

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2008 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mr. P. Guppy
Mr. C. Litscher
Mrs. A. McDonald
Mr. P. Wakeling

In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Plus 3 members of the public

259. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was proposed by Mr. Litscher and seconded by Mr. Guppy that Mr. Wakeling should chair the meeting.
260. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Mrs Gold (Chairman), Professor Barclay (Vice Chairman), Mr Archer and District Councillor Mr John Sears.
261. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 10th September 2008 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Approval of Payments

262. Dave Bull general village caretaker work to 27th September 2008 Invoice No.71 dated 27.09.08 £145 Cheque No. 702
263. Mary Stoddart Postal expenses reference grant applications: special delivery to CIF fund £4.60 and Garfield Weston £1.60 Total £6.10 Cheque No.703.
264. Maria Dyer office expenses £30.14 (£29.55 net) Cheque No.704.
265. Southminster Parish Council Donation towards funding Halloween event £50. Cheque No.705
266. BF Ground Maintenance Grass Cutting for September Invoice No.1753 dated 29.09.08 £264.38 (£225 net) Cheque No.706.
267. Inland Revenue TAX/NI to 05.10.08 £3.48 Cheque No. 707.

268. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st Sept 2008	£	130.16
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th Sept 2008	£	396.01
Abbey as at 1 st September 2008	£	<u>21,687.75</u>
	£	22,213.92

PLANNING

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

FUL/MAL/08/00829

Cold Norton

To remove 2 no. pairs of existing double gates (Honey Pot Lane & Stow Road) and replace with new timber gates with metal posts to be aligned with existing fence line.

Pantile Hall Honeypot Lane Stow Maries Essex
(UPRN - 100091256783)

David Edward

APPROVED

FUL/MAL/08/00856 Cold Norton
Conversion of former agricultural building to two bedroom dwelling
Norton Hall Barn St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 010013995279)
Martin Pinch **REFUSED**

LBC/MAL/08/00857 Cold Norton
Conversion of former agricultural building to two bedroom dwelling
Norton Hall Barn St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex
(UPRN - 010013995279)
Martin Pinch **REFUSED**

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

FUL/MAL/08/01018 Norton Hall, St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Continuation of storage and distribution of goods from outbuildings. Week No.38 dated 19th September 2008:

Cold Norton Parish Council objects to the proposal contained in the above application, requesting permanent permission to the temporary permit granted last year, which it finds to be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.

The Parish Council's reasons for this recommendation are:

- St. Stephens Road is little more than a country lane and cannot support the traffic this storage and distribution business generates
- There are a number of storage and distribution facilities within a three mile radius which would be suitable for this business
- The rural nature of the area is effected by the traffic generated by this business (the character of the countryside suffers - CC6 Landscape protection)
- Whilst this application only relates to one building, there are several within this site and there is concern that if granted for this building there may be requests for expansion into other areas on this site which would be highly inappropriate.

FUL/MAL/08/01057 Two Square, St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. Demolish dwelling house, garage, sheds and all other outbuildings. Erect replacement house and garage and change of use of nursery/garden centre to domestic garden and garden to orchard/paddock. Week No. 38 dated 19th September 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 - it is smaller in scale to that proposed in the earlier application and also sited in a much better location on the plot. However, the Parish Councillors would not be in agreement with any further extension or development on this site.

271. **Notification of Appeal in relation to Palepit Farm, Latchingdon Road, Purleigh.**
FUL/MAL/08/00566 Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/A/08/2083066/NWF Relocation of agricultural barn
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 17th October 2008 – Members advised no changes.
272. **Notification of new appeal by NPower Renewables, Land at Hockley Farm Proposed Wind Farm, Hockley lane, Bradwell-on-Sea. Application Reference No. FUL/MAL/06/00291 Appeal Reference NO.APP/X/1545/A/06/2023805/NWF. Construct wind farm comprising of 1-0 turbines of maximum 121m to blade tip height, sub station building, anemometer mast and ancillary infrastructure.** Members were advised that as a result of a successful High Court challenge to the Planning Inspectorate's original appeal decision of 10th September 2007, the Court has ordered that the appeal is reconsidered and that any representations must reach the Inspectorate by 29th October 2008. Members asked Clerk to restate the Council's original opinion; the following was sent:

With reference to the forthcoming new appeal, at which it is understood that only evidence or views relating to Conditions 14 and 15 (noise conditions) will be considered, Cold Norton Parish Council would like to restate its original objections to the construction of a wind farm based around noise conditions, namely:

- The noise pollution that would result from such a development would have detrimental effect on the quality of life for both human and wild life, adversely affecting the tranquillity of the area.
- This loss of a tranquil setting caused by the noise produced in the development of the wind farm would effect majorly on the thriving wild life in the area, causing species to be lost from the Dengie area, long known for its varied and abundant wildlife

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

273. Highways Schedule

Pram ramps at bridge – provisional start date of 17th October advised.

New signs Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue – works were completed in July

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton - Some of the upright signs obscured by hedgerows. Shared VAS sign – sign will be ordered in the next two weeks, but cannot advise yet when it will be on site. Re speed surveys to gauge success of new sign when up Members were advised that due to budgetary constraints this financial year this will not be possible, but data from the sign itself once it is installed will be obtained.

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – on Highways schedule for cutting back. Still no date for this work

Footway just over bridge cracking also near Country Produce – work now completed

274. **£1million Bonanza for Highways Projects:** Members were advised that the Clerk had spoken to the local area highways manager re the resurfacing of Cherry Blossom Lane under this scheme, but was advised that unadopted roads cannot be considered for legal reasons (apparently there are lots of legal responsibilities which apparently would come into force if highways did work on such a road, even though we are only asking for this as a one off and that this road leads to the village hall/lottery expansion plans etc but still not possible.) Clerk advised that Highways did offer 'plainings' which are 'leftovers' when highways carry out road resurfacings – highways won't actually put these down (for the above same reasons) so we would need a team to spread these. There wouldn't be a charge for these 'plannings', but there may be a transport charge. Members decided that this material would not be suitable for this road surface.

275. **School Parking Problem:** Members discussed an e-mail from a village resident (name etc not revealed to Members or visitors) with a child at the school concerned about the way the school staff are being treated by village residents. Clerk was requested to respond as discussed, advise the Chairman of the School Governors and to include this subject on the agenda for the next Annual Parish Meeting.
ACTION: CLERK

276. **ECC Re Temporary Overhead Banners/Seasonal Decorations over the Highway:** Members were given a copy of the letter regarding this and advised that the Clerk planned to send copies to the Pre School Committee and Train Event Committee.
ACTION: CLERK

VILLAGE HALL

277. **Report from Parish Council Representatives:** hall hire rates have all been increased
278. **Village Hall Project:** Visit from Big Lottery team took place a couple of weeks ago. Roger Hawes and Mary Stoddart are responding to questions raised at this meeting. Once these have been submitted it is expected that the application will go before committee in November and results should be known before Christmas. Application for funding also being made to MDC Parish Projects Fund.
279. **Proposal re new village hall:** Members were advised that the Clerk had spoken to MDC who will review/advise re the proposal as it is at present. After this has taken place a meeting will be convened with the architect.

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

280. **Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting held on 23rd September:** Mr Guppy attended and highlighted problems in playing field – Police will make regular visits.
281. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** - Mr Archer had sent a message to say 'nothing new to report'

OPEN SPACES

282. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** working party to be organised to clear brambles, remaining fencing etc. Clerk to get a quote from Directa for a sign. **ACTION: MR LITSCHER/CLERK**
283. **Playing Field**
- Picnic benches – Village Caretaker has been asked to fix these down ASAP
- Tiling around swings – Village Caretaker has been authorised to proceed
- The remaining metal goalpost: crater in front of goal: BF Ground Maintenance has recommended this is filled with topsoil, raked, levelled and then seeded – BF quote for this is £120 +VAT. Members approved the quote. FA re retention of this post/removal of old goalpost pieces still to be actioned.
- Swing bolt missing –Clerk to advise Village caretaker
- Hard standing – repair has now been completed.
- Village caretaker has been given a copy of the report and been asked to consider action re gaps on older equipment.
- Essex Playing Fields – Clerk advised that a letter had been received to say Cold Norton has won an award in the Best Kept Playing Fields Competition 2008 – awards etc will be made at AGM on Thursday 30th October 8pm at Essex County Cricket Club – Mr Wakeling to attend.
284. **Village Caretaker work** – report for September:
- 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 conversation regarding the sandpit and play area, I shall repair the sand pit again and I will relay the safety mats under the swings.
- I regret to report that one of the bench seats at Cowpiece has been destroyed.
- Broken bottles on the playing field and in the fenced play area seem to be an ongoing problem and think it would be advisable to warn user groups to be aware of this hazard.
- Builders rubbish is still appearing in green sacks in the village hall car park, and now in St. Stephens Road and the nature reserve.
285. **Essex Youth Bus:** Members were advised that if the PC advises dates and times they will try and get staff. If it is well supported by young people aged 13 – 19 years then it may be possible that it could be made a more regular event.

286. **Tree outside village hall:** one quote received, Clerk to obtain further quotes.
ACTION: CLERK
287. **Essex Tree Initiative: Mr Wakeling offered to review the application forms.**
ACTION: MR. WAKELING
288. **Allotments:** Clerk confirmed that a letter has been sent to MDC advising that the PC is willing to consider taking over ownership.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

289. **Footpath 14:** work should be carried out in 2-4 weeks re definitive path correction/signing
290. **Footpath 19:** fingerpost overgrown: contractors to erect a new wooden fingerpost on the other side of the entrance (between the name plate & telegraph pole) as to clear round the plastic fingerpost would severely interfere with the landowner's hedge. Work should be completed in 2-4 weeks.
291. **Footpaths 23 and 24:** way marking and clearing work will be carried out by P3
292. **Footpath 25:** fingerpost blocked with hedgerow – now cleared
293. **Footpath 20:** PRow advised no new ideas/materials have come to light, but this FP problem has not been forgotten
294. **Proposed Diversion Footpath 13 – Three Rivers Golf Course:** Members were advised that this case from 2004 is likely to be processed in 2010, but that ECC will also be contacting Three Rivers.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

295. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils:** Quarterly meeting was held on 17th September. Mr Guppy attended and reported back on main topics, namely public transport, power station pylons and the light switching off trial in the district. Members had all been sent by e-mail a copy of the 'Facing the Future' paper referred to by the speaker at this meeting: Mr Lew Schnurr of Heybridge PC.
296. **East Essex Transport Forum:** draft minutes from July meeting supplied to all Members and advised that next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd October in Burnham – noted
297. **The Maldon District Local Strategic Partnership 'Annual General Meeting 7 - 9:00 pm, Wed 22nd October** Minerva Centre, Mundon. Members noted.
298. **Hastoe Housing Association – information Day:** Friday 3rd October 10am - 4.30pm. Noted

CORRESPONDENCE

299. **Communities & Local Government: The making & enforcement of byelaws – a consultation:** Comments are required by Thursday 20th November – Mr Litscher reviewing.
ACTION: MR LITSCHER
300. **Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Service** re Viking Transport - Request for support for their application to MDC for funding, also publicity. Members discussed and requested that Clerk write a letter of support and pass on to M&DCVS details of The Beacon.
ACTION: CLERK

- 301. **The Standards Board –Town & Parish Standard September 08 newsletter:** copy supplied to each Member.

- 302. **Rural Housing Trust Round Up: Regional Newsletter September 08:** copy supplied to each Member.

- 303. **ECC passenger Transport Meeting for Autumn 2008** (between 4th and 27th November - Maldon meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11th November at 2pm) – Clerk to supply each member with a copy of all dates and venues.
ACTION: CLERK

- 304. **MDC - Requests for Nominations for Parish Panel for Parish Projects Fund:** Clerk to circulate details to all Members.
ACTION: CLERK

- 305. **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. Guppy suggested that some of the Councillors undertake a monthly inspection 'walk' to ascertain any areas/elements requiring action. Members felt this would be very useful. Mr Guppy offered to organise the first of these inspections.
ACTION: MR GUPPY

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2008: Wednesdays 12th November and 3rd December.

Chairman.....

Date.....