

**THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2005, in the Committee Room of the Village Hall**

**THOSE PRESENT:**

**Councillors:**

Mrs. A Allen  
Mr. J Archer  
Mrs S Garnham (Chairman)  
Mrs. G Gold  
Mr. C Litscher

**In attendance:** District Councillor Mr. L Cooper, one member of the public, and Mrs. M Bryant (Parish Clerk)

370. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Prof. Barclay and Mr. Wakeling

371. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING** of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13 January 2005 – were confirmed as a correct record and signed accordingly.

**FINANCE**

**Approval of Payments** – the following invoices were approved for payment: -

372. Mrs M Bryant – office expenses/supplies from 6 January 2005 to 28 January 2005: £21.20 (£18.98 net). Cheque No. 218.

373. Data Protection – annual renewal - £35.00. Cheque No. 219.

374. E-on Energy – monthly street lighting energy: £20.10 (£19.14 net). Cheque No. 220.

375. Cold Norton Parochial Church Council – for the Parish Council’s use of the Beacon magazine: £126.00. Cheque No. 221.

376. Sterling Supergroup Ltd – Village Hall Feasibility Study copies: - £21.34 (net £17.50). Cheque No. 222.

377. **Financial Statement**

The end of January statements had not yet been received – therefore no change from the January statement of Cash at Bank.

**Creditors** - The Clerk had again chased up the District Council about the outstanding invoices reported in Minute No. 328 of 13.01.2005. She had been told that the invoices for play equipment inspections and dog waste bins are in hand, and (re: allotment rental) - “*We don’t own any allotment land*” – which information is clearly incorrect. The Officer (Mr. Simon Walker) was advised to speak to Mr. Richard Holmes of the District Council, for confirmation of this.

378. **E-on Energy** – The Direct Debit form for payment of street lighting energy to this company was signed – monthly payment of £20.10 - and is to be sent off.

**ACTION CLERK**

379. **Annual Inspection of play equipment/Risk Assessment**

Two suppliers were considered –

Independent Playground Inspections (via the District Council) - cost should be £50, but there had been difficulty getting an invoice from the District Council for this for the last 2 years, plus (as reported to the Parish Council last year) there had also been difficulty getting their report from the District Council for the last 2 years. Clearly this could leave the Parish Council open to the risk of being sued for damages because of unsafe equipment not notified.

RoSPA - price is dearer, but for the reasons shown above, the Clerk had recommended that the Parish Council use RoSPA.

The Parish Council agreed that a decision will be made from the next meeting, after the Clerk has obtained any information of other suppliers and a quotation for an inspection/risk assessment of the Nature Reserve.

**ACTION CLERK**

380. **Quotation received from Manor Fencing & Construction Ltd** (£500 of which is the award to the Parish Council as Minute No. 307 of 9.12.2004): £1,029.67 + VAT

The Clerk will: -

- Check that the specification given is as understood by Prof. Barclay when he met with the Manor Fencing representative.
- Manor Fencing is to be asked whether the posts proposed will be wood.
- Manor Fencing is to be asked whether they could supply the equipment only – i.e. no labour – and what would be the cost for this. Reason – Mr. Litscher offered to supply labour.

**ACTION CLERK**

## **PLANNING**

381. **Maldon District Draft Replacement Local Plan** – nothing to report

382. **Maldon District Council Decisions**

A detailed list had been provided to Members, and the following is a the only decision on that list relating to Cold Norton during the month: -

**FUL/MAL/04/01231** Purleigh. Amendment of condition No.1 of planning permission reference FUL/MAL/04/00576 to allow the use of part of building B for Class B2 uses: servicing, repair and restoration of motor vehicles. **Old Whitmans Farm Hackmans Lane** Purleigh Essex. Mr A Macfadzean. REFUSED.

### **Planning Application received by the Parish Council**

The following planning applications were considered. Responses to the District Council are as indicated.

383. **FUL/MAL/05/00010. 15 Green Trees Avenue.** N & P Stechman. Demolition of existing house. Erection of new 4-bedroom house.

Response: - Not harmful – recommend approval.

384. **ADV/MAL/05/00088. Great Canney Farm, Hackmans Lane,** Purleigh. Erection of 6m flagpole with flag displaying company logo.

Response: -

*“Cold Norton Parish Council recommends that the District Council should REFUSE CONSENT for the above application, because an advertising flag (especially of such a height) would be entirely inappropriate in such a rural area.”*

385. Letter from Maldon District Council (James Doe) re delegation of planning decisions

The Clerk had written to the District Council saying: -

*“It has been suggested to me that the District Council, in its effort to provide a quicker response to planning applications, is delegating some decisions even where the parish council view is contrary to that of the District Council Officer. I was not aware that this is so, but I am aware that in the past the principle has been followed that, e.g., where the Officer was minded to approve and the parish council recommended refusal, or vice versa, then the application always went to Committee. Please can you confirm what is now the situation?”*

The reply from the District Council’s Chief Planning and Development Services Officer confirmed that the District Council’s scheme of delegation of Officers had been reviewed, with a view to improving the time taken to determine planning and other applications. *“In respect of the views of Parish and Town Councils, there is no*

*change to the status quo. In other words, where the views of the Parish/Town Council are contrary to the recommendation of the Chief Planning and Development Services Officer, the application will continue to go to Committee. However, there are two changes to the delegation scheme: -*

*One, that I am now authorised to deal with residential development proposals of up to eight dwellings. Two, that an objection from a member of the public (including residents who live adjacent to or nearby the site) no longer triggers its referral to Committee where Officers are minded to approve the proposals.”*

The Clerk is to publicise these changes.

**ACTION CLERK**

386. Letter from Maldon District Council re **Appeal - FUL/MAL/04/00948. Lords Acre Nursery, Lower Burnham Road.** Mr M Summerville. Use office building to provide residential accommodation for workers employed at turkey rearing enterprise.

The Parish Council's previous objections are to be reiterated to the Inspector, emphasising

- Point made by District Councillor Mr. Archer re DEFRA's statement - surveillance needed of turkeys;
- Highways considerations.

Letter needed for receipt no later than 1 March.

**ACTION CLERK**

387. **Proposal for car park on school land adjacent to Latchingdon Road**

The Clerk had written to the Board of Governors, as Minute No. 368 of 13.01.2005. Mrs. Allen had similarly written, detailing her personal objections to the use of the field adjacent to Latchingdon Road as a permanent Staff car park, and suggesting that such a car park should be an extension of the existing car park giving a safer exit and entrance onto St Stephens Road. A plan of Mrs. Allen's proposals had been enclosed. The Parish Council agreed with the sentiments expressed in Mrs. Allen's letter, which was retained by the Clerk for the Parish Council file.

At the Board of Governors' meeting, Mrs. Allen had put forward, as one of the reasons against this proposal, the fact that the proposed zebra crossing would be located in that vicinity, but others present at that meeting had expressed doubt that the zebra crossing would happen. At the Parish Council meeting, Mr. Archer denied such doubts strongly, saying that he had recently had discussions with Mr. Bass on this matter, and that he had confirmed that the zebra crossing will go ahead, albeit it has taken longer than expected.

388. **AGR/MAL/04/1368. Land off Burnham Avenue.** Steel framed building

The following update was noted: -

Application had been withdrawn, after the applicant had been advised that it does not have Permitted Development rights because the land holding is too small (AGR applications assume PD rights). The applicant will either need to resubmit as an ordinary planning application, or he will have to prove additional land.

## **HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**

389. **Request for speed limit south of Palepit Corner**

An e-mail on this subject from Prof. Barclay was noted. Prof. Barclay had referred to the score sheet system recently adopted by County Council for prioritising implementation of speed limits, which the Clerk had completed, and had thereby shown that this road does not meet with County Council criteria for a 40 mph speed limit, even though the other three approaches to the Palepit junction do have such a speed limit. Prof. Barclay had said: -

*“Although the idea of a score sheet is generally good, it may not be the basis for a suitable criterion in all cases. In this case, it is a modest extension to an existing scheme. It doesn't take account of the particular circumstances, where an inconspicuous side road, leads out, with poor visibility, onto a fast and currently unrestricted road.”*

The Parish Council felt that this matter should be pursued, and Mr. Archer offered to support. Letter to be sent, copied to Mr. Archer.

**ACTION CLERK - done**

**VILLAGE HALL - REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES** – there had been no Village Hall Management Committee meeting since the last Parish Council meeting, therefore no report.

**390. Village Hall project**

It was noted that the preferred date for the next meeting of the Village Hall Project Group is Thursday 17 February 2005. Apologies were offered from Mr. Archer and Mr. Litscher. The Feasibility Study had been copied and widely distributed to all those involved with use of the Village Hall. There were some spare copies available at the meeting – distributed to Mr. Litscher, Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Allen and Mr. Archer. Any comments on this Feasibility Study are required by the Clerk prior to the 17 February meeting, if not attending that meeting.

**ACTION all recipients of the FEASIBILITY SUDY**

**391. Village Hall phone** – Report noted, as follows: -

The Village Hall phone has developed a fault and is in need of replacement (too old to repair, say BT). The Clerk had written to the V.H.M.C. to confirm that the instrument belongs to them and not to the Parish Council, and detailing costs of purchase or rental of new equipment, with a comment that the Parish Council will consider helping them with this cost if it is a problem to them. Prof. Barclay or Mrs. Garnham will discuss this matter with the Village Hall Management Committee, along the lines indicated.

**ACTION Prof. BARCLAY or Mrs. GARNHAM**

**392. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS**

Mr. Paul reported that guttering on the Village Hall had been damaged – Mrs. Garnham will inform the Village Hall Management Committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Paul reported that graffiti has appeared on the rear outside wall of the Village Hall – he has removed some, and is monitoring the situation.

**393. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Archer reported as follows: -

- It is highly likely that there will be an ornamental pond instead of the Marine Lake – the HSE will not allow any more than that.
- It is hoped that this year's Council Tax increase will be small – decision on this due next Thursday.
- Proposal for wind farm at Bradwell – exhibition this week – proposal is for 27 wind turbines 400 ft high.
- Mr. Archer had attended an E-Government Conference in London, but Maldon District Council is a good two years behind on this.

**OPEN SPACES**

394. **Village Caretaker** – Reported that the notice board at Charterhouse Cottages is rotten unstable – Mr. Paul confirmed that he will deal with this. No problems on play equipment to report.

395. **Nature Conservation Area** - will be decided at the next Parish Council meeting. Mr. Litscher reported that he can get the sign completed by April.

396. **Playing Field** - The Village Caretaker had noted that the playing field and football pitch area is somewhat damp and soft.

## **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

### **397. Footpath along the disused railway line**

Clerk's report: "*Mary Morris says the date for the Public Inquiry is not yet known. She will chase in a fortnight. There are still problems with consent to access to land which is Gordon Hooper's estate – has probate yet been granted?*"

*Parish Council's Response:* - Probate not yet granted. Mr. Archer may need to contact Mr. Ransom in the near future, and he will therefore try and obtain an address for the Clerk, in order to help Mrs. Morris to contact him about the Inspector's access to the Gordon Hooper estate.

**ACTION Mr. ARCHER – done – Mrs. Morris says don't worry because it will detriment case.**

### **398. Diversion of footpath over the golf course – Action had been carried out as Minute No. 357 (i.e. confirmation of approval of notices indicating permissive route.**

### **399. COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE**

Further to Circ. Document No. 15.05 (Freedom of Information Act), the Clerk had asked the Council to consider inclusion of the Parish Council's Publication Scheme on the web site, and also accounts (Balance Sheet and I & E account).

The Parish Council agreed that this should be done, and also that the Parish Council's minutes should be included on the website.

**ACTION CLERK**

### **400. ALLOTMENTS**

It was noted that Mr. & Mrs. Hawes no longer wish to rent an allotment from the Parish Council. They had rented the only plot presently let. However the Clerk had very recently received a telephone call from another parishioner, saying that he would like to take up an allotment. The Parish Council decided that, in view of the uncertainty over the future of the allotments, this request could not be met. The Clerk is to notify him accordingly.

**ACTION CLERK**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **401. Letter from Bruno Peek - proposed celebrations October 2005 for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar (i.e. lighting of beacons etc) – to consider Mrs. Garnham's proposal that Cold Norton should participate.**

It was noted that Trafalgar Weekend is 21st – 23rd October 2005, and that a Registration Pack has been applied for. The Parish Council approved of taking part in these celebrations in principle, dependent upon consent from the landowner to light the beacon. Mrs. Garnham will speak to the Village Hall Management Committee about these proposals.

**ACTION Mrs. GARNHAM and CLERK**

### **402. Maldon & South Chelmsford NHS PCT – informal consultation document re their Strategic Service Development and Local Development plans – Circulation paper No. 16/05, circulated from 17.01.05.**

The following report from the Clerk was considered. "To quote from an e-mail from Prof. Barclay on this document: - '*As I see it, this would mean that for many minor purposes we would go to the proposed SWF multi purpose health care facility. This would be a new facility, I suppose equivalent to the community services part of the resource centre at St Peters. I guess that most people in Cold Norton look to Maldon rather than Woodham, so I wonder if the boundaries have been appropriately drawn.*'"

There was some discussion on this – one member assumed that the choice would be either Maldon or South Woodham Ferrers, whereas the view was also put forward that it would have to be both. Members will bring comments for the next meeting, when they have seen the circulated document - on March agenda.

**ACTION CLERK/MEMBERS**

## CORRESPONDENCE

403. Maldon District Council – East of England Plan – Member Seminar, 8 February. Mr Archer may attend.

404. Rural Community Council of Essex – 2005 Calor Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Village competition. The Parish Council agreed that Cold Norton should be entered.

**ACTION CLERK**

405. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - there was none.

## DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates scheduled to year-end are: - Thursday 3 March 2005 (then Thursday 7 April). The **Annual General Meeting** will be held as part of the monthly meeting scheduled for Thursday 5th May.

<b>ADDENDUM</b> – Arrangements for the May meeting/AGM will need to be reviewed if it transpires that Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May is the date of the General Election
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**Annual Parish Meeting** - Tuesday 19th April had been suggested, but this was not suitable since the week is a school holiday. Therefore the Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 3rd May (note – 2nd May is a bank holiday). The Village Hall Management Committee, the County Councillor, District Councillors, and P.c. Hughes will be notified and invited accordingly.

Nicola Plumb (District Council – Affordable Housing) will attend the March meeting.

Mr. Bardwell (who had asked to speak with the Parish Council) – the Clerk had not been able to contact him, despite messages left.