the fallen leaves.

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.)

I have scraped off as much of the graffiti from the bridge as can be removed without damaging the bricks,

I have emailed my colleague and we should be able to start fencing Cowpiece at the end of January.

I shall submit my checking slips at the end of the month with my invoices; I feel that these will help greatly with safety monitoring and maintenance planning. (The checking slips referred to are the special forms produced by ROSPA specific to the play areas – these were available at the meeting for members to view)

451. Beacon at back of Church: MDC are going to rectify slight leaning problem – no date advised yet.

452. Breathing Spaces 3 information supplied to Members - noted

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

453. Footpath 14 - Request by the dog walkers for the handrail to be extended up the slope was passed top the PRoW for his consideration. He has now advised that this can be done and that the landowner has no objection to the rail being attached to his post. Members decided that, whilst there was concern about over urbanising, a handrail should be installed.

ACTION: CLERK

Unfortunately the tenant farmer incorrectly sprayed out this footpath, but the PRoW is in contact with both the landowner and tenant and this will be corrected. At the request of the landowner the PRoW is also arranging for a special 'End of Footpath' sign/marker to be made and erected.

454. Footpath 20 - Request for a platform to be constructed over the wet area – as advised last month this is too expensive (PRoW has advised cost would be in excess of £10,000). Cutting back requested will be carried out again – date TBA

455. Footpath 23 - Way marking ongoing. P3 HQ to advise if local P3 rep can carry out this work.

456. P3 – Members had been supplied with an update from ECC.

457. **Footpath Maps** - As the P3 rep has now finished his surveys the Clerk asked the members should these now be considered again as they would be useful for walkers in terms of knowing the exact routes of footpaths. Clerk to show samples at next meeting. **ACTION: CLERK**

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

458. **East Essex Transport Forum – meeting Wednesday 23rd January** – Mr Guppy plans to attend **ACTION: MR GUPPY**

CORRESPONDENCE

459. **EALC – Local Performance Frameworks** – had been supplied to Members
460. **RCCE - The Link Newsletter**- had been supplied to Members
461. **CPRE Newsletters for December and January** - had been supplied to members
462. **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).
Mrs Gold updated Members re Saint FM request for interview and the forthcoming RNLI Mayoral fundraising event planned at Three Rivers – the Mayor had requested Mrs Gold's permission to wear his mayoral chain of office in the Parish of Cold Norton (request granted). Members were reminded of the Dengie Hundred event on 16th January which they may now wish to attend as the PC meeting had been changed. Clerk advised Members that the Maldon Tree officer had contacted her re the Ash tree at the top of the Ferris Avenue path by bridge/electricity sub station – Clerk will discuss 'ownership/responsibility' with Highways at meeting scheduled for 22nd January.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2008: Wednesday 13th February and Wednesday 5th March.

Chairman.....

Date.....