

# COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2006 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

### THOSE PRESENT:

#### Councillors:

Mrs. A. Allen  
Mrs. S. Garnham (Chairman)  
Mr. C. Litscher  
Mr. P. Wakeling  
**In attendance:** Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

437. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Prof. L. Barclay, Mr. J. Archer and Mrs. G. Gold.
438. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

### FINANCE

#### Payments

439. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 £155.25 cheque No. 363
440. All Saints Church, Purleigh printing extra copies of The Beacon plus leaflets reference launch of village hall project fund raising £60 cheque No.364.
441. Samantha Edwards delivery of February issue of The Beacon plus leaflets to whole village Reference launch of village hall project fund raising £33 cheque No. 365
442. Data Protection renewal to cover year from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 £35 cheque No. 366
443. e-on electricity Jan 06 inv.no 102217320 £39.10 (£37.24 net) direct debit 10/2/06
444. M. Dyer expenses from 1/1/06 – 14/2/06 £25.92 (£22.74 net) cheque no. 367
445. Mayflower Nursery 2 tonnes bark chippings for play area including delivery £90 cheque No. 368

#### 446. Financial Statement

##### Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 <sup>st</sup> February	£	121.30
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17th January	£	12,097.52
Abbey as at 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2006	£	<u>3,806.05</u>
	£	16,024.87

447. **Mileage allowance** for M. Dyer re training session at Gt. Dunmow and Parish Clerk Forum in Maldon - Clerk to advise rate set down by EALC **ACTION: CLERK**

### PLANNING

#### 448. Maldon District Council Decisions

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

**FUL/MAL/05/01244 Purleigh**  
Provision of a bungalow in lieu of mobile home.  
Watts Hill Lower Burnham Road Purleigh Essex  
(UPRN - 200000915450)  
R D Warner **APPROVED**

**FUL/MAL/05/01264 Purleigh**  
Use of outbuilding as residential annex containing storage space for adjoining dwelling and construction of link section with adjoining dwelling  
Foxwood 3 Crown Road Cold Norton Essex  
(UPRN - 100091256514)  
The Lambeth Family **APPROVED**

**FUL/MAL/05/01360 Cold Norton**  
Single Storey Two Bed Detached Building for Elderly Parents.  
40 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JE  
(UPRN - 100090555831)  
Simon Stacey **REFUSED**

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

**FUL/MAL/06/00035 29 Hackmans Lane.** Demolition of existing side extension. Reinstatement front porch & new rear extension. Week No.2 w/e 12<sup>th</sup> January 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.

**FUL/MAL/06/00064 Hawthorns, Victoria Road.** Repositioning of front boundary fence. Week No.3 w/e 19<sup>th</sup> January 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.

**AGRPN/MAL/06/00030 Lords Acre Nursery, Lower Burnham Road.** Erection of an agricultural building. Week No. 3 w/e 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Amended application advised: one building divided into three for storage of feed and machinery and to house diesel generator. Proposed extension to two existing turkey sheds:

As you have advised with regard to the above application that, provided all the general permitted development order requirements are met, that the principle of whether the development should be permitted is not for consideration, and that refusal can only be made on the grounds of causing significant harm to its surroundings. It is in relation to these grounds that Cold Norton Parish Council states its **objection** to this application, because:

- **this development is quasi industrial in an otherwise rural environment, and it will cause significant harm to its surroundings.**

Therefore Cold Norton Parish Council recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.

**FUL/MAL/06/00144 Great Canney Farm, Hackmans Lane, Purleigh.** Replacement roof with front and rear dormers, front porch and single storey extension. Week no. 6 w/e 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers the proposals contained in the above planning application to be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.

Reasons for the objections are:

- it is outside the village development envelope
- the extension proposed is extensive in scale and mass, and inappropriate given its position outside the defined settlement boundary
- the site proposed for the development is in a very prominent and sensitive rural location
- the development proposed would be highly detrimental to the character of the countryside.

**450. Sherae, Latchingdon Road;** Mrs Garnham advised that she had visited the planning department at MDC offices – planning permission was given only for a double garage at the front of the plot. Use of this garage to be monitored. **ACTION: ALL MEMBERS**

**451. Three Rivers Golf & Country Club:** with regard to the low level lights in the trees in the new car park, Clerk to check with planning department what type of lights were specified in the application **ACTION: CLERK**

## HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

### 452. Pedestrian Crossing

Main work started 6<sup>th</sup> February, although some EDF work had been carried out a few weeks ago. VAS signs are scheduled to go in w/c 13<sup>th</sup> February and the crossing should be fully operational w/c 20<sup>th</sup> February when the children return to school after the half term break. Highway engineers will monitor the crossing. Also the VAS signs will record the numbers of times they are activated, Highways have been asked that once the crossing had been operational for a period that the figures are compared to those collected when the temporary one was operational at the corner of Cherry Blossom Lane. Members were given a copy a letter sent out to a resident in Latchingdon Road who had raised an objection to the crossing. Clerk to talk to Highways re the beacons being 'unhooded' at the moment.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### 453. Highways Schedule

Advised by Highways:

Re St. Stephens Road – recovery of lines with new layout – yellow zig zags have all been remarked and look fine now

RE siding back of the footways to Country Produce: Contractor has been advised to add the siding back of CN footways to their bank of work. However, due to this being near to the end of their contract with us no work can carry over to next year, so there is no guarantee that they will be able to do it before end of March. If they can't fit it in, it will be added to the initial bank of work for the new contractor so will be done by end of April at latest.

Re pram ramps etc at bridge: This is with the County's safety audit team, to ensure that there aren't and safety issues. Again, subject to no insurmountable problems being highlighted, this should be done by end of April 2006.

Re drain outside school: this is being looked as a priority, similar problem apparently in Howe Green Road. Plus scheduled is the replacement of 300 metres of sewer pipes along Latchingdon Road, either side of St. Stephens, so this may solve the problem, but Highways is still arranging for St. Stephens Road to be checked.

Mr. Wakeling advised that whilst the cutting back seems to have been carried out along most of the footways from Cold Norton to The Prince of Wales, there is still an elm/hedge overhanging an already narrow footway near Hall Farm. Clerk to contact Clerk at Stow Maries **ACTION: CLERK**

Water on Latchingdon Road from top of hill down to coal yard: clerk advised that highways had been e-mailed. Clerk to follow up. **ACTION: CLERK**

## VILLAGE HALL

454. **Report from Parish Council Representatives:** Members were advised that the Entertainment Licence had been applied for

455. **Village Hall Project** – Members were advised that the business plan being prepared by Roger Hawes is nearly finished. Plans are required for main lottery grant application mid year. The kitchen grants applications have been prepared and fund raising plans are in hand. Plus the 'buy a brick' scheme has been launched. Members expressed their thanks to Mary Bryant and Roger Hawes for all their hard work.

### 456. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

Damage to children's playground equipment, namely the wooden tunnel for the second time. Plus Village Caretaker advised to Clerk Monday evening: "There was the situation I so often now find on a Monday - bottles and cigarette litter all around and boards ripped off the play equipment. I have cleaned, cleared and mended everything. You may wish to alert the police to this pattern of vandalism which takes place over the weekend." Clerk to report to Police. **ACTION: CLERK**

A letter had been received from PC Hughes advising his retirement at the end of February - no replacement has yet been appointed. Clerk to write to PC Hughes expressing thanks for his work and support in Cold Norton etc. **ACTION: CLERK**

New Policing Structure advised: split 2/3 neighborhood Police and 1/3 response team. CPSO may also be more evident and the reintroduction of motorbike police for more speedy response.

Neighbourhood Watch: Mrs Allen advised that nothing seems to be coming through regarding this. Clerk to look into. **ACTION: CLERK**

If appointed in time, Clerk to invite new Policeman to March meeting **ACTION: CLERK**

Fly tipping (see under Caretakers Report) Clerk to establish MDC's Policy re fly tipping  
**ACTION: CLERK**

**457. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – not available

**OPEN SPACES**

**458. Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** MDC Web Site – should be operational by Easter. Wood for fencing has been delivered. Mr. Litscher liaising with adjoining landowner. **ACTION: MR. LITSCHER**

Mr Litscher advised that the landowner had offered to dig out a small car parking area near Cowpiece. It was agreed that members would view in daylight before making a decision.

**ACTION: ALL MEMBERS**

**459. Playing Field:** MDC Web Site – as above. Mrs Gold had asked for the swings to be checked. Report from Caretaker Monday evening: "Had a look at the children's play area and found the swings to be in good working order - I have carefully checked them all and find no faults."

**460. Village Caretaker work - report as follows:**

With reference to my email this week, there has been 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 farm gate close to St Stephen's Church, and that you will advise me if anyone requires the papers I removed from the site.

With regard the theft of bark chippings I have provided you with a revised estimate for purchasing coloured chippings, and can purchase the required quantity to use alone, (you will have noted the cost, ) or to mix with chippings from Mayflower Nursery as per my January report. Please confirm the action you require me to take. The young children's play area is becoming somewhat boggy round the entrance due to inadequate covering of chippings. (See below)

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 on-going litter and leaf clearance.

With regard to the concrete pathway from the field gate down into the playing field, I estimate for the cost of the works is as follows:

3 met posts with concrete fixings	£18-00
Specialised fixings to secure post-holders to the edge of the pathway –	£ 8-66
Post and rail fence to run the length of the path –	£45-00
Total for materials –	£71-66
Time would be within my usual working hours.	

I continue cleaning and refurbishment of the play equipment, and will be painting or preserving as necessary, when the weather is suitable. Earlier this month I repaired further 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 December report the additional labour at assist with the safe clearance of this area will be engaged later in 2006 when the weather is suitable for the task.

In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area and will preserve the bench wood, once the weather is favourable. I have re-pruned the roses to minimise the impact of the cutting as per my last report- thank you for agreeing to raise this issue with the Church.

I continue leaf and litter clearing of the area over the old railway bridge and along the triangle by the bridge. I will continue with my usual work for the Parish Council and await your approval to proceed with the Bark Chippings job and the Post and Rail job in the playground. Please let me know if there is any particular aspect of my work that the Parish Council wishes me to attend to.

Clerk had advised that she had accompanied Mr Bull on 8<sup>th</sup> February visiting his various work areas and the following arose, which were not included in his report: the broken goal post in the playing field, do you wish him to cut it up and remove it? Members advised "Yes". Also the goal post which is cemented into the ground, do you want it painted etc? Members advised "Yes" Are the benches at the side of St. Stephens Road going up to the Church part of Mr. Bull's work area? Members advised "Yes".

Re coloured bark Members were advised that it is very expensive i.e. 1 tonne of coloured bark will cost £119, compared to £40 undelivered 'brown' bark) Mr. Bull's suggestion is to mix some coloured into 'normal to see of this deters the thieves; colours available are yellow, blue and red. Members decided that due to costs to stick with 'brown' bark. Mrs Allen advised that the school had recently had laid rubber 'flooring' near the play equipment, which may be a suitable alternative. Mrs Allen offered to get details from the school.

**ACTION: MRS ALLEN**

Regarding the railing suggestion alongside the entrance into the playing field members will view the area in daylight before making a decision.

**ACTION: ALL MEMBERS**

Fly tipping - Caretaker had advised instance of this near Church and had removed letters from the site. However MDC contractor Appleton had already removed the fly tipping goods, when Clerk visited the site with the waste manager from MDC on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Although Clerk was advised that if the material is actually on owned land then it is down to the owner to remove, but we are very lucky that we have a very conscientious waste man on the St. Stephens Road route. Evidence has been posted to MDC as requested.

#### **461. Allotments**

Agreement has been sent to PCT for their signature. PCT are unable to apply for the Community Initiatives Fund, only PC/Village Halls etc can apply, but as the PC is already applying to this fund for the kitchen (NB you can submit more than one application) the PC have been advised to wait until the next round which will be in June, plus Paul McNeill has advised that they should be able to get the money for water connection through another source and the other elements e.g. fencing are not urgent.

#### **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

**462. Ferris Avenue Path:** to date Clerk has received 4 completed forms. Clerk to 'advertise' in The Beacon for other users if this path to complete the necessary form for this route to be included on the Definitive Map.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**463. Footpath 14 (dog waste bin):** Clerk has met with Pat Macshea and the most appropriate place is just inside the entrance to this footpath, opposite Church, this will also mean an easy task for the crew who will empty it. Members advised that a green bin is required. Mr. Litscher offered to supply post onto which the bin would be mounted; Clerk to check size of post required i.e. 4" or 6".

**ACTION: CLERK**

**464. Footpath 19:** Clerk advised that this path had not yet been reseeded. Clerk to contact landowner

**ACTION: CLERK**

**465. Footpath 20:** Members advised that this footpath has suffered from water logging since 1985. Clerk to pursue with Footpaths Officer

**ACTION: CLERK**

**466. Purleigh footpath 13:** this had already been reported to Chris Brown in December by Purleigh PC Member Mr. Brown has been attempting to contact the landowner. Purleigh PC has sent a further e-mail, but no more news yet, Clerk to follow up.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**467. Footpath Map**

**ACTION: MRS. GARNHAM**

**468. New bridleway:** Mr. Brown to meet up with landowners

**469. Golf course footpath (Footpath 13)**

Clerk advised that she had reported back to Mr. Brown that the Members did not just want a pedestrian kissing gate; he then asked that the Members reconsider from a practical aspect as it is a permissive path across a golf course with the risk of golf balls. Members advised whilst they did appreciate Mr. Brown's comment that they still want a wheelchair/pram friendly kissing gate, so that all members of the public can make their own decisions regarding using that particular path.

**ACTION: CLERK**

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

**471. Footpath 16:** Lower Burnham Road, not marked out, needs reinstating, Clerk to write direct to landowner with copy to Mr. Brown.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**472. Land Registry – voluntary first registration of CNPC landholdings:** to be investigated when time permits

**473. COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE:** Clerk is liaising with Mr. Hallam about updates etc

**ACTION: CLERK**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 474. **HM Revenue & Customs:** information noted re using on-line returns **ACTION: CLERK**
- 475. **RCCE Calor Village of the Year** Members advised that they would like cold Norton to enter this competition (Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006) **ACTION: CLERK**
- 476. **The Blackwater Project – Series of Talks in March:** noted
- 477. **Pre School Summer BBQ - permission to use the field Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006:** granted. Clerk to confirm in writing and remind Pre-School about parking in cherry Blossom Lane **ACTION: CLERK**
- 478. **MDC ECC Community Initiatives Fund – web site:** noted
- 479. **MDC Parish & Town Charter plus minutes from the Parish Clerk forum**  
  
Re the forum which the Clerk attended the following questions were answered as indicated:  
\* Citizens Panel – anyone you think should be approached? No, 'advertise' in The Beacon  
\* District/Parish Elections will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007: did the last elections go well? Yes  
Were there any problem areas? No  
\* Licensing Act 2003 who would be interested in attending a presentation? No one able to attend
- 480. **MDC Street Cleaning Contract:** Clerk to advise problems with litter near bridge/traffic lights and ditches near Country Produce **ACTION: CLERK**
- 481. **MDC Recycling Collection System plus competition:** details noted. Clerk to advise that more notice of impending collection re test textile collection would be useful and that the garden waste system is a good scheme and should continue, preferably the same time slot. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 482. **British Nuclear Group invitation to business breakfast Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7 – 9.30 am:** Mr. Litscher advised he is available to attend, Mr. Wakeling to confirm, Clerk to contact Prof. Barclay **ACTION: CLERK**
- 483. **Blackwater Landscapes re grass cutting:** Clerk to check and reply **ACTION: CLERK**
- 484. **Mr. Steve Watson re PC March meeting:** noted
- 485. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Mrs Allen advised that the head at Cold Norton Primary School would be retiring at the end of the school year. Members were also advised that The Norton Public House had been sold and is going to become a fish restaurant.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2006: Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Annual Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May - AGM, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Chairman.....

Date.....