

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2009 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Plus 2 members of the public

Prior to commencement of the meeting there was a short presentation/questions re "Affordable Housing for Local People" from Moira Groborz, Rural Housing Enabler, Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). Clerk was requested to circulate the papers handed over by Mrs Groborz for inclusion as an agenda item for the March Parish Council meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

447. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from District Councillor Mr. J. Sears

448. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 14th January 2009 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Approval of Payments

449. Dave Bull general village caretaker work. Invoice No75 dated 30.01.09 £145. Cheque No. 734
450. PH Coote Limited repair to street light No.21. Invoice no.15312-25541 dated 19.01.09 £55.28 (£48.07 net). Cheque No. 735
451. Audit Commission for work on annual audit for 2007/08 Invoice No.4024820 dated 16.01.09 £155.25 (£135 net) Cheque No.736
452. Information commissioners Office Renewal of Registration re data control from 03.03.09 to 02.03.10 £35 Cheque No.737
453. Maria Dyer office expenses £20.24. Cheque No.738

454. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st Jan 2009	£	135.21
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th Jan 2009	£	396.01
Abbey as at 2 nd January 2009	<u>£</u>	<u>15,267.90</u>
	£	15,799.12

PLANNING

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

FUL/MAL/08/01164 **Cold Norton**
Construction of replacement boundary wall and gates
St Andrews Station Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091257157)
Mr & Mrs Ashworth **REFUSED**

FUL/MAL/08/01311 Cold Norton
Proposed granny annexe, alterations, additions and re-roofing of main house.
22 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JE
(UPRN - 100090555811)
Michael Ventham **APPROVED**

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

TPO/MAL/09/00029 34 St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. TPO15/96 T28 and T29 Oaks – lift crown to 4m and thin by 15-20% Week No.4 dated 23rd January 2009:

Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the works proposed to the trees as contained within the above application.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

- 457. Highways Schedule**

Pram ramps at bridge: a letter had been sent to Steve Broad. Mr Guppy outlined his conversation with Mr. Broad re next steps.

School 'Keep Clear' markings: Members were all supplied with a letter dated 21st January 2009 from ECC legal department advising order will come into effect on 30th January 2009. Regarding the upright signs already installed Members requested Clerk contact Highways re the height of the signs and their location, also advise them that the road markings are fading and need to be reinstated.

ACTION: CLERK

Planned Parish Visit – date arranged with two representatives from highways (maintenance and traffic) for 20th February 2009. Mr Guppy to supply Clerk with details of items already identified from Parish Inspection walks, for Clerk to forward to Highways in advance of the visit, together with details of items currently outstanding on the highways schedule.

**ACTION: MR GUPPY/
CLERK**

Water on Latchingdon Road near No.46 – Mr Guppy has spoken to both water companies and is now talking to highways about this problem

ACTION: MR GUPPY

Overgrown hedges – Clerk to prepare a non personalised letter for Parish Councillors to distribute as appropriate to home/land owners when out on their monthly parish inspection visits.

ACTION: CLERK

- 458. Temporary Road Closure:** Members were advised of the following: carriageway surface treatment works. B1012 Woodham Road/B1012 Lower Burnham Road/South Woodham Ferrers/Stow Maries/North Fambridge. Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th February 2009 09.30 to 15.30 hours.

- 458. Temporary Road Closure:** Members were advised of the following: carriageway surface treatment works, B1012 Lower Burnham Road/B1012 Maldon Road/North Fambridge/Purleigh/Latchingdon/Althorne/Burnham-on-Crouch. Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March 2009 09.30 to 15.30 hours.

VILLAGE HALL

- 459. Report from Parish Council Representatives:** nothing new to report - next VHMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th February 2009.

- 460. Village Hall Project:** Mr Wakeling updated Members. Clerk to liaise with Solicitors re situation regarding deeds and other legal documents/Big Lottery requirements **ACTION: CLERK**

Clerk to forward any letters received from companies/ tradesmen enquiring about work arising from the expansion and renovation works to the Architect for consideration in the tendering process.

ACTION: CLERK

461. **Proposal re new village hall:** Members were all supplied with a copy of the letter received from the Architects acknowledging the Parish Council's letter which thanked them for their Client's proposal but advised them that this proposal would not be pursued any further for many reasons including the receipt of the Lottery grant, current planning regulations and covenants on the land etc.

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

462. Graffiti at back of hall – Village Caretaker has been asked to remove this.
463. Monthly Police report for January had been supplied to Members. Members asked Clerk to ascertain why a car theft known to have occurred in the village in January was not included in this report. (NB Clerk advised members after the meeting the police response to this – it was excluded because enquiries were ongoing)
464. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** District Councillor Mr. Archer advised Members that the budget was still being worked on to keep within the 5% cap level.

OPEN SPACES

465. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Working party will be scheduled to clear brambles and 'install' a new bridge, but Mr Litscher advised that no fence panels remain at the site. **ACTION: MR LITSCHER**
466. **Playing Field:** Reseeded area in front of the remaining metal goalpost: Mr Guppy had advised the Clerk prior to the meeting that this area was now 'growing' well and that fence panels were not now required from MDC – Clerk had passed this information onto MDC
- Hole by side of hard standing – Village Caretaker has been asked to fill in as appropriate.
467. **Village Caretaker work** – report for January:
- I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall.
- In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area and tend to the roses, and I will replace from the bark mulch.
- Further to our telephone conversation I shall continue to monitor the graffiti on the village hall. The problems gaps etc. reported on the play equipment are as a result of their manufacture and feel they are not going to be easy to rectify.
- I have not been able to identify the source of the builders Rubbish.
- I hope to be able to repair the safety mat as soon as the weather improves.
- The play ground graffiti is an ongoing problem and I will continue removing it as it is reported. Broken bottles on the playing field and in the fenced play area also seem to be an ongoing problem.
468. **Trees outside village hall:** Reference the tree overhanging into home next to the village hall Mr Guppy advised that having inspected the tree on 17th January it is not necessary for the branches on the hall side to be trimmed back. At the same time it was agreed that the tree near the kitchen window should be moved. Clerk to make arrangements for this to be done. **ACTION: CLERK**

469. **Essex Tree Initiative:** Clerk to request 50 mixed native varieties for planting on Parish Council land on playing field. **ACTION: CLERK**
470. **Allotments:** Members were supplied with copy a letter from MDC dated 20th January 2009 advising that the Full Council ratified the decision to transfer ownership to CNPC. Clerk to instruct Mrs Escott to act for the Council in this matter. **ACTION: CLERK**
471. **Parish Inspection:** next one arranged for Friday 20th February 2009 (as part of the planned parish visit with highways personnel).

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

472. Members were supplied with copy of letter sent to Mr Brown prior to his departure as PRow for this district and advised that Mrs Janet Hill would temporarily be the CN PRow whilst Mr Brown's replacement completes her training.
473. **Footpaths 23 and 24:** Way marking and clearing work scheduled to be carried out by P3 in January didn't take place as the ground was frozen – it is now planned to wait until March, when ground conditions should be better.
474. **P3 Training Sessions:** Professor Barclay, Mr Litscher and Mr Hawes (CN P3 rep) booked to attend free courses In February on: Basic PRow Legislation & Enforcement, Health and Safety in the Countryside, Twig Identification and How to Design a Leaflet.
475. **STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS/RISK ASSESSMENT:** Councillors, prior to the meeting all having read the current regulations regarding the above, agreed at the meeting that no changes needed to be made with the exception that a condition should be added to the Risk Assessment to state that:

Any work undertaken by Councillors personally should be carried out with due diligence in respect of health and safety rules and regulations.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS.

476. **Mid Essex PCT: Community Workshop for Dengie Area** – “A Review of Community and Primary Care Provision “ on Tuesday 17th February 2009 1.00pm to 3.30pm. No one available to attend.
477. **Stow Airfield:** Members were advised that there will be a presentation from the new owner re restoration proposals for this site on Thursday 19th February 2009 at Smythe Hall from 9am to 6pm.
478. **ECC Chairman of the Council:** Invitation to a Civic Service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Thursday 26th March 2009 at 7.30pm, RSVP by 2nd March 2009. Members to reply individually.

CORRESPONDENCE

479. **ECC: Speed Management Strategy Consultation 2009:** Members may submit comments individually by 13th February 2009.

480. **RCCE: Essex Best Green Village 2009:** Mr Guppy offered to review the entry form to ascertain if Cold Norton should enter this competition (close date is 24th April, 2009.)
ACTION: MR GUPPY
481. **ECC letter dated 28th January 2009 received 4th February 2009 from Charlotte Humphreys, Sustainable Travel Manager.** Clerk handed out copies of this letter and advised that there was no record of the letter of 25th November mentioned inviting comments of the draft Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy for Schools and Colleges – as this could not be left to the next PC meeting (response needed by 11th February) it was agreed that the Chairman would review and respond if appropriate.
ACTION: CLERK
482. **The Ramblers letter dated 2nd February 2009:** invitation to the Essex Area Ramblers Assoc AGM at Stock Village Hall on 7th February 2009 10am to 1pm with a speaker from the Ramblers Assoc, Adrian Morris, Head of Rights of Way. Noted by Members.
483. **RCCE 2009 Calor Best Kept Village of the Year:** Members advised that they did wish for the village to be entered. Clerk to complete the forms etc by the closing date of 31st March 2009.
ACTION: CLERK
484. **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.)
Mr Archer advised brief details of a recent meeting between the RSPB and Crossrail regarding Wallasey Island.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2009: Wednesday 4th March, 1st April, 13th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2009

Annual General Meeting will be held prior to ordinary meeting scheduled for 13th May 2009.

Chairman.....

Date.....