

# COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

### THOSE PRESENT:

### Councillors:

Mrs. A. Allen  
Mr. J. Archer  
Prof. L. Barclay  
Mrs. S. Garnham  
Mrs. G. Gold (Chairman)  
Mr. C. Litscher  
Mr. P. Wakeling

**In attendance:** Mr. L. Cooper (District Councillor)  
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

559. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – there were no absences

560. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

### FINANCE

#### Payments

561. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice No. 44 dated 28.02.07 £135 Cheque No. 479  
562. MAIA Services for updating two pages on the web site (approved minutes for January and report from February meeting) Invoice no. 050207-1 dated 05.03.07 £17.62 (£15 net) Cheque No. 480  
563. BT Village Hall Payphone Invoice No.QO26&H dated 12.02.07 £41.19 (£35.05 net) Cheque No. 481  
564. Winstonmead 3 x black ink cartridges for printer and 1 x toner for photocopier Invoice No.1/IB5360 £42.25 (£35.96 net) Cheque No. 482  
565. M. Dyer office expenses £28.31 Cheque No. 483  
566. PWLB Reference 320 07310 £1230.53 direct debit will be processed 20.03.07  
567. Village Hall Management Committee invoice dated 28.02.07 – hire of committee room for meetings Nov 06 to Feb 07 inclusive 8 hours £27.60 Cheque No. 484  
568. E-on Energy: street lighting for February 2007 invoice no. 134895205 dated 02.03.07 direct debit will be processed 24.03.07 £39.10 (£37.24)

569. **Financial Statement**

#### Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 <sup>st</sup> February	£	125.38
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 <sup>th</sup> February	£	3,123.76
Abbey as at 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2007	£	<u>1,565.68</u>
	£	4,814.82

570. **Dave Bull** - Estimate for fencing (labour only) at Cowpiece £ 216. Members requested that Clerk approach the Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Services reference their letter looking for projects for Bradwell work force – see minute 610.

571. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils: request to consider funding a bus service** – Clerk to advise that as budgets had already been set for the coming financial year unable to contribute, but to also write to ECC Transport requesting this service is financed by them.

**ACTION: CLERK**

572. **THE PARISH COUNCIL'S APPLICATION TO THE BIG LOTTERY COMMUNITY BUILDINGS PROGRAMME, VILLAGE HALL PROJECT, QUESTION 3.6. "PROJECT FUNDING"**. To consider approval of inclusion of the sum of £20,000 within the list of sources of funding contained in the response to that question – Members agreed in principle to a contribution from the Parish Council of the £20,000 proposed (via a PWLB and funds saved) based on the current figures. Members wanted recorded their thanks to Mrs. Mary Bryant and Mr. Roger Hawes for their hard work on this project.
573. **Bradley Faulkner Ground Maintenance** – quotation for coming year approved, with exception of figure for hedge cutting, which will be decided in October/November
574. **Audit Commission** – extension of appointment of current external auditor, Lubbock Fine, proposed – Members advised their content with the Commission's proposal.

## PLANNING

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

**ECC/MAL/07/00043 Cold Norton**  
 Installation of a temporary single storey relocatable classroom unit with toilet facilities  
 Cold Norton County Primary School 2 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex  
 (UPRN - 200000918572)  
 Essex County Council **NO OBJECTIONS**

**FUL/MAL/06/01377 Cold Norton**  
 Extend conservatory and provide decking for additional seating for public house  
 The Norton 54 Latchingdon Road Cold Norton Essex  
 (UPRN - 100091446524)  
 Tim Emery-King **APPROVED**

**TPO/MAL/06/01304 Cold Norton**  
 Fell Oak tree to ground level and treat stump  
 Sylvanus 13 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex  
 (UPRN - 100090555801)  
 Mr Harding **APPROVED**

**FUL/MAL/07/00046 Cold Norton**  
 Single storey side, rear and front extensions  
 38 Greentrees Avenue Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JA  
 (UPRN - 100090554889)  
 Mr and Mrs Wiseman **APPROVED**

Members expressed their shock at the decision made to allow the felling of the tree reference application TPO/MAL/06/01304 and requested Clerk writes to MDC **ACTION: CLERK**

Members requested that the subject of TPOs be included on the agenda for the next meeting **ACTION: CLERK**

Members requested that Clerk contact MDC re the 'shed' at Palepit Farm **ACTION: CLERK**

576. **Planning Applications received by the Parish Council** – there were no planning applications to be considered at this meeting.
577. **ECC Town & Country Planning Act 1990 - Cold Norton Primary School Installation of temporary relocatable classroom for five years - permission granted.**
578. **MDC Consultation Period on Planning Applications:** Members had been advised that in future the Parish Council must respond within the 21 day period allowed for its views to be considered as part of the decision making process. (i.e. no time extensions will in future be granted). Duly noted.

## HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

### 579. Pedestrian Crossing/VAS Signs

Highways have now witnessed for themselves problem with VAS sign activated by traffic going in opposite direction and also the problem with the Crown Road VAS sign, which is 'selective' about when it operates i.e. will flash at 30 mph and below and then not at higher speeds. Matter is being taken up with manufacturer.

### 580. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge - Scheduled to be carried out in first quarter of new financial year

Drain at top of Station Crescent and drains outside school and opposite No.7 St. Stephens Road – to be discussed at site meeting with Highways on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March and investigate other areas needing attention – Professor Barclay and Mr Archer to attend this meeting.

Drain opposite coal yard – Highways organising for contractor to return and carry out this work

Subsidence at sides of St. Stephens Road – work scheduled for new financial year

New signs Farnbridge Road/St. Stephens Road - Highways investigating what has happened to signs that had been designed

Overgrowing vegetation on footways between Cold Norton and Stow Maries. Awaiting confirmation that work has been carried out.

Potholes on bridge - Scheduled for action in April.

### 581. Temporary Road Closure - Steeple Road, Latchingdon for 5 days commencing 07.00 hours Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March until 19.00 hours Friday 30<sup>h</sup> March for 24 hour closure – noted.

### 582. Construction traffic for proposed wind farm: correspondence received from Councillor Helm and BATTLE – following discussion Members requested Clerk write to advise preference for water or rail transport to be used/opposition to road traffic of this volume/size through the Dengie, but advising that the proposed route bypasses most of this Parish Council's area.

### 583. Street Lights – switching off trials: Work is due to start installing time switches on 4<sup>th</sup> March. No of lights excluded from trials increased to 5 (list had been supplied to Members). Still awaiting date when trials will commence.

## VILLAGE HALL

### 584. Report from Parish Council Representatives: advised that the last VHMC meeting was well attended and plans are well under way for a fund raising Train Event in June

### 585. Village Hall Project: re kitchen – members had been supplied with a breakdown of costs; new badminton cupboard still to be fitted and snagging problems still to be attended to. Re extension – planning approval now received, Members had been supplied with a copy of the approval paper and conditions attached to it.

### 586. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS – no Police report

### 587. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – members were advised that the Council Tax increase for the coming year is 3 1/2% over last year, District Councillor Archer plans to stand in the coming elections, but District Councillor Cooper advised he will not be standing in the District elections. Members thanked District Councillor Cooper for his contribution to the Parish over the years.

## OPEN SPACES

### 588. Cowpiece Nature Reserve – see minute no. 570 re fencing quote/volunteer labour

- 589. Playing Field** – members agreed to ROSPA inspection being carried out in May at a cost of £166 ex VAT, which includes inspection of pond at Cowpiece
- 590. Village Caretaker work** – report as follows:  
 Cow Piece Nature Reserve - I have replaced tree guards, cleared fallen branches etc as necessary.  
 I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall. I am painting and preserving the playground equipment and fences as weather permits, including plans to refurbish and paint the small tower-slide where the steps have started to give way.  
 I am pleased to report that there has been no damage since my last report.  
 Further to the report on the playground and equipment I shall take steps to comply with its findings. I wonder if there has been any resolution on the depth of bark chippings.  
 I shall continue replacing the small trees in the playing field that were vandalised in the early spring.  
 In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area. I was pleased to see that the contractors have almost completed the installation of new style, fence and gate.  
 I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge and remove any litter and continue with the leaf sweeping  
 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 will continue with my usual work for the Parish Council please let me know if there is any particular aspect of my work that the Parish Council wishes me to attend to.  
 Members requested Clerk include in report in The Beacon request for rubbish not to be dumped in village hall car park. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 591. Allotments** – Mrs Garnham advised that 6 plots have been taken and that management of the allotments reverts back to the PC from the PCT in October 2007.

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

- 592. Ferris Avenue Path:** Number of forms returned to date remains at eleven.
- 593. Footpath 3:** PRoW consulting with Purleigh PC re barrier the end of this footpath which at Hackmans Lane end is Purleigh footpath13/14. Clerk to follow up. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 594. Footpath 13 (Golf Course):** Style of new gate still to be agreed with golf club.
- 595. Footpath 14:** possible rerouting, alternative approach still to be broached with landowner. Re dog fouling/dog control – Clerk to arrange for information supplied by PRoW, and copied to members, be published in The Beacon and placed on notice boards. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 596. Footpath 15/New Bridleway:** Churning up of the slope still a problem – suitable material still being investigated. Re problem for walkers on bridleway: PRoW will look at improving the surface of main bridleway when the weather improves and the ground is drier.
- 597. Footpath 19 (and 14):** New gates installed, but gate at Burnham Road may have to be repositioned – also another plank needs to be added to bridge in the corner (coming from Burnham Road).
- 598. Footpath 23:** Clerk had been advised earlier in the week by a resident that the new wooden fingerpost installed at the St. Stephens Road end of this footpath was not secure. PRoW advised that it has now been secured, but will also be cemented ASAP.

599. **Footpath Map:** will form part of P3 partnership activities
600. **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3):** Still trying to find a mutually convenient date for meeting to discuss next step.
601. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE:** awaiting figures/review/recommendations. Clerk to follow up with web site manager. **ACTION: CLERK**
602. **Freedom of Information** **ACTION: PROF BARCLAY/ CLERK**
603. **Emergency Planning-** Mrs Garnham took away file to review what is required. Clerk to check if second file is also to be required for MDC. **ACTION: MRS GARNHAM/ CLERK**
604. **Mobile Library Service:** revised timetable (fortnightly visits) will commence w/c 2nd July

#### CORRESPONDENCE

605. **PCT Mid Essex** – details of a new service called PALS – noted
606. **CPRE February newsletter** – supplied to Members
607. **MDC Letter re 'rough sleepers'** – Members advised not aware of any in this area
608. **Chelmsford BC: Town Centre Area Action Plan: Alternative Sites Consultation** – Members supplied with details of how to view and advised consultation period closes on 5<sup>th</sup> April at 4.45 pm - noted
609. **East Essex Transport Forum** – minutes from meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January/next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April - noted
610. **Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Service (MDCVS)** – looking for projects for various groups to assist - noted see minute No.570
611. **MDCVS** – AGM 21<sup>st</sup> March/request for trustees - noted
612. **ECC via EALC** – case studies required re campaigning – noted
613. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils** – next meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm. Mr. Litscher to attend.
614. **MDC** – District & Parish Elections 3<sup>rd</sup> May – timetable noted (current Councillors stand down on 8<sup>th</sup> May)

- 615. **ECC – Essex Rail Seminar 2007:** request for items for discussion/topic areas. Clerk to put forward topics as raised by Members **ACTION: CLERK**
  
- 616. **Tesco – Invitation to Planning Proposal Evening Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Maldon Town Hall.** Mr. Archer to attend. **ACTION: CLERK**
  
- 617. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** condition of tarmac on footway near Station Road - Prof Barclay and Mr Archer to discuss with Highways at forthcoming site meeting. Grassed area at top of Greentrees Avenue to be put on agenda for next meeting.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2007: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) set for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 8 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....