

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2007 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
PCSO Butler & 5 members of the public

232. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from District Councillor John Sears (Mr. J. Archer had advised in advance that he would be delayed due to a MDC meeting.)
233. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 4th July 2007 and **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS** held on Wednesday 18th July 2007, Wednesday 8th August 2007 and Wednesday 29th August 2007 were approved & signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

234. Dave Bull general village caretaker work Invoice Nos. 52/53 dated 31.08.07 £324 (48 hours) plus materials (met posts fasteners, nuts, bolts & rivets inv. No.55 dated 31.08.07 £34.67 cheque No. 582
235. Bradley Faulkner grass cutting: May - invoice No. 1289 dated 28.05.07 £264.38 (net £225); June - invoice No. 1304 dated 04.07.07 £264.38 (net £225); July - invoice No. 1332 £264.38 (net £225); August - Inv. No. 1375 dated 30.08.07 £264.38 (£225 net) Total £ 1057.52 (net £900) cheque No. 583
236. Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee: for use of committee room for PC meetings March to June 2007 inclusive 9 ½ hours @ £3.45 per hour, plus 1 ½ hours @ £4.50 per hour in the main hall for the APM in April 2007 £39.53. Cheque No. 584.
237. BT Village Hall Payphone invoice No. QO2875 dated 13.08.07 £40.31 Cheque No. 585.
238. Public Works Loan Board Ref 320 07310 £1204.20 will be taken by Direct Debit on 20.09.07
239. E-on Energy invoice No. 146222035 dated 03.07.07 street lighting for June 2007 £39.10 (£37.24 net) taken by direct debit on 24.07.07
240. E-on Energy invoice No. H58EB7561 dated 03.08.07 street lighting for July 2007 £39.10 (£37.24 net) taken by direct debit on 24.08.07
241. Dale Hire Inv. No.CH146222 hire of site fencing panels reference faulty play equipment from 14th June to 31st July 2007 7 weeks @ £38 per week plus delivery of £15 £330.18 (£281 net) Cheque No. 586
242. Essex Playing Fields Association Training Seminar re protection & maintenance of playing fields £30 (two places Clerk & Village Caretaker) Cheque No. 587. (Caretaker travel expenses to be paid)
243. M. Dyer office expenses £33.42 (£33.05 net) Cheque No. 588
244. Winstonmead Ink cartridges Inv. No. 1/ID2375 dated 31.08.07 £ 41.57 (£35.38 net) Cheque No. 589.
245. Graham Cornell Invoice No. 0729 dated 01.09.07 service/repair PC notice boards: one at school - hinges/locks and stain £46. One outside No.14 Latchingdon Road - doors/damaged back and pin boards/new exterior back board/handles and hinges/service locks /repair crack in concrete post £186 total £ 232. Cheque No. 590.
246. K. Harmer 2 hand produced scrolls for past PC Members Invoice No. 45 dated 14.08.07 £95 Cheque No. 591
247. **Financial Statement**

Current balances:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st August | £ | 125.38 |
| Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th August | £ | 3,299.54 |
| Abbey as at 1 st August 2007 | £ | <u>16,921.09</u> |
| | £ | 20,346.01 |

PLANNING

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

FUL/MAL/07/00494 Cold Norton
Summer House
Wild Farm Lower Burnham Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091256901)
Mr and Mrs Murray **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/07/00551 Cold Norton
Rear conservatory
23 Hackmans Lane Cold Norton Essex CM3 6RP
(UPRN - 100090554892)
P Martin **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/07/00654 Purleigh (Cold Norton)
Change of use of garage and studio to affordable housing unit to replace mobile home
Valentines Cottage Crown Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 100091256517)
M Ewers & V Jennings **REFUSED**

FUL/MAL/07/00606 Cold Norton
New warehouse and canopy
Directa Ltd Directa House Latchingdon Road Cold Norton
(UPRN - 100091627461)
Directa UK Ltd **APPROVED**

TPO/MAL/07/00727 Cold Norton
TPO 15/96. T27 Ash - Reduce limb towards house by a third to half. Reduce rest of crown by 20%.
T26 Ash - Reduce limb growing towards house by a third
35 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Chelmsford Essex
(UPRN - 100090555826)
Mr C Hawkes **APPROVED**

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

FUL/MAL/07/00906 Land adjacent 1 Greentrees Avenue, Cold Norton. Erection of new three bed dwelling Week No 34 dated 24th August 2007:

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.

Before stating the Council's reasons they asked that I point out to you that the 'map' accompanying the application to show location of the site for the proposed new dwelling is incorrect – the red line to indicate this is in the wrong place as it is including No.1 Greentrees Avenue and its front and rear gardens – the red line should just show the site under consideration in the application i.e. circa half the area

The Parish Council's reasons for this recommendation are:

- the proposed dwelling would cause over development of the site
- entrance to the proposed dwelling would cause traffic and manoeuvring problems at the entrance to Greentrees Avenue from Latchingdon Road, which is the main road that runs through the village

FUL/MAL/07/00911 Valentine Cottage, Crown Road, Cold Norton. Change of use of garage and studio to affordable housing unit to replace mobile home (previously removed) Week No. 34 dated 24th August 2007:

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 falls outside the village development boundary

- the building proposed would be detached from the existing dwelling
- allowing this application to proceed would set a precedent for possible future applications proposing similar developments in a rural location

FUL/MAL/07/00929 The Norton, 54 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Change of use from public house to residential use. Week No.35 dated 31st August 2007:

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 reason for this recommendation is that it would be the loss of a public amenity.

The Councillors have asked that it is pointed out that, within the application papers supplied, there is an error in the letter from Mr Emery-King where he states that The Round Bush is in Cold Norton – it is, as you know, in the Parish of Purleigh.

As subsidiary evidence to support the refusal of the application, I believe you have been sent an e-mail from Ms Valerie Compton which refutes Mr Emery-King's main reason for making his application i.e. that it is not a viable business. Ms Compton's statement is based on her personal experience running The Norton with her partner from 2001 to 2004 and advises that *'we had a very good and lucrative business'* deriving custom from residents of Cold Norton, passing trade and the various caravan sites in the Dengie area.

- 250. Trees and TPOs St Stephens Road** - letter received from Tree Officer at MDC confirming receipt of PC letter.
- 251. MDC Annual Planning Seminar** Monday 24th September 2007 Clerk to attend morning session and Mr Wakeling will attend the evening session.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

252. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge – Highways meeting with contractor on 5th September to sort out date

Drain at top of Station Crescent – Highways to measure and then agree date with contractor at meeting on 5th September. Members requested Clerk pursue necessary steps to have damage caused to top of Station Crescent rectified by highways department. **ACTION: CLERK**

Subsidence at sides of St. Stephens Road – work completed

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue - Farmer has trimmed back the hedges on Fambridge Road to right of St. Stephens Road. Highways still waiting for final documents before work can be put out to contractor – these are expected in 2 -3 weeks.

St. Stephens Road drains outside school and one opposite No.7 – These have been jetted.

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – awaiting date for works to commence.

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to County Produce – landowner from Junction Road to Country Produce very promptly trimmed back as requested, but as landowner responsible for bridge to Junction Road cannot be contacted Highways are going to trim this section back

Hedge/bush by notice board/bus stop opposite The Norton obscuring vision for drivers exiting Victoria Road has now been trimmed back, but highways have agreed that it would be preferable if it was removed altogether, but have asked Clerk to contact home owner near to bus stop to ascertain if he would prefer it to remain for 'privacy' reasons, if so would he be prepared to keep it trimmed back

Overgrowing hedges from The Norton – Clerk has e-mailed owner twice re trimming back the hedges for road safety reasons and requested the garden/patio was tidied up – no replies – meanwhile Mr Paul has very kindly trimmed back the hedges.

Trip hazard Station Road (reported by Mr Paul) – Mr Paul advised that the hazard is no longer evident.

253. **Highways Maldon Team Structure** – Members had been given an updated copy
254. **Temporary Overhead Banner/Seasonal Decorations over the Highway** –Members had been given a copy of the regulations

VILLAGE HALL

255. **Report from Parish Council Representatives** – next meeting scheduled for 11th September
256. **Village Hall Project** – Re the Big Lottery - application is through to the next round, but due to large number of applications received decision will not now be known until December.
257. **VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS** – Members had been given information re the new Neighbourhood Action Panels. PCSO Butler reported activity for the last month, predominately thefts from unlocked cars. PCSO Butler will now be covering two wards, but will provide a written report when unable to attend PC meetings.
258. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – not available

OPEN SPACES

259. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve** - Caretaker still to erect fencing. ROSPA report – Mrs Gold reviewing
ACTION: MRS GOLD
260. **Playing Field**
Trees from playing field overhanging private garden – Bradley Faulkner has been asked to carry out the work – scheduled for w/c 10th September
Re sinking play equipment - manufacturer is going to replace, awaiting date, but is likely to be October. Still discussing costs PC is incurring re the site fencing, which to end of July has cost £281 ex VAT
ROSPA report – Mrs Gold reviewing (priorities/plus possible cost implications re additional caretaker time)
ACTION: MRS GOLD
Increased bark requirement in play areas (300mm) – awaiting costs/alternative material/grant possibility
Picnic bench – Caretaker to fix
261. **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
Further to the bark chips in the children's play area. I have yet to obtain a more cost effective quotation.
In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area and tend to the roses and have repaired the bench as required
I have cleared the observation platform and footpaths in the Cowpiece nature reserve and have continued to maintain the paths and furniture.
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 am concerned that the bin is being overfilled at times causing smells and flies.

I regret to inform the Council that all the small trees and saplings that had been planted around the playing field have been broken or removed. I have the tree guards and stakes in storage. There has been some graffiti around the village hall that I have removed, there has also been some fly tipping that I have reported to you.

I will shortly be progressing the work on the Cowpiece Nature Reserve fence.

- 262. **Fambridge Junior Football** - Will be using the playing field – copy of fixtures supplied
- 263. **Beacon at back of Church - Safety** inspection requested through MDC – awaiting report

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- 264. **Footpath 13 (Golf Course)** - New gates: order issued to contractor, scheduled for early November
- 265. **Footpath 15/New Bridleway** - PRoW has advised he will continue to endeavour to resolve the slippery slope problem. Some areas of bridleway will be cut back later in the year by volunteers from Essex Bridleways Association
- 266. **Footpath 20** - On going re 'wet ' problem PRoW trying to contact landowner re this section - no news yet.
- 267. **Undefined Paths**
 - CN23 Landowner extending headland width, way marking still to be done
 - CN24N Now defined
 - CN25/26 Defined - confirmed.
- 268. **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)/Footpath Map/Report from Roger Hawes:**

All footpaths surveyed. Couple of access issues through gardens, FP's 23 & 25, that I am taking advice from ECC on, otherwise footpaths in pretty good shape with only a couple of areas, on FP 20 and FP 24, having anything other than very minor work required. Will be attending Health & Safety and First Aid courses in October for PPP volunteers.

P3 AGM on 19th September – Prof. Barclay and Mr Litscher to attend.

- 269. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE** **ACTION: MRS GOLD**
- 270. **Emergency Planning** – Mrs Garnham working on book
- 271. **New Model Code of Conduct/Register of Members' Personal Interests** – Members supplied with a Flowchart re declaring interests at meeting. Members completed Register of Members' Interests forms (5 at meeting, 1 returned after)
- 272. **TRAINING/CONFERENCES** – Clerk had supplied details of all forthcoming training sessions and conferences. Mrs McDonald to attend the Councillor Training Day 1 in October and the Clerk to attend the Council Finance Course in November – costs approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 273. **Carey Bennet, Director for School, Children and Families – Review of the children and Young People's Plan 2006-7** – supplied to Members by e-mail.

274. **Environment Agency South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan Draft CFMP Consultation** – Response needed by 24th September - Prof Barclay to review
ACTION: PROF BARCLAY
275. **MDC Contract Monitoring Officer** – reference road sweeping, rubbish and recycling services: Members had no comments to make, but requested Clerk include in The Beacon report requesting comments from residents re these services.
ACTION: CLERK
276. **ECC Essex Rail Seminar 5th October 2007 9.45am to 3.30 pm** – Mr Archer to attend
277. **Chelmsford BC Supplementary Planning Documents (on CD)** – consultation closes on 11th September: Prof Barclay to review
ACTION: PROF BARCLAY
278. **Copies of the following all supplied to members: PCT Making Experiences Count Consultation, CPRE August newsletter, Essex Rural Partnership – Post Offices Closures and Essex Air Ambulance Fund Raiding Event 16th September**
279. **Steve Watson MDC - British Forces Free Postage Position** – letter of support to be sent
ACTION: CLERK
280. **ECC - Dengie Passenger Transport Network Update** – copy supplied to Members. Clerk to follow up.
ACTION: CLERK
281. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils** – next quarterly meeting is on Wednesday 19th September 7.30pm at The Stone Sailing Club, St. Lawrence Drive, St. Lawrence
282. **Mid Essex PCT** – report dated 22nd August 2007 supplied to Members
283. **Chelmsford BC – New Development Plan documents – Consultation on Issues and Options, consultation period closes 23rd October 2007:** letter supplied to Members (documents to be viewed on line)
284. **ECC – Statement of Community Involvement submission Draft Document/Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004/Town & Country Planning Regs 2004 Consultation runs from 13th September to 25th October 2007:** Mr. Wakeling and Mr. Litscher to review.
**ACTION: MR WAKELING/
MR. LITSCHER**
285. **Saint FM Community Radio** – new plans to be e-mailed to Members **ACTION: CLERK**
286. **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.)
Distribution of consultation papers prior to meetings discussed due to short consultation periods.
Mr Paul to be advised when the condemned play equipment is to be replaced to see if he can 'recycle' some elements/ discuss with manufacturer.
ACTION: CLERK

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2007: 10th October, 14th November and 12th December.

Chairman..... Dated.....