

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2005 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

Also present: Mr. L. Cooper (District Councillor)
Mrs M. Bryant

241. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – there were no absences

242. **Community Allotments in Cold Norton** - there was a presentation given by Sue Bayles and Paul McNeill from the Healthy Living Centre about work their unit has done. They requested that they be allowed to revitalise the allotments in Cold Norton. They would like to facilitate the start up and then back off so that local groups can operate the allotments themselves. Initially HLC see the allotments being used by our community e.g. the school and then perhaps later by other groups outside the village e.g. mental health patients and their carers. They also advised that they hope to get funding to have water 'on tap' on site, and that their unit has funding for the next two and a half years. Following discussion it was agreed that the HLC should be allowed to proceed, but that a formal agreement is drawn up between Cold Norton Pc and HLC, which includes a termination clause inbuilt – Paul McNeill to draft. The allotment scheme is to be launched on Saturday 29th October under the banner 'Make a Difference Day'. **ACTION: P. McNEILL**

243. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 7th September 2005 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

244. Bradley Faulkner – grass cutting invoice dated 27th September: £246.75 (£210.00 net)
245. Dave Bush village caretaker work invoice dated 7th October £230.74
246. Royal British Legion – wreath - invoice dated 6th September £16.50
247. Essex Heritage Trust membership invoice dated 1st September £15.00
248. E-on Street lighting for period 1 – 30 September £21.12 (£20.11 net)

249. Financial Statement

Members were given copies of the bank reconciliation.

Cash at bank as at 31st August:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| Abbey | £ | 3,108.93 |
| Standard life Instant | £ | 50.69 |
| Standard Life Notice | £ | <u>22,597.52</u> |
| Total | £ | 25,757.14 |

250. **Change of Clerk – letter for signature by all three Parish Council signatories plus Mary Bryant.**

Re the Abbey account (which only affects the address to which their statements should be sent – no transfers), a letter is needed to be signed by all the existing signatories plus outgoing clerk, to confirm that Mary's name/ address should be replaced by Maria's for receipt of Abbey statements, and also that

David Tubby's name should be removed from the list of signatories. Signatories are A. Allen, L. Barclay and P. Wakeling. This letter was presented and duly signed by the above, plus M. Bryant & M. Dyer.

251. **Essex County Council Initiatives Fund** – members requested that this letter be passed to the Village Hall Project Group.
252. **St. Stephens Church – assistance** with Churchyard grass cutting costs as outlined in a letter from PCC was discussed. The number of cuts was questioned. It was agreed to treat this as an application for support for the next financial year.
253. **Interact** – charity appeal. Members requested that charity appeals are brought forward every three months for consideration.
254. **Street Lighting Renewal Contract** – members had been given in advance a copy of the proposed rate for a new 2 year contract. Clerk pointed out that whilst the letter indicated a 50% increase, the rate proposed is in fact 85.2%. Members requested that the clerk talk to the company and also approach alternative suppliers.

PLANNING

255. Maldon District Council Decisions

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

FUL/MAL/05/00835 Cold Norton

Use of land as part of garden. Renovation of redundant farm buildings for domestic use with ancillary planting, hard surfaces and fencing

Little Canneys Stow Road Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 100091446664)

Mr and Mrs M Everet **REFUSED**

FUL/MAL/05/00828 Cold Norton

Conservatory to rear

Laurel House 4 The Fairways Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 200000909882)

Mr and Mrs Carwardine **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00763 Cold Norton

Replacement Dwelling.

The Spinney Fambridge Road Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 100091256553)

Violet Bloomfield **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00782 Cold Norton

Proposed Storage Barns, Ancillary Buildings and Guard Netting.

Three Rivers Golf and Country Club Stow Road Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 200000916977)

Mr T Peachy **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00788 Purleigh

Demolition of existing dilapidated house, construction of new dwelling and new vehicular access

Old Whitmans Farm Hackmans Lane Purleigh Essex

(UPRN - 100091446668)

Mr A MacFadzean **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00842 Cold Norton

Replacement Dwelling

1 Newport Avenue Cold Norton Essex CM3 6NR

(UPRN - 100091446709)

N Brown **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00878 Cold Norton

First floor rear extension

Dunstan House Latchingdon Road Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 100091256839)

Mr K Webber **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00905 Cold Norton
To erect a livestock/store building
Norton Hall Farm St Stephens Road Cold Norton Maldon
(UPRN - 010000236169)
D Bardwell **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/00970 Cold Norton
Extend First Floor of House and Infill Open Sided Area Behind Garage.
8 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JE
(UPRN - 100090555795)
Mr D Woodley **APPROVED**

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

FUL/MAL/05/01064 33 Stow Road. Rear ground floor extension. Weekly list dated 22nd September, response:

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/05/01075 5 Greentrees Avenue. Side conservatory. Weekly list dated 29th September, response:

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.

257. **Sherae, Latchingdon Road** – members requested that clerk contact MDC re use of the building as accommodation **ACTION: CLERK**
258. **Lords Acre Nursery, Lower Burnham Road** – appeal notification, information noted.
259. **Norton Hall Farm** – correspondence from Mr. R. J. Archer. Members requested that Clerk write to planning at MDC advising receipt of correspondence and write to Mr Archer advising this.
260. **Stow Bullocks** – appeal notification, information noted.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

261. **Pedestrian Crossing**

Letter was sent to Mr. Williams on 19th September. John Archer advised that Councillor Bass is still keen to meet, but is unable to set a date yet. E-mail sent to Mr Williams on 7th October. Reply received that a meeting will be arranged once the County Council's response has been determined. Mr. Archer will talk to Councillor Bass regarding a meeting date. **ACTION: MR. ARCHER**

262. **Annual Highways Liaison meeting**

Clerk has spoken to Rob Venables who has suggested we meet w/c 31st October. Mr. Archer and Mrs. Allen Advised they will be available that week. Clerk to organise. **ACTION: CLERK**

263. **Highways Schedule** – this is being updated **ACTION: CLERK**

264. **Drains in St. Stephens Road** – causing problems in Station Crescent - problem has been reported – drains will be jetted.

265. **Kitts Hill/Barn Conversion** – Mrs. Allen advised rather tall posts up at this point, concern that a fence was being erected which would hamper vision on this bend. Mrs Allen offered to phone planning. **ACTION: MRS ALLEN**

266. **Passenger Transport Representatives Meetings Autumn 2005** – Mr Archer advised that he will attend if possible.

267. **The New Essex Community Solution Fund** – information noted, members requested that Clerk write to advise that in their opinion the funding should be used to support the Dengie Link service. **ACTION: CLERK**

268. **Drains/flooding Three Ashes Corner** – letter from Mr. Lockwood. Clerk advised copy had been passed to Highways and would be added to schedule. **ACTION: CLERK**

269. **Consultation on Street Lighting Policy Principles Document** – noted by members, but advised that it does affect this Parish.

270. **Reporting a highway fault** – Clerk advised that it is now possible to report problems online and that new system will be tried at next opportunity.
271. **St. Stephens Road** – Mr. Archer advised that there have been a couple of accidents outside the school. Mr. Archer and PC Hughes have visited the site to observe and ascertain the situation (when they were there no one attempted to park near the school!!) Mr Archer has spoken to Highways to get lines reinstated outside, and opposite the school as well. Mr Archer also advised that the school walking buses are no longer operating, that he will try to observe the situation once a month and that he has requested the road safety officer visits the school. Members requested Clerk write to Mrs Church for her to relay to the parents the Parish Council's great concern that a child could be seriously or fatally injured, that reinstatement of lines has been requested and that the police have been requested to turn up and monitor the situation on a regular basis.
ACTION: CLERK
272. **Lower Burnham Road, entrance to North Fambridge** – proposed enhancements details, supplied by the Clerk for North Fambridge, were duly noted. Red 'village gateways' road markings were mentioned, need to consult highways.
ACTION: CLERK

VILLAGE HALL

273. **Report from Parish Council Representatives** – there was nothing major to report. However the Clerk had received a phone call from a resident in Cherry Blossom Lane re the Pre School BBQ in September that because cars had parked down both sides of the road hire lorries that were being returned could not get down to the business premises at the bottom of the lane. Whilst Clerk pointed out that if asked the organisers would have arranged for the cars to be removed, as there was a tannoy system in operation, this incident has thrown up a very valid point that if emergency vehicles had needed to get down Cherry Blossom Lane they would not have been able to do so. Members pointed out that the road is an unadopted road, so the above was noted and members requested that the Clerk advise the Village Hall Management committee.
ACTION: CLERK
274. **Village Hall Project** - the next meeting is scheduled for 17th October 2005.

275. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

Mrs Allen gave her report on the Police & Community Group Public Meeting she had attended at the Plume School, where she learnt that the Essex Policing style is changing:

In the three months since the installation of the new Chief Constable, detection rates have increased, releasing resources on a regular basis to enable the change to community based policing.

Essex is split into 9 Policing Divisions and Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Wyn Bernard is in charge of C division - Maldon & Chelmsford. He told us that Community Policing is the way forward for Essex. That PCSOs (Police Community support Officer) will be increased over the next three years and there will be an increase in the number of sworn Police Officers. Under the Neighbourhood Policing model it is intended that every street in the area will be patrolled.

It was pointed out that the Police Service has not grown in line with the rate of new housing, and that it was vital that VIPs (Volunteers in Policing) from the community must be involved to increase Police Officers and keep local Police stations open.

Even though we were assured that the Maldon District has the lowest crime rate out of the 15 divisions in Essex, it was clear from questions raised from the floor, that there are many unresolved situations in Maldon itself.

The new licensing laws are causing many worries. Those living near to licensed premises have the right to object to licence extensions, but the Police need hard evidence to object.

It was recognised that phone & other responses need to be improved. They are working towards a single non-emergency phone number to log information and give advice. Incidents which don't need action can be e-mailed to: www.essex.police.uk/authority. Enclose your name & address and you will be contacted. Or you can contact the ASB Facilitator on 01621 875821 for advice.

Dramatic improvements are promised, with improved communication, and the Police back on the street. Burnham is promised a Police presence within 6 months.

There is a Chelmsford Police & community consultative Group Extraordinary Public meeting on 17th October, which Mrs. Allen will try to attend.

276. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Mr. Cooper advised that there had been over 20 hearings regarding the new licensing and extended hours.

OPEN SPACES

277. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve** – Mr Alec Paul has very kindly made a new bin, which will be sited behind the sign/bridge. Clerk to ask Mr Bull to be responsible for emptying it **ACTION: CLERK**

278. **Playing Field.**

At last meeting we had had one request to use the playing field for children's football – all members were asked to comment. We have now had another request, also for a youth football club. Members comments included: charging a nominal fee, (MDC charge for a professional game £35.70 per match, for juniors 26.25 and £21 for mini soccer per match, this includes use of showers/changing rooms and goal posts, they bring their own nets & must supply copy of Public Liability Insurance from the FA). Bear in mind past problems with noise/bad language. Must make it clear that we won't provide maintenance, other than grass cutting, ground condition down to the team – play at own risk.

It was agreed to firstly approach a known referee in the village to ask if he would comment on the condition of the pitch. If he considers it playable a nominal fee of £10 per match would be charged (this would not include use of the village hall) and that the team should also have insurance for the public and the players.

ACTION: CLERK

279. **Village Caretaker work – report as follows:**

Further to my last report, we still have an ongoing problem with builders' rubbish being dumped at various sites in the Parish. Perhaps residents could be asked, through The Beacon, to keep an eye out and report any offenders. Similarly, there is continued minor vandalism of the play equipment in the playground.

Now that vegetation is dying back, I propose to clear round the playground, repair fences and remove overhanging branches and dead trees from the thicket, and carry out ongoing litter clearance. I further propose to clean and refurbish the play equipment, painting or preserving as necessary.

In Cowpiece I will continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. As vegetation dies back I will be able to clear pathways of overhanging vegetation and ensure the area is maintained to enhance nature conservation. I will renovate the picnic table and bench. I note that the wildlife pond is rather overgrown, and am happy to clear this area or to work with volunteers to clear it, if you require me to do so.

Clerk had advised that a resident had requested that the hedges by the bus stop/notice board be trimmed back, Clerk wasn't sure if this was public land or belonged to the nearby house owner, but spoke to the house owner and he offered to trim this back and keep grass verge tidy. Members advised that this is okay.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

280. **Ferris Avenue Path** – Mary Bryant read out a report regarding the adoption of this: we need 12 evidence forms, at present we have 11. Various Councillors advised that they would be able to Mrs. Bryant more names. **ACTION: COUNCILLORS**

281. **Footpath 14** – verbal request for a dog waste bin near Church. Members decided that it would not be appropriate near the Church and it would be difficult to get it emptied, so Clerk to request one be installed at the Latchingdon Road entrance to the footpath.

282. **Footpath 20** – Chris Brown advised ongoing drainage problem is being discussed with MDC

283. **Footpath 15** - telephone call from a resident in St. Stephens Road re entry to the path is slippery. Clerk has reported this to Chris Brown.

284. **Footpath 19** – this pathway is being reinstated, Landowner had been given copy of the definitive map. Way marker posts will be supplied which the owner will put in.

285. **Footpath Across Golf course** – the safest crossing (permissive route) should have had way markers installed a couple of years ago, these have never materialised. Clerk to talk to Chris Brown to organise this rather than the Golf Course owners. **ACTION: CLERK**

286. **Footpath Map** – Mrs Garnham will investigate the production of this item **ACTION: MRS. GARNHAM**

287. **Railway line enquiry**

Answers to questions raised at last meeting:

The new bridleway may be used by people, horse riders and pedal bikes, but not motor bikes or other motor vehicles. But, as the bridleway runs through Three Rivers' property, apparently they can authorise golf buggy usage. Access/egress points are all detailed on the papers and maps circulating - these also confirm width of bridleways as varying between 2 and 3 metres, except the last section which varies from 1 to 9 metres.

Re maintenance arrangements, unless it is formally adopted it will be the responsibility of the landowners. Mrs. Mary Morris at County Hall has advised Clerk speak to Chris Brown about this as this will now fall under his area of responsibility. But, Mrs. Morris also pointed out, as stated on the 'Public Notice', there is a 42 day period for any appeals to be lodged by the landowners .

288. COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE – answer to question from last meeting:

FOI is Freedom of Information – it refers to the relatively recent FOI Act, which requires all local authorities to make information freely available to any member of the public (or organisation) that requires it. Like all parish councils, Cold Norton Parish Council was required to agree what information would be available for this purpose. It was agreed to adopt the model format (to which the majority of parish councils agreed, and which consists of the minimum requirements). Mrs. Bryant has been trying to find an electronic copy of the model format for the website, rather than re-type it all.

Clerk to discuss web site fee with Mr Hallam

ACTION: CLERK

CORRESPONDENCE

289. Trafalgar Day Commemoration Service 23rd October- Mr Archer may attend

290. Dengie Hundred Annual Quiz – Mr. Archer and Mr. Litscher will attend

291. Contract monitoring – Parish Councils – Clerk to invite Mrs Maggie Saltmarsh to attend a PC meeting to discuss this.

292. Mayland Nature Reserve – invitation to opening, details noted.

293. Parish Paths Partnership – Developing Local Skills - Prof. Barclay may attend, to confirm.

294. EALC East of England Draft Plan - Wednesday 26th October Programme details supplied, no one able to attend

295. EALC Working for Essex Communities 2006 Wednesday 2nd November – details noted

296. Community Engagement & Local Leadership/Update on Essex CC Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) / Planning Engagement – Dates of meetings – 14th October and 28th October noted

297. Licensing Act 2003 – representations. Clerk to draft reply as discussed.

ACTION: CLERK

298. TRAFALGAR WEEKEND – 21^s – 23rd October. Event being organised in conjunction with the VHMC.

299. Remembrance Day Service – Mrs. Garnham will represent the Parish and lay a wreath at the service on Sunday 13th November at 11.15 am

300. 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.)

Mrs Allen advised that the PC doesn't have an automatic right to a place on the school board, but a councillor can still be appointed as a board member, also the Clerk to the Governors is retiring and they are looking for a replacement.

301. To consider DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled to year-end: - Dates scheduled are: Wednesday 9 November, and Wednesday 7 December.

Chairman.....

Date.....