

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY 2008 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
In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

Prior to the meeting commencing, Mr. Dave Moore, Station Commander, South Woodham Ferrers Fire Station, gave a short presentation on Essex County Fire & Rescue Services, outlining details of the free home fire safety visits available.

154. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Mr Wakeling and Mrs McDonald.
155. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 4th June 2008 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Approval of Payments

156. Dave Bull general village caretaker work invoice No.65 dated 25.06.08 £145 Cheque No. 678
157. Ron Laurie for correcting system errors, assistance with data entering and completion of accounts for 07/08 plus setting up for 08/09 invoice dated 20.06.08 £117.20. Cheque No.679
158. ASAP office Services Internal Audit Invoice No. 302 dated 24.06.08 £72.04 (£61.31 net) Cheque No.680
159. Playsafety Limited Site Inspection for play area at Cherry blossom Lane and Cowpiece Invoice No.87110836 dated 25.06.08 £199.75 (£170 net) Cheque 681
160. Essex Playing Fields membership renewal to March 2009 £25 Cheque No. 682
161. RCCE Membership renewal covering membership from July 08 to June 09 £55 Cheque No. 683
162. Maria Dyer office expenses £26.96 Cheque No. 684
163. E-on Energy Street lighting for May 2008 Invoice No. H68CADD7B dated 04.06.08 £38.54 (£36.70 net) was taken by direct debit on 14.06.08
164. B.F.Ground Maintenance Limited Grass Cutting for June 2008 Invoice No.1654 dated 26.06.08 £264.38 (£225 net) Cheque No. 685
165. Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee invoice dated 02.07.08 use of committee room from March 08 to June 08 plus main hall for 1 hour 30.04.08 for APM 9 hours £33.75 Cheque No. 686.

166. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st June 2008	£	130.16
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th June 2008	£	296.28
Abbey as at 1 st June 2008	£	<u>19,452.14</u>
	£	19,878.58

167. **Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2008:** all items of the Audit Commission's statutory Annual Return were checked. The Chairman then duly signed sections 1 and 2. Clerk to now return the form to Audit Commission.
ACTION: CLERK

168. **Poppy wreath** – re selection of new design Members agreed that decision should be designated to the Chairman (for information style selected was Type F @ £19)
169. **Computerised Accounts:** the suggestion that the many problems encountered with the accounts package may have been due to the transfer from one computer to another and that a dedicated laptop may therefore be the best solution and that this would also be considered a positive risk assessment solution as only PC files will be kept on this machine, was very briefly discussed. The Councillors advised they did not wish to purchase a laptop at this point purely because of the accounts system problems, but Professor Barclay offered to check the current accounts package system.

PLANNING

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

TELPN/MAL/08/00557 Cold Norton
Removal of public payphone (01621 828255)
Telephone Box Latchingdon Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 010013995335)
BT Payphones **NO OBJECTION**

FUL/MAL/08/00475 Cold Norton
Boundary fence
Bluebell Barn Lower Burnham Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 010000237580)
Mr & Mrs G Smith **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/08/00364 Cold Norton
Replacement dwelling and garages
Crown Lodge Crown Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091256513)
Mr & Mrs P Bibby **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/08/00463 Cold Norton
Proposed side extension to provide a kitchen utility area, dining room and en-suite in guest room.
16 Station Crescent Cold Norton Essex CM3 6HY
(UPRN - 100090555853)
Mr Ron Sellick **APPROVED**

TPO/MAL/08/00571 Cold Norton
TPO 15/96 T4 Oak - Crown lift to 3m and reduce crown by 20%
7 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Chelmsford Essex
(UPRN - 100090555794)
Mrs A Mitchell **APPROVED**

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

FUL/MAL/08/00618 Two Square, St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Demolish dwelling house, garage, sheds and all other outbuildings and erect replacement house and cart lodge. Change of use of nursery/garden centre to domestic garden. Week No.23 dated 6th June 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 replacement house of significant scale which do not reflect in size or format the current dwelling house.

FUL/MAL/08/00680 Sannu, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Retention of boundary wall at front of property to replace wall. Week No. 24 dated 13th June 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.

172. **Notification of Appeal in relation to Bluebell Farm, Lower Burnham Road Cold Norton.**
FUL/MAL/07/01119 Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/A/08/2076725/WF Boundary enclosure. Members were advised that the Parish Council's letter re the original application will be forwarded to the planning inspectorate and that if the Council wished to modify or withdraw these earlier comments they must be advised to the Inspectorate by 18th July 2008 – Members advised no changes.
173. **ECC Re Introduction of 1 APP and Local Validation Checklists** – amendments now made and approved by ECC Lists and guidance: www.essexcc.gov.uk/planning > Planning Application Process > Planning Applications. Members noted.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

This section of the meeting commenced with a short presentation from Mr E. Brown from ECC Highways department who explained the process involved regarding works involving highways maintenance, including responsibility/control regarding vegetation and advised that if landowners will be charged if ECC have to trim back their vegetation. Mr Brown also provided updates where applicable to the schedule of works below:

174. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge - works ordered - still to be scheduled.

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue – now scheduled to be carried out in August.

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton - Some of the upright signs obscured by hedgerows landowners. Shared VAS sign – awaiting result of Highways site meeting with the supplier still to take place re the suitability of the site.

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – on Highways schedule for cutting back. Site Meeting/inspection scheduled for 9th July 2008

Footway just over bridge cracking also near Country Produce – reported to highways will be actioned at same time as pram ramps. Will be inspected at site meeting scheduled for 9th July 2008.

Tarmac near the kerb at Clarke Rise is 'churned up' – has been reported to highways (highways reference No. 1814128) Repair has been ordered and is scheduled for Tuesday 8th July.

Entry to village and speed sign at corner of Howe Green Road – reported to highways. Was scheduled for early June delayed now due for completion by the 24th July 2008.

VAS sign at Crown Road – flashing incorrectly. Mr Brown to report to the appropriate team at ECC

VILLAGE HALL

175. **Report from Parish Council Representatives:** Members were advised that at the next VHMC an increase in hall hire fees would be discussed.
176. **Village Hall Project:** Mr Wakeling had requested formal approval by Members for Mary Stoddart (Bryant) to sign the CIF application form on behalf of the PC – Members approved.

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

177. **Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting:** Next one on Tuesday 8th July 7pm in Cold Norton (committee room – village hall Mr Archer and Clerk to attend **ACTION: MR ARCHER/ CLERK**)
178. **Village Hall/Playing Field:** Several groups using the hall in the evening are having problems with youngsters kicking footballs etc against the doors and being verbally abusive when asked to stop. Clerk had advised PCSO Butler who said he would come along in the evenings. Clerk advised Members that the Brownies Leader had to phone Maldon Police as there was an incident on Monday 23rd June. PCSO Butler did visit on Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th June (no one around on Thursdays but youths on Friday, but no problems). Further vandalism to the boat (see below Minute No. 181) in the enclosed play area – this has also been reported to PCSO Butler.
179. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** from Mr. Archer covered the tragic accident at Blackwater swimming pool and the resignation of Mr Mead.

OPEN SPACES

180. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Mr. Litscher still trying to find a buyer for the fencing and will clear the brambles and carry out the work in the bridge ASAP. **ACTION: MR LITSCHER**
- ROSPA report now received and supplied to all Members by e-mail. Clerk to supply a hard copy to Mrs Gold who will review and present her report/recommendations **ACTION: MRS GOLD**
181. **Playing Field:** Picnic benches – Caretaker will move/fix down all 3 outside the enclosed play in the vicinity of the swings.
- Boat: Members were advised that the Caretaker had put a metal rod to secure the steering wheel on the Friday, but that on the Monday Pre School reported that "*Unfortunately over the weekend some 'little darlings' have twisted off the steering wheel, bending the bracket and screws that were holding it in place.*" Members advised that wheel should now be left off permanently.
- Tiling around swings – quote from Caretaker supplied to all Members – to be reviewed on basis of ROSPA report.
- ROSPA report received/supplied to all Members - action as above
182. **Village Caretaker work** – report as follows:
- 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.
- I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge and remove any litter.
- Further to our telephone conversations I will remove the picnic tables to outside the secured play area and secure them by the swings.
- I have removed the graffiti from the play area sign and cleaned and re riveted the skateboard sign.
- I have recently had to remove a lot of broken bottles from the playing field and think it would be advisable to warn user groups to be aware of this hazard.
- Further to the impact-absorbing tiles under the swings I shall send a separate report.
183. **Allotments:** Letter received from MDC re drawing up a new agreement – noted/to be acknowledged **ACTION: CLERK**

184. **Maldon District Conservation and Design Award Scheme 2008:** Members were advised that a copy had been passed to the school
185. **Tree outside village hall:** Clerk had advised that a request had been received for this to be trimmed as it is blocking light to a neighbouring property. Members agreed. **ACTION: CLERK**

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

186. **Footpaths 23 and 24:** P3 to way mark. FP23 south from nursery overgrown needed clearing - reported to PRow for action who advised on 2nd July that it should be cut from the nursery bridge to the next bridge in the next 2-3 weeks.
187. **Report from Kevin Ascott/The Ramblers dated 15th May 2008, further update advised 2nd July by PRow:**
Footpath 19 – fingerpost overgrown - order submitted to contractors to erect a new wooden fingerpost on the other of the entrance (between the name plate & telegraph pole) as to clear round the plastic fingerpost would severely interfere with the landowner's hedge.
Footpath 25 – fingerpost blocked with hedgerow - contractors will do a MINIMAL cut round the fingerpost as the landowner usually cuts round this post but he is away for 2-3 weeks. Cross field path - landowner has re-instated with wheel tracks.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

188. **RCCE 2008 AGM Wednesday 9th July 7.30 pm at Channels Golf Club:** no one available to attend
189. **AGM of East Essex Transport Forum Wednesday 16th July 7.30 pm in SWF:** no one available to attend, but Mr Archer may be attending in his role as District Councillor.

CORRESPONDENCE

190. **MDC: Older persons Strategy – A chance to have your say** (B/Fwd from June meeting): Members having read this advised no comments required to be put forward to MDC
191. **ECC Mid Essex Forum – approved minutes from April meeting supplied to Members** - topics included Bradwell, PCT and Highways. Noted.
192. **Mid Essex NHS PCT 24/7 health in Mid Essex? What's your View? Supplied to Members** – No PC response; Members may make their own individual response
193. **ECC Integrated Youth Service: Essex Youth Bus (to visit village in school summer holidays)** Members decided not to participate for cost reasons. Clerk to investigate if a 'free' visit may be possible. **ACTION: CLERK**
194. **Local Community Liaison Council/Bradwell Power Station:** Minutes from March meeting and supporting papers passed to Professor.

- 195. **MDC Your Views on Our Loos:** Members were supplied with letter and questionnaire to complete and return

- 196. **MDC Notice of Election re Maldon North Ward**– copy supplied to each member

- 197. **MDC leaflet re Facing the Future** – copy supplied to each member

- 198. **ECC – the Essex Jiangsu Festival June to November 2008** – Members were advised about this event celebrating 20 years of friendship with Jiangsu Province in China and that Clerk has one copy of the booklet detailing all the events or may visit www.essex.china.org

- 199. **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.

The subject of Pylons/Bardwell/Wind Farms was discussed. Mr Archer advised that there are huge costs involved in burying cables to replace existing pylons. The subject of influencing design of possible new power plans at an early stage was then raised, Mr Archer in his role as a District Councillor promised to discuss this with the energy people at the next meeting.

ACTION: MR ARCHER

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2008: Wednesdays, 10thSeptember, 1st October, 5th November, and 3rd December.

Chairman.....

Date.....