

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE 2007 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Mr. J. Sears (District Councillor)
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

128. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Parish Councillor Mrs A. McDonald
129. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 were approved and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

130. Dave Bull general village caretaker work invoice No. 50 dated 30.05.07 £128.25 cheque No.563
131. MAIA Services for updating two pages on the web site (approved minutes for April and report from APM and May meeting) Invoice no. 230407-1 dated 23.05.07 £17.62 (£15 net) cheque No. 564
132. BT Village Hall Payphone Invoice No. QO27 3N dated 14.05.07 £45.19 (£39.20 net) Cheque No. 565
133. Wicksteed Leisure 3 x swing seats Invoice No. 72785 dated 30.05.07 £149.17 (£126.95 net) cheque No. 566
134. M. Dyer office expenses £22.16 cheque No. 567
135. E-on Energy Invoice No. 143681289 dated 04.06.07 street lighting for May 2007 £39.10 (£37.24 net) Direct Debit will be claimed from account on 25.06.07

136. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st June	£	125.38
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th May	£	3,123.76
Abbey as at 1 st June 2007	£	<u>19,242.90</u>
	£	22,492.04

137. **Audit** – Lubbock Fine have advised that Cold Norton has been randomly selected for an intermediate audit, requiring additional information to usual audit

PLANNING

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

LDE/MAL/07/00335 Cold Norton

Claim for a Certificate of Lawfulness: Occupation of property contrary to Condition 6 imposed upon planning permission MAL/212/74 (Agricultural occupancy)
Great Canney Farm Hackmans Lane Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091256744)

Mr and Mrs J T S Groves **APPROVED**

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

FUL/MAL/07/00551 23 Hackmans Lane, Cold Norton. Rear conservatory. Week No 21 dated 25th May 2007:

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.

140. **Land off Cherry Blossom Lane/opposite village hall:** report from MDC that the land is unregistered, the concrete hard standing has now been removed and there are currently no breaches of planning control so the case is closed.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

141. **VAS Signs** - Manufacturer has now fitted modified parts to VAS signs and Highways have checked – the one at Crown Road needs minor modification re speed at which it is activated.

142. **Highways Schedule**

Pram ramps at bridge – Highways awaiting survey results

Mr. Wakeling declared an interest in this item: Drain at top of Station Crescent – resident was concerned that kerb proposed would be too close to his fence, therefore plan is now to install a raised edge to crescent which will stop water going down Station Crescent and direct it along to the next gully which is outside Nos 11/13 St. Stephens Road. Clerk to contact Highways re repair to top of Station Crescent to rectify damage caused by this drain. **ACTION: CLERK**

Drain opposite coal yard – work has now been done

Subsidence at sides of St. Stephens Road - awaiting update re work, also when uneven road signs are going to be erected.

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road – site visit 17th May: Highways are now arranging for SLOW signs on the road (Fambridge Road) and distance plates; they will also arrange clearance of vegetation on verges. PC to organise letter to landowner re hedges which need trimming back to aid visibility on right when exiting St. Stephens Road. Also re Newport Avenue, Highways will be putting up sign to indicate this road. **ACTION: CLERK**

Overgrowing vegetation on footways between Cold Norton & Stow Maries – still not carried out. Clerk to contact Highways for urgent action to be taken on this safety issue **ACTION: CLERK**

St. Stephens Road drains outside school and one opposite No.7 – These have been jetted and Highways have been informed that the problem is still occurring, but when Highways visited they could see no sign of problem, drains don't look blocked – a visit is probably needed to see 'problem in action', so next time it is happening PC Members resident in St. Stephens Road to contact Clerk or Highways direct for a site visit.

Manhole cover between 10 and 12 St. Stephens Road – work now completed

Signs on road outside school – in hand, but will be a couple of months

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – site meeting 17th May: larger repeater signs will be erected, once Highways have checked distances, also 40 mph roundels will be painted on road adjacent to repeater signs

VILLAGE HALL

143. **Report from Parish Council Representatives** – train event 16/17th June

144. **Village Hall Project** – awaiting result of lottery grant application

145. **VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS** – no Police report available; see Village Caretaker's report re playground vandalism
146. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – District Councillor Archer advised nothing new to report at present. Members asked which committees the two District Councillors will be sitting on: Mr Archer will be on the NW Planning Committee and is Chairman of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee; Mr Sears will also sit on the NW Planning Committee and will be a member of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee.

OPEN SPACES

147. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve** – Clerk advised that unfortunately the Bradwell Power Station staff offer to do volunteer work has been withdrawn for all the groups that requested help. Clerk to pursue alternative help via the Maldon Volunteer Service Group. **ACTION: CLERK**
148. **Playing Field**
 Trees (pair of willows) from playing field overhanging private garden – quotes/advice to be obtained re trimming back. **ACTION: CLERK**
- Regular Village Hall User (children's dance class) had requested use of playing field for a fund raising event on 30th June with bouncy castle on. They have public liability insurance as does the bouncy castle company – awaiting copy of dance company insurance. Initial approval given by Mr Wakeling as playing field representative. Members also advised their approval.
- Re sinking play equipment Members were advised that Steve Krolzig from MDC will inspect on 8th June.
- Playing field report from Mr Wakeling: trees are maturing, meadow is filled with mixed grasses and wild flowers – all looking very good.
149. **Village Caretaker work** – report as follows:
- 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.
- I am sorry to report that there has been some damage since my last report – both gates from the enclosed play area have been repeatedly broken. I have secured them.
- Further to the report on the playground and equipment I continue to take steps to comply with its findings. I am waiting for the replacement swing seats which I understand have been ordered.
- I continue replacing the small trees in the playing field that were vandalised in the early spring – using seedling trees from the nature reserve.
- In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area and tend to the roses.
- I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge and remove any litter.
- There has been further dumping of rubbish bags and rubbish in the village hall car park which I have tidied up and placed in the bin.
- I will aim to carry out the basic duties of my post within the 5 hours/week now allocated, but where there are additional duties such as repair after vandalism or exceptional seasonal work I will consult you before completing the works and will then submit additional invoices as appropriate. 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 establishes location of the replacement trees referred to in the above report. **ACTION: CLERK**
150. **Allotments** – Mrs Garnham had advised that all is going well and that the PCT has little involvement with them now - but are still paying the bills! In September the group will come forward with a report and to discuss possible future charges.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

151. **Footpath 8:** PRow has spoken to landowner – apparently new trees were planted across permissive path in error, scheduled for removal 30/31 May
152. **Footpath 13 (Golf Course):** Mr Archer and PRow met with golf club manager: golf club will replace the large metal gate and PRow will replace the stile with a wooden kissing gate. No objections from Ramblers Association or known push chair walker to these plans.
153. **Footpath 14:** Possible rerouting - alternative approach – letter has now been sent to landowner. Dog fouling/dog control information supplied by PRow now up on all three operational notice boards. Booklets now received from PRow. New dog waste bin has now been delivered
ACTION: MR LITSCHER
154. **Footpath 15/New Bridleway:** PRow has had a meeting with Essex Bridleways Association and been advised that steps would be inappropriate as this could encourage horse to 'quicken' it's pace when going up the steps and could not guarantee the horse stopping at the roadside to see if any traffic is coming!! PRow has advised he will continue to endeavour to resolve. The rest of this bridleway was also checked as far as Honeypot Lane and some areas will need cutting back in the future - volunteers from Essex Bridleways Association will cut back later in the year.
155. **Footpath 20:** On going re 'wet ' problem PRow trying to contact landowner re this section. PRow has advised that the stile cannot be re-instated as there are no animals in the field and no health and safety issues i.e. mis-use by motor vehicles etc. As and when it is thought animals might go in there, this landowner should first contact the PRow.
156. **Undefined Paths**
CN14E - Landowner cutting.
CN23 - Landowner extending headland width, way marking still to be done.
CN24S - Clerk to contact landowner re defining **ACTION: CLERK**
CN24N - Landowner contacted - will define.
CN25/26 - Informed as now defined, but still unconfirmed.
157. **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)/Footpath Map:** Meeting took place on 31st May. Roger Hawes as P3 rep has been given manual and instructed on how to carry out a footpath survey. Re footpath map advised not to start this until all surveys are done. Reports/jobs to be done will now be a mix of contacts i.e. Mr Hawes and PRow.
158. **Extension to Footpath 28 (back of De Laches):** not shown on official maps as it should be as agreed circa 25 years ago. To be taken up with ECC P3 department/old correspondence to be resurrected
ACTION: PROF BARCLAY
159. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE:** discussion deferred to next meeting.
160. **Emergency Planning:** Ex Parish Councillor Mrs Garnham has indicated that she is happy to finish completing the book and then hand it back for safekeeping
161. **New Model Code of Conduct/Register of Members' Personal Interests:** Prof Barclay and Mr Wakeling to review new code. Clerk to supply hard copies of new code, plus any relevant material re previous code's adoption. All Members were supplied with copies of The Code of Conduct Pocket Guide May 2007 and the Code of Conduct Guide for Members May 2007.
**ACTION: PROF BARCLAY/
MR WAKELING/
CLERK**

162. **Vacant Seat on the Parish Council:** Clerk to advertise the position in The Beacon and on the notice boards. Close date for applications - end of July 2007 for consideration at the September meeting.
ACTION: CLERK

CORRESPONDENCE

163. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils** – quarterly meeting 13th June - Mr Litscher to attend
ACTION: MR. LITSCHER
164. **Details re Waste Strategy for England 2007 received via EALC:** noted
165. **MDC – Maldon District Local Development Framework – sustainability appraisal. Maldon Design Guide Scoping Report.** Re section 5 comments to be forwarded re supporting for affordable housing and re accessibility to stress need for improved public transport to reduce heavy dependence on private car usage.
ACTION: CLERK
166. **Mapping Software Demonstration, organised by Town Clerk at Loughton:** no one to attend
167. **MDC Members Bulletin for May:** contents noted
168. **MDC Press Release re Revenues Success:** noted
169. **ECC Renewed Corporate Plan:** noted
170. **ECC September 2007 Local Bus Tender Round:** not relevant to Cold Norton
171. **Mr. P. Guppy/ the closure of The Norton Pub** - meeting was closed to discuss. Mr Guppy handed over copy of CAMRA booklet 'Saving your Local Pub' Clerk to circulate **ACTION: CLERK**
172. **Clerk had advised telephone call from Lawrence Cooper and e-mail from Sue Garnham received thanking the PC for their kind words regarding their 'retirement' from council work.**
173. **Passenger Focus Greater Anglia Route Utilisation Strategy:** consultation document had been e-mailed to all Members. No comments,
174. **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 he had attended the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation meeting – the call is for more sites, documents handed out at the meeting to be circulated to other Members. Mr. Paul brought up the quality of the work carried out on the potholes on the bridge and the condition of the paving near Station Road.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2007: Wednesday 4th July, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December.

Chairman.....

Date.....