

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL 2006 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

Prior to the meeting Mrs Garnham had declared an interest in planning application FUL/MAL/06/00327 9A St. Stephens Road,

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Prof. L. Barclay
2. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 8th March 2006 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

3. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice dated 5th April 2006 £238.25 (for work in March) NB cheque No. 380 made out for £233.25 as the bark which Mr. Bull purchased from Mayflower Nursery for the playground only cost £85 instead of the £90 for which cheque No.368 had been made out for, (approved see minute no.445) so as the PC does not operate a petty cash system the £5 change Mr Bull had given to the clerk will be used to pay part of Mr. Bull's invoice
4. Essex Wildlife Trust membership renewal from 30th April 2006 £35 cheque No. 381
5. Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) annual subscription 2006/7 £228.35 cheque No. 382
6. Ramblers Association Membership renewal April 06 to March 07 £24 cheque No. 383
7. Allianz Cornhill renewal of insurance policy from 1st June 2006 £953.91 cheque No. 384
8. M. Dyer office expenses £67.92 (£58.69 net) cheque No. 385
9. M. Dyer car expenses to/from full day training course on Saturday 18th March 2006. NB there was no fee for the course. Claim is for 13 miles in own car to/from St. John's Church Hall in Danbury (13 x 52.7p per mile) £6.85 cheque No. 386.
10. Inland Revenue reference tax and NI for four months to March 2006 £20.88 cheque. No. 379.
11. e-on electricity March 06 inv.no.102366421 £39.10 (£37.24 net) direct debit 12/4/06

12. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st April	£	121.30
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17th March	£	9,597.52
Abbey as at 1 st April 2006	£	<u>2,591.23</u>
	£	12,310.05

13. **The J's charity** – request dated 15th March 2006. Members requested that the Clerk advise this charity that the PC is unable to help at this time, but to wish them luck in their project.
ACTION: CLERK
14. **The Ramblers Association:** assistance with legal cases. Unable to help with this particular request. Clerk to reply.
ACTION: CLERK
15. **Grass cutting:** Clerk had advised that three companies had been approached last year for quotes and that the company awarded the business had advised the clerk that the price quoted last year would be held for this year. As Mr Faulkner had been the cheapest last year it was agreed that his company should be retained for this year. Clerk also advised that Mr. Faulkner had already done the

March cut; pending a decision as otherwise it would be a difficult cut next time, whoever was awarded the year's contract.

ACTION: CLERK

16. Certificate for Mrs Bryant in recognition of her years as Clerk to Cold Norton PC

Clerk advised that cost of certificate will be £40 excluding delivery.

Mrs Garnham's suggested wording for the scroll:

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL (Heading)

The Council and people of Cold Norton wish to record their appreciation and gratitude to Mary Bryant on the occasion of her retirement, in recognition of her sterling and dedicated service to the community, whilst serving as Clerk to Cold Norton Parish Council from 1989 to 2005

..... (Parish Council Chairman)

It was agreed to proceed with the wording as above.

ACTION: CLERK

PLANNING

17. Maldon District Council Decisions

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

TPO/MAL/04/01010 Cold Norton
E1/X1545/05/04/12
Wyvern House, 29A St Stephens Road, Cold Norton, Essex, CM3 6JE
Fell two oak trees
Appeal by Margaret MacQueen, OCA UK Ltd
APPEAL DISMISSED
30 August 2005 (decision only recently received)

FUL/MAL/06/00064 Cold Norton
Repositioning of Front Boundary Fence.
Hawthorns Victoria Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091446747)
Mr M Heady **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/01376 Cold Norton
Single Storey Link and Use of Existing Outbuilding for Residential Accommodation for Special Family Needs with Provision of Dormer Windows.
Little Canneys Stow Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091446664)
Mr & Mrs Everett **REFUSED**

ENF/1208/25/05
APP/X1545/C/05/2005535 & APP/X1545/C/05/2005539
Land rear of The Poppets, 30A Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, CM3 6JG
Appeal against Enforcement Notice: the unauthorised erection of a summerhouse and large shed.
Appeal By: Mr. M and Mrs. S Payne
APPEAL WITHDRAWN
9 March 2006

ENF/1190/07/05
APP/X1545/C/05/2002813
Land at Stow Bullocks, Stow Road, Cold Norton, Essex, CM3 6RS
Appeal against Enforcement Notice: without planning permission the erection of a garden wall and railings
Appeal by Mr. N Nunney
APPEAL DISMISSED AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE UPHELD WITH A VARIATION
27 March 2006

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

At this point Mrs Garnham having declared an interest in the following planning application handed over to Mr. J. Archer to chair the meeting and took no part in the decision relating to this particular application

FUL/MAL/06/00327 9A St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Works to oak tree: reduce strong shoots up to crown and reduce crown to previous pruning points. Week No.11 dated 16th March 2006

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed works contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application.

FUL/MAL/06/00301 22 Station Crescent, Cold Norton. Replacement front boundary fence Week No. 11 dated 16th March 2006.

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed works contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application.

FUL/MAL/06/00182 Great Canney House, Hackmans Lane, Purleigh. Rooms in roof space, single storey extension and balcony. Week No.11 dated 16th March 2006

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development in the above application to be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT. Reasons are as follows:

- The proposed development is outside the village envelope
- The proposed development is far too large

FUL/MAL/06/00356 Norton Hall Cottages, 51 St. Stephen Road, Cold Norton. Erection of annex to existing dwelling and repositioning of access. Week No.12 dated 23/3/06.

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed works contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application.

CC/MAL/56/06 Cold Norton Primary School, St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Retention of a relocatable classroom until December 2007 without complying with condition 5 (time limit) attached to planning permission CC/MAL/19/01.

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposal contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that the County Council should APPROVE the application.

19. **Three Rivers:** lights in car park. Clerk had been advised by MDC Planning that lights on trees do not require planning permission. If concern is for the trees can ask MDC to look into, but this is not a conservation area. No further action required at present.
20. **Land to rear of The Poppets, 30A Latchingdon Road, cold Norton Enforcement ref ENF/1208/25/05 Appeal ref APP/X1545/C/05/2005535 & APP/X1545/C/05/2005539.** Appeal withdrawn and enforcement notice now taken effect
21. **The Old Fire Station** – Clerk had received a phone call from the owner of a neighbouring property concerned that no work has started on this site, also that recently it was used by the workmen replacing the sewer pipes and was asking if the PC was concerned that nothing has yet happened and that the 'building' site is such an eyesore. Clerk had advised the PC Members that she had spoken to MDC planning and this planning application was given the go ahead on 1/3/04 and is valid for 5 years. (Clerk also advised the following information: applications now being granted are no longer given five years to complete, this has been reduced to three years). PC Members advised that therefore there is nothing the PC can do; also the site is now contained by the fencing panels, so the site is not visible from the road. Clerk to reply.
ACTION: CLERK
22. **Toad Hall, Station Road, Cold Norton FUL/MAL/05/0120** Replacement garaging with store/workshop and WC with games room over Appeal Ref APP/X1545/A/06/2008140/NWF – Members had been advised of the notice of appeal and asked if there was anything additional the Members wished to add to their original reasons for recommendation refusal to this planning application, which were:
- The proposed development is outside the village development boundary

- The scale is too large: the proposed development is far too big, to the extent that it looks like a house and not a replacement garage
- It is an application for a substantial building, which is a bulking up of the mass on the very edge of the village and would be visually intrusive

Members advised no further comments to be added.

23. **Palepit Farm** – it was noted that there was substantial site to the 'barns' currently being erected on this site. Mrs Allen offered to speak to Planning/Enforcement Officer. **ACTION: MRS ALLEN**

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

24. **Pedestrian Crossing** - Belisha Beacons are now hooded. Awaiting revised schedule now that sewage works are complete.

25. **Highways Schedule**

Siding back to Country Produce – scheduled for this month

Station Road entrance onto Latchingdon Road - reported by Mr Mead and should be carried out in April - the dropped kerb needs widening – 3 dropped kerbs at moment, will be increased to 5/6. PC Members expressed concern about this work –widening a country lane, which is unnecessary and will be using money which could be allocated to other jobs which have been on the schedule for some time and have still to be done. Clerk to write to Highways. **ACTION: CLERK**

Pram ramps at bridge – Highways officer chasing Safety Report.

Drain outside school – still blocked - will be jetted again

New Farm branches overhanging footway - awaiting information from new Clerk at Stow. Members advised that this property is owned by Mr. Nunney.

Water on Latchingdon Road – the jetting that was done hasn't cured the problem, so Rob Venables is arranging for the system to be camera surveyed and is going to request that the water board revisit. In addition he is passing on the information given to him by the Clerk re the 'leaks' in gardens in the front garden of Nos. 9 and 15 Latchingdon. No. 15 apparently had the water board along at Christmas and whatever they did it partially cured the problem, but not completely.

School Sign outside 44 Latchingdon Road – word version remains/graphic sign is now missing – reported to Highways who will organise a replacement.

Drain at the corner of The Fairways is also blocked.

ACTION: CLERK

26. **Fambridge Road:** two letters had been received from Cold Norton residents concerned with the 60 mph speed limit on one section of the road. This has been the topic of discussion in the past and the PC has tried to get this section changed to be in line with the other three approaches to Palepit roundabout. Clerk to advise the Residents that the PC will continue to campaign for a reduction in the speed limit. **ACTION: CLERK**

27. **Public Transport Consultation** – PC Members agreed to this proceeding on Wednesday 26th April 3.45 pm to 7 pm in the Village Hall. Notification will be on the reverse of the notice of the APM, which will be delivered to all homes in the village. Mrs Allen offered to help **ACTION: MRS ALLEN**

28. **Cars parked on the corner of Clarke Rise** – A member of Disabled club which meets in the village hall each week had advised a member of the PC that cars often park on this corner across the dropped kerb, which forces motorised /wheelchair users onto the main road. It was agreed to put notices through all doors in the road. But following the meeting it was agreed that a request would be put into The Beacon instead.

VILLAGE HALL

29. **Report from Parish Council Representatives.**

Clerk had advised that a copy of the Public Entertainment Licence was available for Members to read. The VHMC now have a new Chairman, namely Paul Guppy. Fund raising programme in hand.

30. **Village Hall Project**

A successful grant application: Essex Environment Trust has offered £6,046 towards the kitchen refurbishment. Papers need to be completed and returned before Friday 28th April. Clerk stressed the

need for all publicity to be approved by the EET before release to the media.

It was agreed that the additional costs incurred through WPP, approx 1 ½ hours @ £45 per hour plus VAT. (Approx £80) should be paid out of VHMC funds.

ACTION: CLERK

31. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

Mrs Garnham advised that new policing in the Dengie area will consist of a team of one sergeant, one Community Police Support Officer and 3 Police Constables. Mrs Allen will report on this is The Beacon, together with details of recent robbery in the village and advise on home safety.

ACTION: MRS ALLEN

Members were advised that Lord Hanningfield has written to Charles Clarke expressing opposition to the plans to merge Essex Police with the forces in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Mrs Garnham offered to write on behalf of the PC.

ACTION: MRS GARNHAM

32. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

New system for dealing with customer enquiries and phone calls at MDC now fully operational.

At Promenade Park the lake has reopened, the galleon is nearly complete, should be ready for Easter weekend, with the water area scheduled to open in May.

The Oak Meadow play ground near Tesco has been well received and well used by children.

Steve Watson is restructuring staff at MDC; details should be released within the next few weeks.

OPEN SPACES

33. Cowpiece Nature Reserve – following discussion it was decided not to take up the kind offer of the creation of a small car parking area made by the nearby land owner.

34. Playing Field – it was decided not to proceed with erecting a handrail at the entrance.

The VHMC had asked the PC to consider whether the playing field may be used for a car boot sale as a village hall project fund raising activity. It was decided that due to the proximity of the entrance to the children's play equipment, the fact that cars would have to drive across the hard standing and the possible damage to the field, which had been the subject of extensive and expensive works to make it playable, it was decided that a car boot sale could not be held on the field.

PC Members had been supplied with copies of correspondence re Junior Football. Clerk advised that no reply had been received to the latest e-mail; PC Members advised that there were no further questions to be raised other than those awaiting a response. Clerk to follow up.

ACTION: CLERK

35. Village Caretaker work - report as follows:

With regard the bark chippings, these were delivered last week; I have spread them mainly near gate to prevent the young children's play area becoming boggy round the entrance. Please advise if you wish me to purchase any further bark chippings for ongoing maintenance of these play areas.

I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall. I have painted all the fences round the playground in 2 coats of decorative wood preservative.

I have made arrangements for the removal of the broken goal post, and will shortly be renovating the fixed goal post.

With regard to the concrete pathway from the field gate down into the playing field, last month I provided you with an estimate for the cost, and await the decision of the PC before commencing any works.

I have commenced refurbishment and rubbing down the paint-work of the play equipment, and will be some of the play apparatus.

I will do the benches and the rest of the play equipment after the school holidays are over so avoid inconvenience to the families.

I am pleased to report no evidence of any significant vandalism this month although I have had to remove several pieces of wood smashed beyond repair, and again, will replace them once the children are returned to school.

In Cowpiece Nature reserve I continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. I plan to paint the benches this month, and to engage the labour to clear the pond now the weather is suitable for the task.

In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area, will preserve the bench wood this month and give the roses their seasonal attention.

I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge and remove any litter.

I will proceed with the work on the notice boards and keep you informed regarding any need for access.

I will continue with my usual work for the Parish Council and await your approval to proceed with 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.

Caretaker to be asked to look at the gate to the field and also to the gate to the under 5's play area.

ACTION: CLERK

36. **Allotments** - Mrs Garnham has sorted out a plumber to assist with the installation of water on the site.

Regarding the trees on 'no man's land' PC Members requested that Mr. Nisbet /tree officer ascertain the situation re TPOs.

ACTION: CLERK

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

37. **Ferris Avenue Path - Six** completed forms returned to date, plus three further requests for forms received.

38. **Footpath 14 (section across road from church)**

Dog waste bin – it will not be possible to site the bin on the field and it cannot be attached to the front of the staggered barrier. A visit is needed to ascertain where would be suitable, plus consultation with regular dog walkers.

ACTION: CLERK

39. **Footpath 19**

Clerk advised misunderstanding from last conversation with landowner, apparently he did reseed it earlier in the year, but it failed. More seed has been ordered and when this 'takes' will be rerolled. Landowner advised that the path is usable and that he has seen walkers using this footpath recently.

40. **Footpath 20**

Ownership details of field still being sought by Mr Archer.

Re the problem re the 'electric' fence at the other end of this footpath, the following report had been received from Chris Brown: I visited Public Footpath 20 Cold Norton. Although there was an electric fence going partially across this field, I can inform you there was no current passing through this section of fencing (although you probably were not to know that as it is not something you would 'try out'). The electrified fence was NOT across the definitive line of the Public Footpath. The rope going across the actual definitive line of the footpath has no current running through it and has handles on it which allows access thereby not creating an obstruction.

41. **Purleigh footpath 13**

Stile was removed on 9th March, plus top and middle rail of fence have been removed; the landowner has been contacted again to remove the lower rail

42. **Footpath Map**

ACTION: MRS GARNHAM

43. **New bridleway** - Mr Brown still to meet with landowners.

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

Pram/wheelchair friendly kissing gate to be installed – no date yet due to changeover of contractors from 1st April, plus further discussion is needed with golf club, who whilst they are not opposed to a pedestrian kissing gate are not keen on a mobility gate .

45. **Rear of Church Footpaths 14 and 19**

Pram/wheelchair friendly kissing gate will be installed after April (new contractor)

46. **Footpath 16 (Lower Burnham Road)** - Path has been reinstated
47. **Footpath 15**
 Staggered barrier will be widened to allow pram/wheelchair access. Plus railing down left hand side to be installed to aid descent down this steep/slippery slope. No date yet for work again due to change of contractors.
 PC Members requested that the Clerk ask Mr. Brown if new barriers/gates can be wooden rather than metal.
ACTION: CLERK
48. **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)**
 Clerk is still to speak to the department running this scheme. **ACTION: CLERK**
49. **Land Registry – voluntary first registration of CNPC landholdings** **ACTION: CLERK**
50. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE** – Clerk still waiting to hear from current website operator.
ACTION: CLERK
51. **Freedom of Information**
 At last meeting members asked that Prof. Barclay look at the electronic version before it is put onto the CN web site. Clerk apologised that this was not forwarded until 7/4/06.
ACTION: PROF. BARCLAY
52. **Files/Documents to Archive/ Retain/Destroy** - Prof. Barclay and Mrs Garnham to decide from list supplied.
**ACTION: PROF. BARCLAY/
 MRS GARNHAM**

CORRESPONDENCE

53. **Defra re Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**
 Part of the training session Clerk attended last month included the above, so copies of notes supplied by Barry Saunders, Environmental Protection Officer, Chelmsford had been supplied to Members.
 Members advised they did not need a copy of the guide book offered in Defra's letter.
54. **MDC Applications received under the Licensing Act 2003**
 As previously requested only those which have some connection with Cold Norton, need to be circulated to Members, therefore only Prince of Wales and St. Peters School were copied to Members, who noted the contents.
55. **MDC Conservation & Design Award Scheme 2006** - not relevant to cold Norton this year.
56. **EALC Training course re FOI, Risk Assessment and Insurance Cover Wednesday 3rd May** - No one available to attend. Clerk to try and obtain notes.
ACTION: CLERK
57. **Maldon 2010 Partnership Thursday 27th April** – Mr. Archer to attend **ACTION: MR. ARCHER**
58. **ROSPA (inspection of play equipment)** – Clerk to check when this was last done, if it has to be done every year and costs.
ACTION: CLERK
59. **Just Lamps** – noted, to be filed **ACTION: CLERK**
60. **Essex Playing Fields Competition 2006** – Clerk to enter Classes 2 and 3
ACTION: CLERK
61. **ECC Passenger Transport Representatives Meetings Spring 2006 - Mr Archer will attend.**
ACTION: MR. ARCHER
62. **Essex NHS Strategic Health Authority: Head & Neck Surgery in Essex** - noted
63. **Richard Hawley Aquastat** – to be passed to Village Hall Management Committee
ACTION: CLERK
64. **Essex NHS Strategic Health Authority: Essential Guide to the Health Service in Essex 2006** – each member given own copy to read and return to Clerk or put into leaflet dispenser at Village Hall
ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

65. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk was advised that the street light outside 5 Latchingdon Road was not working.

ACTION: CLERK

Members were advised that a new head had been appointed at the school, namely Mrs Dowsett, currently at Trinity St. Mary's, South Woodham Ferrers. Letter to be sent to Mrs church thanking her for her work at the school

ACTION: CLERK

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2006: Wednesday 3rd May – Annual Parish Meeting, 10th May – AGM, 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December.

Chairman.....

Date.....