

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH 2008 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Plus 5 Members of the Public

513. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** had been received from Professor Barclay

514. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 13th February 2008 were approved and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

515. Dave Bull general village caretaker work Invoice No. 61 dated 28.02.08 £135 Cheque No. 636
516. Dale Hire Fencing from 01.02.08 to 11.02.08 Invoice No.CH148889 dated 12.02.08 £91.37 (£77.76 net) Cheque No. 637
517. BT Village Hall Pay Phone Invoice No. QO30HA dated 13.03.08 £48.09 (£42.04 net) Cheque No. 638
518. Public Works Loan Board Reference 320 07310 £1,177.88 will be taken by direct debit on 20.03.08
519. Maria Dyer office expenses £21.02 (£20.87 net) Cheque No. 639
520. E-on Energy Street lighting for February 2008 Invoice No. H63D5B412 dated 03.03.08 £38.54 (£36.70 net) will be taken buy direct debit on 13.03.08
521. Inland Revenue Tax/NI to 05.04.08 £45.92 Cheque No. 640.

522. Financial Statement

Current balances:

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

PLANNING

523. **Maldon District Council Decisions:** there were no decisions made relating to Cold Norton.

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

FUL/MAL/08/00202 The Birches, Cherry Blossom Lane. Continued storage of scaffolding (renewal of planning permission FUL/MAL/03/00052). Week No.7 dated 15th February 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/08/00237 Pendragon, 12 St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. TPO 15/96 fell and replace T51 Pine, fell and replace T52 Weeping Willow Week No 8 dated 22nd February 2008:

With reference to the above application requesting planning permission to fell two trees in St. Stephens Road, the Parish Councillors for Cold Norton are generally against any trees being removed in St. Stephens Road; however, in this case, given the nature of the data contained within the report accompanying the application, the Councillors will be guided by The Tree Officer at Maldon District Council, who is more technically equipped with regards to the information provided by OCA in the report, as to the best course of action for these two trees, and, should The Tree Officer recommend felling, to likewise recommend the most suitable and appropriate replacements.

FUL/MAL/08/00224 Bencott, Newport Avenue, Cold Norton. Detached triple garage with domestic storage over. Week No. 9 dated 29th February 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 village development boundary
- The plans are proposing a development of substantial size

525 Head of Planning - East of England Regional Assembly: RSS Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England. It was agreed that Members would consider and discuss at the next meeting. **ACTION: ALL MEMBERS**

526. MDC Notice of Appeal reference 1 and 2 White Acres, Crown Road, Cold Norton
Appeal reference No. APP/X/1545/A/072053164/NWF. Planning Application FUL/MAL/07/00412 Demolish existing two dwellings and build one x new 5 bed dwelling and one x new 4 bed dwelling (resubmission of FUL/MAL/07/00084). Members were advised that the hearing is due to be held on 19th March 2008 10am at MDC Council offices – duly noted.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

527. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge – no change to information already supplied i.e. will not be actioned until new financial year.

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue. No change to information supplied i.e. will be implemented in new financial year.

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – carriageway markings now completed. Some of the upright signs obscured by hedgerows landowners to be asked to trim back. Plus still need to contact Highways re any other measure re e-mail discussed last month.

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – highways are now arranging for this to be trimmed back which will be carried out before nesting starts

Fence outside school/gap – school/PTA to advise if this is how it is going to remain.

Footway just over bridge cracking also near Country Produce – will be actioned in new financial year.

Tarmac near the kerb at Clarke Rise is 'churned up' – has been reported to highways who are sending a technician to review (highways reference No. 1814128)

VILLAGE HALL

528. Report from Parish Council Representatives: Mrs McDonald reported that the VHMC had discussed the proposal received for a new village hall and that the main objections related to the proposed site as it was outside the main area of the village – felt it should be in the centre and there was great concern re the narrowness of the footway to the proposed site/safety aspects re children walking to the site.

529. Village Hall Project: Mr Wakeling updated the Members re the second phase of the lottery grant application:

- Mr Hawes is preparing the business plan, scheduled for completion by the end of March
- Harvey, Escott, &Co. Solicitors have been appointed/briefed re the legal work that needs to be completed for the Lottery application
- Re building the architect is revising plans as required and organising technical feasibility studies etc

Mr Wakeling thanked Mr Hawes and for all his work to date.

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

530. Graffiti – Old Fire Station Dear Dolly Site: Clerk has spoken to the company who owns the site, who advised they will rectify ASAP

531. Villager Crime Report for February: two incidents advised by PCSO Butler: one involving an abandoned vehicle and the other involving a male jumping over gates of a property in Latchingdon Road - when units checked he had lost power to gates and in order to get in he had to jump it.

532. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: District Councillor Archer updated Members on a recent presentation regarding Bradwell 2, The Norton planning application appeal, and £200,000 held in reserves which the 31 parishes in the district may apply for.

OPEN SPACES

533. Cowpiece Nature Reserve: Landowner has requested a site visit to establish boundary lines etc before any digging /fencing commences. Clerk to supply plans to Mr Litscher who will meet with the landowner.

**ACTION: MR LITSCHER/
CLERK**

534. Playing Field

Enclosed play area for younger children: working parties organised to remove old bark and install new. Members approved the quote of £845 ex VAT for the cushionfall and will reimburse cost of refreshments for the volunteers.

Hard standing – Mr Guppy advised that two companies had now agreed to quote for this job – written quotes awaited.

ACTION: MR GUPPY

535. 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.

I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge, remove any litter and clear away the fallen leaves.

Further to the reports of rats at Cowpiece these are the Common or Brown Rat (*Rattus Norvegicus*) and can be partly controlled by poisoning and shooting; in open areas this is always futile as new rats always move in.

There has been further dumping of rubbish bags and garden rubbish in the village hall car park which I have tidied up and placed in the bin, (grass clippings and weeds.)

I shall contact the Bardwells again to arrange a start date for the Cowpiece fencing work.

I have read your e mail concerning the bridge repair and will assist as required.

- 536. Tree Planting:** reference offer by ECC members requested Clerk contact the school to advise them of the offer of trees in this are, and to put forward the request to ECC for the area on Latchingdon Road opposite Palepitt Farm to be considered for planting and for a selection of 20 (mixed varieties) be supplied to the PC for planting up around the village.
- 537.** Dog Waste bin at bend of St. Stephens Road has been taken out of the ground – Village Caretaker has been requested to see if this is a job he can undertake.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- 538 Footpath 14:** Handrail has now been extended up the slope. 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. PRow advised 04.03.08 that a temporary 'End of Public Right of Way' sign was delivered to the landowner which he will erect himself and that it will be officially way marked in the new financial year.
- 539. Footpath 20:** Cutting back will commence mid April.
- 540. Footpaths 23 and 24:** Way marking ongoing. PRow had been asked to look at the 'plantation' area near the pond where it is difficult to pass. PRow advised 04.03.08 that he has cut back and in some cases cut off the 'offending' branches to just above head height (some were already dead).
- 541. EMERGENCY PLANNING:** Mrs Garnham had submitted a number of questions re the preparation of the book. Members discussed, Clerk to advise Mrs Garnham accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

- 542. RCCE Plugging In conference 12th March 9.30 am to 4pm in Witham** (Special price places for PC Members of £25 instead of £100/£50) – no one available to attend.
- 543. MDC Local Strategic Partnership:** Monday 17th March 11.30 am – 3 pm at Three Rivers Country Club – Mr Archer and Mr Litscher to attend (NB Professor Barclay advised after meeting that he would also attend).
ACTION: CLERK
- 544. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils** – quarterly meeting on 19th March in Althorne 7.30pm. Mr. Guppy to attend.
ACTION: MR GUPPY
- 545 Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Service AGM** – Thursday 17th April 2008 4 pm - noted
- 546. EALC** – Short Course for Councillors Monday 30th June 6.30 – 8.30 pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge. Clerk to look into contents of this versus the course already attended by Mrs McDonald and Mr Guppy.
ACTION: CLERK

CORRESPONDENCE

- 547. **NATS:** relating to the new proposals re air space above this area. Leaflet and press clipping had been supplied to all Members. Members advised that they would visit the website and discuss at the next meeting. **ACTION: MEMBERS**

- 548. **Chelmsford Borough Council – Local Development Framework – Adoption of the Core Strategy and Development control Policies Development Plan document** – Adoption Statement details had been supplied to Members. Noted.

- 549. **ECC – Changes to concessionary Bus Passes in Essex from 1st April 2008:** details had been supplied to Members. Mr Archer advised he would attend the next Parish Passenger Transport Representative Meeting in Maldon on Tuesday 13th May 2 pm. **ACTION: MR ARCHER**

- 550. **Local Community Liaison Council letter dated 27th February 2008:** Notification of next meeting to liaise and inform on matters arising from the operation of Bradwell Reactor Site – Wednesday 19th March 2008 in Mundon. This meeting will look at the proposed Dissolution Plant at Bradwell and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's 3 Year Draft Business Plan. No one available to attend (NB Professor Barclay contacted after meeting, but he was also unable to attend - Clerk has requested minutes from meeting)

- 551. **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.)

Members were advised that the lights in the new car park area at Three Rivers are being left on all night. Clerk to contact the General Manager **ACTION: CLERK**

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2008: Wednesdays - 2nd April and 7th May, 4th June
Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 30th April 2008.

Chairman..... Date.....