

# COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2005 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

### THOSE PRESENT:

#### Councillors:

Mrs A. Allen  
Mr. J. Archer  
Mrs. G. Gold  
Mr. P. Wakeling (part)

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

**Also present:** PC Hughes

302. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was proposed by Mrs Allen and seconded by Mrs Gold that Mr. Archer should chair the meeting.
303. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Mrs Garnham, Professor Barclay and Mr. Litscher. (A message had also been received to advise that Mr. Wakeling had been delayed)
304. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

### FINANCE

#### Payments

305. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November £205.83 (205.33 net) Cheque no.294
306. Bradley Faulkner – grass cutting invoice dated 30<sup>th</sup> October £458.25 (£390.00 net) Cheque no.295
307. Cold Norton Village Hall invoice dated 30<sup>th</sup> October £29.15 cheque no.296
308. Campaign to Protect Rural England membership to 31.10.06 £25 cheque no.297

#### 309. Financial Statement

##### Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 <sup>st</sup> October	£	121.30
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 <sup>th</sup> October	£	22,597.52
Abbey as at 1 <sup>st</sup> October	£	<u>520.21</u>
	£	23,239.03

#### 310. Change of Clerk – notification to Abbey – further papers to be signed.

Last month, as requested by Abbey, a letter was signed and duly sent and faxed to Abbey, to enable Clerk to operate this account & to reconfirm the authorised signatories. However, since denying receipt of the original and three further fax copies of this letter, we now been told we have to complete a form, therefore more paperwork will need to be signed by the relevant PC members. **ACTION: CLERK**

311. **St. Stephen's Church - churchyard upkeep:** a request for financial support had been received from the PCC towards work within the churchyard, involving the headstones, oil tank and trees overhanging the road. The Clerk was requested to check what monies have already been paid to the church this financial year and what monies are left in the charitable budget for discussion at next PC meeting. **ACTION: CLERK**

312. **Street Lighting Renewal Contract:** Clerk advised that to date no alternative suppliers for non-metered supply of power had been found. Clerk will continue to investigate. **ACTION: CLERK**

### PLANNING

#### 313. Maldon District Council Decisions

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

**FUL/MAL/05/00902 Cold Norton**  
Continuation of use of land as an extension to domestic garden  
The Poppets 30A Latchingdon Road Cold Norton Essex  
(UPRN - 100090555238)  
Mark Robert Payne **REFUSED**

**FUL/MAL/04/00948**  
**APP/X1545/A/04/1169758**  
Site at Lords Acre Nursery, Lower Burnham Road, Cold Norton  
Use office building to provide residential accommodation for workers employed at turkey rearing enterprise  
Appeal by Mr. M Sommerville  
Appeal against refusal  
**Appeal dismissed 24 October 2005**

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

**FUL/MAL/05/01196 26 The Fairways.** Single storey front and rear extensions and alterations. Weekly list dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005

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/05/01209 Toad Hall, Station Road.** Replacement garage with store/workshop and WC with games room over. Weekly list dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005

The Parish Council objects to this planning application, and recommends that Maldon District Council REFUSE CONSENT. Reasons for this recommendation are:

- the proposed development is outside the village development boundary
- the scale is too large: the proposed development is far too big, to the extent that it looks like a house and not a replacement garage
- it is an application for a substantial building, which is a bulking up of the mass on the very edge of the village and would be visually intrusive

**315. Sherae, Latchingdon Road.** Clerk still to contact MDC re this property **ACTION: CLERK**

**316. MDC Development Control Map** – all members had been supplied with a copy

**317. Scoping Opinion re wind farm** – members advised that the following comments should be conveyed in a letter to MDC in response to a request for the PC's opinion

That wind farms should not be sited in residential areas. Rural environment should not be spoiled, siting of wind farms should be restricted to waste land. Preference is for them not to be sited on land but at sea. The question of efficiency was raised and that they are very expensive. **ACTION: CLERK**

#### **HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**

**318. Pedestrian Crossing**

Meeting with Councillor Bass to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Clerk to confirm with Mr. T. Williams. **ACTION: CLERK**

**319. Annual Highways Liaison meeting**

This took place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Those present for PC were John and Andy, plus clerk. Steve Broad represented highways.

**320. Highways Schedule**

Is being updated in line with liaison meeting and will then be circulated. Members asked Clerk to investigate water along Latchingdon Road near Bardwell's Yard. **ACTION: CLERK**

#### **VILLAGE HALL**

**321. Report from Parish Council Representatives** – not available

**322. Village Hall Project**

At the VHMC meeting held on 2nd November Mary Bryant and Roger Hawes were formally co-opted onto the VHMC for the sole purpose of the expansion programme. There was also a formal request by the VHMC for support for this project for this project from the PC. A contractor has been selected for the kitchen element of the project, final decision still to be made re requirements. Mrs Bryant is looking into grants, one for the kitchen and one for the preparation of plans for the lottery application. £4,500 is needed for the plans. Mr. Hawes is preparing the business plan. It is proposed to hold meetings once a month and that this is a 2 year project. PC Members expressed their support for this project.

**323. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS**

There were instances of vandalism on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October on the hard standing and around the village. It is believed to have been caused by youths, who were in the village for a party. PC Hughes requested anyone who knows the possible culprits to contact him. PC Hughes advised that if there is an amalgamation with other Police Forces it is unlikely to materialise for 6 – 12 months. Re alignment with other areas, PC Hughes advised that because of the justice/court system it is unlikely and if this were the case the only band possible would be Witham/Harlow/Maldon. Working towards 'specials', who currently are only paid a refreshment allowance, being paid £2,000 per year.

**324. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT-** Mr. Archer advised that Mr. Steven Watson will be taking over from Mr. Delwyn Burbidge as Chief Executive from January 2006. Mr. Archer also advised that the Prom is showing great improvement even without a swimming pool and that the firework display was very spectacular this year.

**OPEN SPACES**

**325. Cowpiece Nature Reserve** – Mrs Allen advised that the new bin will be installed ASAP.

**326. Playing Field** – nothing reported

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

Further to my last communication we still have a problem with builders' rubbish being dumped at various sites in the Parish, particularly the pathway by the bridge. Similarly there is still continuing minor vandalism of the play equipment and boundary fencing of the playground. Sadly, soon after I had replaced the bark chippings in the children's play area that a quantity appear to have been shovelled up and stolen.

As the vegetation dies back and leaves fall I propose to continue clearing round the playground, replacing fences and gates, removing overhanging branches and dead trees from the thicket, and carry out ongoing litter and leaf clearance. I further propose to clean and refurbish the play equipment, painting or preserving as necessary. I intend to replace the bark chippings as necessary.

In Cowpiece Nature Reserve I will continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. As vegetation continues to die back I will be able to carry out ongoing clearance of pathways and overhanging vegetation to ensure the area is maintained, to enhance nature conservation. I will treat the picnic table and bench with wood preservative to enhance their lifespan and appearance.

As per my October report I note that the wildlife pond is completely overgrown, mainly with bulrushes. These require cutting off and roots removing to prevent the pond reverting to a bog area. I am happy to carry out this task or to work with volunteers to clear it, if you confirm that you require me to do so. I will need to submit a few extra hours to pay another contractor to assist me as the task requires a minimum of two people for health and safety.

I have now commenced seasonal clearing of the area over the old railway bridge.

Members asked Clerk to ascertain from caretaker where rubbish is being dumped and to advise that MDC should be collecting. Members advised that all work detailed above may proceed and requested that area around dipping platform is cleared.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**328. Allotments** – Mr. Archer read out a report from Mrs Garnham, which encouraged all PC Members to support this scheme and advising that she was happy to be the Council's representative on the steering committee.

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

**329. Ferris Avenue Path** – Mr. Litscher to advise names of people who may be able to report usage of the path  
A letter will then go out from the Parish Council

**ACTION: MR. LITSCHER/CLERK**

330. **Footpath 14** – Clerk had received calls requesting that the decision not to position a dog waste bin near the church be reconsidered. Clerk to check first re the collection of waste with MDC for further discussion.  
**ACTION: CLERK**
331. **Footpath 15** – in light of a resident advising that entry to this footpath is slippery, Mr C. Brown has investigated what can be done, steps had been a consideration .but this is not possible as this is now also the entrance to the new bridleway and would not be appropriate for horses. He has advised that they will be putting in some form of staggered barrier in immediately after the entrance to the wooded area to prevent horses going onto the adjoining field, which of course is continued as a footpath and not part of the bridleway.
332. **Footpath 19** - the path has been seeded with grass but Chris is waiting for the ground to dry out a little more to roll. He has way marked the route with direction arrows
333. **Footpath 20** - Ongoing, Nothing new to report at present
334. **Footpath Map** - Mrs Garnham has advised that she had already done some work on this and will come up with a proper proposal at the December meeting
335. **Rear of Church** – Mr. Brown advised that he would like to replace the kissing gate at the rear of the church with another larger kissing gate which opens and closes properly as he understands there is a lady that uses this footpath with a pushchair and the larger gate caters for prams, wheelchairs etc. Members agreed  
**ACTION: CLERK**
336. **New bridleway** – Mr. Brown has confirmed that he is the person responsible for the signing, but he still has to walk the entire route. He will also be liaising with the landowner and County Hall with a view to the maintenance issue i.e. getting some form of working party to assist if possible – he also said “if we know of any help as well!!!” Mr. Brown thanked us for the invitation to the meeting, but unable to attend at present. NB number of bridleway is Bridleway 29 for its route in Cold Norton and Bridleway 24 for Stow Maries
337. **Golf course footpath (Footpath 13)** – Mr. Brown is arranging for his contractors to put the way mark posts in along the permissive route – unable to give exact time, but he would like it to be this year. Members asked if it would be possible to put in kissing gates, similar to those mentioned above at the bottom of St. Stephens Road part of this footpath.  
**ACTION: CLERK**
338. **COLD NORTON’S WEBSITE** – all members to view before next meeting  
**ACTION: ALL PC MEMBERS**

#### CORRESPONDENCE

339. **Interact** - thank you letter received for donation
340. **Saint FM** - thank you letter received for donation
341. **Essex Playing Fields holding their AGM on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 8 pm** – no one available to attend
342. **Maldon 2010 Partnership Planning & Environment Task Group Meeting Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 6 pm** – Mr. Archer will attend
343. **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 question of fencing that was won for Cowpiece was raised. Clerk to investigate  
**ACTION: CLERK**
- The new exhibition at the Combined Services Museum (spy equipment) was praised – worthy of a visit.
- Dengie 100 Quiz – Mr. Archer advised will join with North Fambridge, requested Clerk e-mail absent members to see if they are available to join the team.  
**ACTION: CLERK**

#### DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled to year-end and first month of the New Year: - Dates scheduled are: Wednesday 14 December 2005 and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Chairman.....

Date.....