

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2008 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mr. J. Archer (part)
Professor L. Barclay
Mrs. G. Gold (Chairman)
Mr. P. Guppy
Mr. P. Wakeling (part)
In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Plus 12 Members of the Public

463. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** had been received from Mrs McDonald, Mr Litscher, District Councillor J. Sears and PCSO Butler.
464. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 15th January 2008 were approved and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

465. Dave Bull general village caretaker work Invoice No. 60 dated 05.02.08 £135 Cheque No. 629
466. PH Cote Limited Maintenance to 3 x street lights Invoice No. 12964-24946 dated 23.01.08 £165.04 (£140.46 net) Cheque No. 630
467. Information commissioners Office Renewal of Registration re data control from 03.03.08 to 02.03.09 £35 Cheque No. 631
468. E-on Energy invoice No.H6260381E dated 04.02.08 Street lighting for January 2008 £38.54 (£36.70 net) will be taken by direct debit on 14.02.08
469. MAIA Services Updating minutes section (June to December) and news section (June to January) on web site £52.88 (£45 net) Cheque No. 632
470. Dale Hire Fencing from 01.12.07 to 31.01.08 Invoice No.CH148419 dated 05.02.08 £321.48 (£273.60 net) Cheque No. 633.
471. Maria Dyer office expenses £18.64 Cheque. No. 634.

472. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st February	£	130.16
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th January	£	3,299.54
Abbey as at 1 st February 2007	<u>£</u>	<u>5,001.33</u>
	£	8,431.03

473. **Audit Commission:** the Parish Council had been advised by the Audit Commission that a new external auditor had been appointed for five years commencing with the 07/08 accounts, namely Alun Williams of the Audit Commission's Limited Assurance Specialist Unit.
474. **Parochial Church Council:** acknowledgement and thanks for financial support and response to the Parish Council's suggestion to increase the cover price of The Beacon.

PLANNING

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

AGR/MAL/08/00011 Purleigh

Agricultural barn
Pale Pitt Farm Latchingdon Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091256500)
Mr D Carter **PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED**

FUL/MAL/07/01331 Cold Norton

Two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension and garage
1 Greentrees Avenue Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JA
(UPRN - 100090554854)
Procoyle **APPROVED**

TPO/MAL/07/01359 Cold Norton

TPO 07/2000 Numbered as drawing supplied. TPO number in brackets. T1 (T32) Ash, Clear fallen limb and tidy. T2 (T34) Willow, Pollard to approx 10ft above bole. T3 (T33) Willow, Pollard to approx 10ft above bole. T6 (T18) Willow, Pollard. T7 (T19) Ash, Clear fallen limb and tidy. T8 (T9) Dead Elm, Fell. T9 (T31) Oak, Fell.
26 Station Crescent Cold Norton Essex CM3 6HY
(UPRN - 100090555861)
Essex Arboriculture **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/07/01289 Cold Norton

Single storey rear extension
30C Latchingdon Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JG
(UPRN - 200000915252)
Mr & Mrs Suleman **REFUSED**

FUL/MAL/07/01253 Stow Maries

Demolish bungalow and light industrial units, construct new access road and erect new business units (Class B1) including replacement buildings for existing uses on site. Layout car parking and landscaping.
Stow Maries Service Station The Street Stow Maries Essex
(UPRN - 200000910413)
Lockhill Properties Ltd **REFUSED**

FUL/MAL/07/01380 Stow Maries

Extension to swimming pool building
Stow Bullocks Stow Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091257239)
Mr & Mrs Nunney **REFUSED**

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

ADV/MAL/08/00085 Directa Limited, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Flag and flagpole. Week No.3 dated 18th January 2008:

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/08/00093 St. Andrews. Station Road, Cold Norton. Demolition of existing boundary wall and construction of replacement wall Week No 4 dated 25th 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 proposed development is outside the development boundary
- The proposed construction is too 'urban' for a rural location
- The proposed construction is too high for this very rural location
- The design of the proposed construction is not suited to a rural location – a more traditional rural style boundary would be more appropriate to the location

FUL/MAL/08/00156 PP-00361722 Wold House, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. New dropped kerb and reinstate existing dropped kerb. Week No. 6 dated 8th February 2008:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed kerb changes contained in the above application would not be harmful, and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application, subject to:

- Highways Department approval due to the location of the above on the main road through the village

477. Maldon District Council: Members were advised that the Local Development Framework: supplementary planning document was available to view on line and that the consultation period closes 28th February 2008.

478. The Norton: Members were advised that an appeal has been received by the Planning Inspectorate. Clerk was requested to write to the Planning Inspectorate to advise that an offer made to the owner of a meeting to discuss the reopening of The Norton Public House had been met with a refusal.

ACTION: CLERK

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

479. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge: meeting with Highways on 22nd January - revised plans agreed, but will not be actioned until new financial year, will include flushing through of drains first. Road/bridge will need to be closed for these works. At the same time the Ash tree will be cut down (since this meeting the tree has been inspected by ECC tree officer - it is not dangerous at present)

Drain at top of Station Crescent – work now completed

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue: now scheduled for new financial year

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – carriageway markings now completed. Some of the upright signs still obscured by hedgerows - landowners to be asked to trim back. Re this stretch of road Members were notified of a residents query: "*Re road safety in Stow Road: Now that the extensive road work is completed in Stow Maries i.e. two islands and speed limit road markings, are there similar plans for Stow Road - in particular the stretch of road from the Three Rivers to Latchingdon Road? Cars go zooming well over the 40 mph limit and having an island in this area will help reduce speeding.*" Members were reminded that work that has been carried out along this stretch was as a result of a site visit with highways following concern from nearby residents. Members felt that islands at this point would not be appropriate, but requested Clerk talk to Highways re any other measures that could be taken.

ACTION: CLERK

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – landowner cannot be contacted highways are now arranging for this to be trimmed back which will be carried out before nesting starts

Hedge/bush by notice board/bus stop opposite The Norton: Clerk has spoken to home owner who advised that he will keep this trimmed back to maintain some privacy from the bus stop.

Fence outside school - not sticking out but there is a gap – Clerk still to contact the school/PTA to see if this is how it is going to remain.

ACTION: CLERK

Footway just over bridge cracking – reported to highways - will be actioned in new financial year. Members advised that the area of footway near Country Produce also needs attention. Clerk to notify highways.

ACTION: CLERK

480. **Street Lights:** all now operational

VILLAGE HALL

481. **Report from Parish Council Representatives:** no report next VHMC meeting is scheduled for 19th February
482. **Village Hall Project:** Mr Wakeling advised that part of the paperwork has been completed and returned to Lottery HQ and that solicitors were being considered for the legal paperwork
483. **Proposal re completely new hall:** Members discussed the proposal at some length and requested the Clerk respond as agreed.

ACTION: CLERK

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

484. **Maldon & District Crime Reduction Panel:** Mr Guppy reported back on the meeting he had attended on 6th February.
485. **Graffiti on hoarding of old fire station/Dear Dolly site** **ACTION: CLERK**
486. **Village Crime Report for January had been supplied to Members.** Members requested that items relating to Cold Norton be included in the PC report in The Beacon. PCSO Butler had advised that a new PCSO would be starting in March and he will then only have to cover 12 villages.

ACTION: CLERK

487. **Chief Inspector/District Commander Robertson's retirement/successor:** Members were advised that CI Robertson will retire on 31st May and his successor will be CI Nick Lee.
488. **Neighbourhood Watch – distraction burglaries:** report had been copied to Members, who requested that details be included in the PC report in The Beacon. **ACTION: CLERK**
489. **Neighbourhood Action Panel Meetings:** Report from the January meeting had been copied to Members. Next meetings scheduled for March 3rd in Stow Maries and May 19th in Latchingdon. Mr Guppy to attend the March meeting. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**

OPEN SPACES

491. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Fencing will now be erected during February – landowner digging out hedges to facilitate this. Work to be carried out on bridge.

492. Playing Field

Enclosed play area for younger children: Mr Guppy reported on investigations re bark /alternative surface. Recommendation is to proceed with Environmulch which is wheelchair/ pushchair friendly and compliant with current regulations – cost will be in region of £845 ex VAT if delivered in one load. Material currently in this area needs to be dug out and will be used around the older children's slide. Volunteers needed for this – Mrs Gold to approach Pre School parents and Mr Archer to investigate availability of young offenders for this task. Clerk to investigate with MDC the availability of a grant for the materials. Mr. Guppy to obtain a quote for labour. MDC have now loaned the PC fencing FOC – from 11.02.08. Boat mast is down – it was agreed that it will not be re-erected.

**ACTION: MRS GOLD/
MR ARCHER/
MR GUPPY/
CLERK**

Increased bark requirement 300ml/alternative material in open play areas – see above

Picnic bench – Caretaker will fix once above works are completed.

The remaining metal goalpost/loose pieces of goalposts

ACTION: CLERK

Hard standing – quotes in hand

ACTION: MR GUPPY

North Farnbridge Youth Football Club – Members had been copied with a list of revised fixtures plus a mini report.

ROSPA Essex inspection scheduled for May – Members authorised Clerk to book this.

ACTION: CLERK

493. 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.

My colleague and I have started the fencing project, the posts have been delivered on site and I have consulted with the adjoining land owner Mr Derek Bardwell who has kindly offered to clear around the perimeter of Cowpiece to give easier access for fencing. Further to your e-mail concerning the bridge I will remove both sides and rails and repair.

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 in the village hall car park which I have tidied up and placed in the bin, I would suggest that the car park wheelie bin could be emptied more frequently as the rubbish is being allowed to accumulate around the bin.

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

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

495. Footpath 14 - Handrail to be extended up the slope – work has been ordered and should be completed in this financial year. No change re the tenant farmer incorrectly spraying out this footpath, 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.

496. Footpath 15/New Bridleway - Re the slippery slope problem a handrail was installed (steps not possible because it is also the entrance to the bridleway). The PRoW and his contractor have visited the site on several occasions and at present there is nothing on the market which is suitable, so whilst the PRoW and his contractor will keep a look out for any new materials which may be suitable, the Clerk proposed to take this off the agenda until there is some new information. Members agreed.

497. **Footpath 20** - Two further gates have been installed along this path, a pedestrian one at the bridge and a kissing gate at the NW corner into the field. Re wet area the Clerk has investigated a diversion paid for by ECC as the owner cannot be located, but the PRow has advised that this is highly unlikely as any diversion now costs a minimum of £3145 - ECC would be looking at how often it is used - the fact that the owner is believed abroad so is not exactly unknown, and the fact that people usually walk across the field as an alternative route would all be against this as a possible solution. As with FP15 the PRow will still bear in mind the problem with this path and come back to us if a new idea is forthcoming. Clerk proposed to take this off the agenda. Members agreed. Clerk to ask PRow when cutting back will be carried out. **ACTION: CLERK**
498. **Footpath 23** - Way marking ongoing. PRow waiting to hear from P3 department at County Hall if this can be undertaken by the P3 volunteer.
499. **Footpath Maps** – Clerk to investigate availability of funding for this from P3. **ACTION: CLERK**
500. **Footpaths 23 and 24** - PRow advised after a site visit on 13th February that the ECC Contractor will replace the bridge and erect a way mark post at the beginning of the 2 paths near the nursery in new financial year. P3 will be asked if they can erect 3 way mark posts and maybe re-erect 2. There is a well sprayed out 2 metre wide diagonal path from the nursery to the bridge on FP 24 so even without the way marking, the path and route to walk is clearly visible.
501. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE** - Pending decision re revised format, minutes and news pages have been updated, other sections need updating e.g. What's On section **ACTION: CLERK**
502. **EMERGENCY PLANNING** – Mrs Garnham has advised that she has started on the book but needs a few questions answered, which will be circulated ASAP.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

503. **EALC/ETP Training Sessions** – outline details copied to Members
504. **National Association of Local Councils Conference Eastbourne 20 – 22 May 2008** – Members to advise if they wish to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE

505. **ECC - Invitation to Chelmsford Cathedral on 17th April 2008 7.30 pm for Annual Civic Service for local government** – Members to advise Clerk before 1st April they wish to attend **ACTION: MEMBERS**
506. **RCCE – Essex Village of the Year Competition** – Members advised that they would like the village to enter this. **ACTION: MEMBERS/ CLERK**
507. **CPRE Newsletter for February** - had been supplied to Members
508. **Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Services:** Local Area Agreement Consultation – Members to send Comments direct to Paul Murphy **ACTION: MEMBERS**

- 509. **M&DCVS – Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership and Health, Housing & Social Care Partnership Group** – information had been passed to members.

- 510. **Essex County Council - Public Consultation Document on the future of Adult Social Care** – Questionnaire to be completed and returned before April 2008. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**

- 511. **RCCE** - re the bid for new funding to support the local rural economy and communities in and around the Essex Coast and Estuaries. Questionnaire to be returned by 22nd February. **ACTION: PROF BARCLAY**

- 512. **EALC** re LINKS (Local Involvement Networks) newsletter and invitation to LINKS Stakeholder Conference – had been supplied to Members.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2008: Wednesdays - 5th March, 2nd April and 7th May. Provisional date discussed for the Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 23rd April 2008.

Chairman.....

Date.....