

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 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)

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

345. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 9th November 2005 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

346. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice dated 9th December £263.25. Cheque No. 299
347. Lubbock Fine, Annual audit £141 (£120 net). Cheque No.300
348. BT Line rental £45.02 (£39.06 net). Cheque No.351
349. S.P. Bardwell. Repair to manhole cover Village Hall car park £305.50 (£260 net). Cheque No. 352
350. Society of Local Council Clerks membership renewal £84. Cheque No. 353

351. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st December	£	121.30
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17th November	£	17,597.52
Abbey as at 1 st December	£	<u>1,173.11</u>
	£	18,891.93

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

Abbey have now supplied forms they require to be completed, these were duly completed and signed as follows:

Extra account users form enabling Mrs Dyer to operate the account, but not to sign cheques, was signed by Mrs Allen, Prof. Barclay and Mr. Wakeling.

Change of account signatories form to remove Mr. Tubby's signature was signed by Mrs. Allen, Prof. Barclay and Mr. Wakeling. The form also requires Mr. Tubby to sign this form, Mrs. Dyer to organise this.

ACTION: CLERK

353. St. Stephen's Church – churchyard upkeep

Clerk advised that no grant funding has been made to the church in this financial year and that there is £568.50 in the grant budget line.

Following discussion it was agreed to award £540 of the remaining grant budget to the Parochial Church Council, and to advise the PCC that any future grants should be as contributions towards capital expenditure or specific maintenance projects rather than for aspects of routine expenditure.

ACTION: CLERK

STREET LIGHTING

354. **Renewal Contract/Alternative Supplier**

Clerk advised that not all suppliers provide an unmetered service, but the one who will has advised a price of 4.674p/KW/h over our current supplier's renewal price. It was agreed to renew with e-on.

ACTION: CLERK

355. **Repair to street light at corner of Crown Road**

Clerk presented quote for this, approval to proceed given

ACTION: CLERK

356. **Publicity for Village Hall Project**

A proposal to finance the costs of publicising the above in the January edition of The Beacon, delivering a copy to all homes in the village was put forward. The costs involved will be £60 – 80 for addition print run of the magazine and £33 delivery costs. Proposal approved.

357. **Budget Estimates for 2006/7 and precept calculations**

Members discussed and it was agreed further discussion will take place at the January meeting when a decision will be made. Meanwhile Members to contact Clerk if any further figures/details/calculations are required.

ACTION: PC MEMBERS

358. **Completion of Audit for year ended 31st March 2005.**

Annual return form with signed audit certificate and opinion – copies had been supplied to all members

Mary Bryant had sent her apologies that the said error mentioned under externals auditor's report was caused because she had calculated the total borrowings by taking the PWLB invoice of 20th March 2005 and deducting the amount shown as 'total due'. But she hadn't noticed that this 'total due' also included 'interest due' which should not have been included when calculating the balance outstanding.

Completion of audit and above duly noted by all Members.

PLANNING

359. **Maldon District Council Decisions**

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

FUL/MAL/05/01064 **Cold Norton**
Rear ground floor extension
33 Stow Road Cold Norton Essex CM3 6RR
(UPRN - 100090555897)
Mr & Mrs Taylor **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/05/01075 **Cold Norton**
Side Conservatory
5 Greentrees Avenue Cold Norton Essex CM3 6JA
(UPRN - 100090554860)
Mr and Mrs Brook **APPROVED**

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

FUL/MAL/05/01244 (Resubmission 05/00496) Watts Hill, Burnham Road, Purleigh. Provision of a bungalow in lieu of a mobile home. Week No. 46 w/e 17th November 2005:

Cold Norton Parish Council objects to the proposals contained in the above planning application & recommends that Maldon District council should REFUSE CONSENT. Reasons are as follows:

- The proposed development is outside the village boundary
- The proposed development is larger than a mobile home

FUL/MAL/05/01264 Foxwood 3 Crown Road, Cold Norton. Use of outbuilding a residential annex containing storage space for adjoining dwelling and construction of link section with adjoining dwelling. Week no. 46 w/e 17th November 2005:
Cold Norton Parish Council objects to the proposals contained in the above planning application & recommends that Maldon District council should REFUSE CONSENT. Reasons are as follows:

- The proposed development is outside of the development boundary
- The proposed development will mean that the annex will become a separate second property which, in such a location, in contrary to both the local Plan and the Parish Council's Planning Policy

FUL/MAL/05/01303 Little Canneys, Stow Road, Cold Norton. Change of use of land to garden. Renovation of farm building for domestic use with hard surfaces. Week No. 47 w/e 24th November 2005:

Cold Norton Parish Council objects to the proposals contained in the above planning application & recommends that Maldon District council should REFUSE CONSENT.
Reasons are as follows:

- The proposed development is outside the development boundary and in a prominent position
- Cold Norton Parish Council believes that the renovated buildings should retain the existing shape and style of the originals
- The Council also thinks that the proposed road entrance onto Hagg Hill would be dangerous, as it is not clear that the 'one way' system that operates on Hagg Hill would be observed
- The Parish Council objects to the use of agricultural land for garden.

Cold Norton Parish Council has been advised that a significant amount of building work has already been done and would suggest that a planning officer visits the site.

FUL/MAL/05/01347 Land to rear of 24 to 32b Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden. Week No. 49 w/e 8th December 2005:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development contained within the above planning application would not be harmful, providing that:

- no permanent structure is erected on the site

The recommendation is therefore that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application with above condition attached.

AGR/MAL/05/01316 Lords Acre Nursery, Lower Burnham Road, Cold Norton. One building divided into three for storage of feed and machinery and to house diesel generator. Proposed extension to two existing turkey sheds. No plans available - Clerk had been advised that this is an AGR which is '*determination to see if need prior approval. There are only 28 days in which to do this and not even North Fambridge PC Members are asked to comment on it.*'

Members advised that they would like to see AGR plans as a rule. Clerk to note

361. **Sherae, Latchingdon Road** - Clerk apologised that this has yet to be further investigated.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

362. **Pedestrian Crossing**

Contents of the meeting held with Councillor Bass and Trevor Williams for Highways on 30th November was summarised for members unable to attend: advice from safety engineers coupled with research from similar sites in the county led to the recommendation that a pedestrian crossing cannot be installed without traffic slowing devices also being installed, which will consist of VAS signs and signs warning of zebra crossing, together with red tactile paving either side of the crossing. The Belisha beacon will be mounted and hooded.

The Members were advised that site originally proposed is the only one suitable, likewise for the siting of the proposed VAS signs etc. Costs were advised as £20,000 for the zebra crossing, but that this rises to £70,000 to include all the safety furniture/lights etc. and that the crossing cannot be installed without the recommended VAS and other safety furniture. Councillor advised that this amount is not available at present for this work to be carried out, but that it will be included for consideration from the new budget.

It was agreed that this item will be an agenda item at the next Annual Parish Meeting – Clerk will also include a report in The Beacon
ACTION: CLERK

363. Highways Schedule

Clerk advised that this is being updated in line with liaison meeting and will be supplied ASAP.

However the following information had been received from Mike Ager in relation to some items on the schedule:

Signs on Fambridge Road: "I have looked at the signs on Fambridge Road and I have some ideas to provide new bigger signs with distance plates to the junction with slow road marking adjacent, however funds are low for this year, so I will programme it for next April."

School zig zags: "Will be investigated on visit scheduled for Friday 16th December"

364. Maldon Team Structure

All Members confirmed receipt of a copy detailing above.

VILLAGE HALL

365. Report from Parish Council Representatives

PC Representative outlined current situation.

366. Village Hall Project

Kitchen plans being finalised, grant applications being prepared.

367. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

Minutes for the Police and Community Consultative Group meeting held on 21st September had been circulated to Members.

Damage reported to the playground equipment reported to clerk on 21st November by village caretaker and Mrs Edwards. Members asked Clerk to check that the matter had been reported to the Police. Re the theft of bark chippings from the children's' playground the possibility of coloured chippings was discussed. Clerk to discuss with Village Caretaker
ACTION: CLERK

368. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Archer advised: a £500,000 deficit at MDC; that the Marine Park is looking very good; changes at MDC offices re front and back office management – aiming to have personnel in front office who can deal directly with public and their enquiries; Police force reorganisation still being discussed.

OPEN SPACES

369. Cowpiece Nature Reserve – nothing to report. Clerk to investigate what has happened to free fencing
ACTION: CLERK

370. Playing Field.

The resident referee in the village has inspected the pitch to give his opinion re its suitability for a children's football team. He has advised favourably. Clerk has advised the interested party and requested they now put everything in writing and supply a copy of their FA insurance/public liability certificate. Clerk to write to referee expressing thanks for his help.
ACTION: CLERK

371. 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. As you advised, I have not dealt with this but can report that there is a dump by the rail bridge in the Ferris Avenue Alleyway behind the sub-station.

With regard the theft of bark chippings I note your agreement to my purchase of more chippings, which I shall do before the Christmas holiday period.

As the vegetation dies back and leaves fall I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall. I am also removing overhanging branches and dead trees from the thicket, and carry out ongoing litter and leaf clearance. I have commenced the cleaning and refurbishment of the play equipment, and will be painting or preserving as necessary, when the weather is suitable.

In Cowpiece Nature reserve I continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. As vegetation continues to die back I have commenced the clearance of pathways and overhanging vegetation to ensure the area is maintained, and to enhance nature conservation. I will treat the picnic table and bench with wood preservative to enhance their lifespan and appearance once the weather is suitable.

As per my November report when I noted that the wildlife pond was completely overgrown, I have arranged for additional labour at the same hourly rate as myself to assist with the safe clearance of this area.

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

Further to your email, I have listed the works I completed consequent to the vandalism incident. I will be happy to submit this as a separate account if the insurance company requires it.

Clerk to contact MDC re builders' rubble at site mentioned above, and also at Honeypot Lane 50 – 100 yards in from Stow Road. Clerk to ask Village Caretaker if he can supply green refuse bins for the new bin at Cowpiece.

ACTION: CLERK

372. Allotments

Redrafted copy of agreement with Healthy Living Unit received, copy signed by Mrs. Garnham.

ACTION: CLERK

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

373. Ferris Avenue Path – Mr. Litscher and Mrs Bryant are distributing letters, forms and maps for completion by people who have used this route.

374. Footpath 14 – information re costs, location and emptying of the proposed new dog waste bin had been circulated. It was agreed that Mrs Allen and the Clerk would liaise with MDC re the location.

ACTION: MRS ALLEN/CLERK

375. Footpath 15 – staggered barrier has not yet been done. Mr Brown is liaising with the landowner re structure material i.e. wood or wood/tubular steel

376. Footpath 19 – as of a week ago the path had not been seeded as the ground was still too wet.

377. Footpath 20 - MDC has been down there and discovered that it is not a sewage problem, but may be an intermittent overflowing cess pool problem. Mr Brown will be going down there early January hopefully with a representative of MDC. Members were advised that direct contact can be made with Ellen Barkley, MDC Environmental Health Technician on ellen.barkley@malton.gov.uk

378. Footpath Map – being worked on

379. New bridleway – Mr. Brown will be liaising with the landowner. After which time he will be calling for volunteers to come forward.

380. Golf course footpath (Footpath 13) – Mr. Brown is hoping that the way mark posts will be done this week, if not soon after Christmas. Prof. Barclay advised he has details of route if required. He will also be speaking to the Golf Club about the gate which is on the bend and reasonably near to footpath 15.

381. Rear of Church – the pram/wheelchair friendly kissing gate will be installed in the New Year.

382. COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE – nothing to report at present. All Members to view for next meeting.

ACTION: ALL PC MEMBERS

CORRESPONDENCE

- 383. **MDC – Maldon District Green Spaces Conference 1st April 2006 being held at Three Rivers** – noted

- 384. **Writtle College – Food, Farming and Fair Trade Wednesday 18th January 2006** – noted

- 385. **Land Registry – voluntary first registration of CNPC landholdings** – details contained in letter briefly discussed. CNPC have three pieces of land, namely Village Hall, Playing Field and Cowpiece. Cowpiece is already registered. Members asked this item be put on the agenda for the next meeting and that the quoted website is visited: http://www.landreg.gov.uk/register_dev/ **ACTION: CLERK/PC MEMBERS**

- 386. **ECC – Future Direction of Library Services** – Mrs Garnham will complete the questionnaire. **ACTION: MRS GARNHAM**

- 387. **ECC – Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Town & Country (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004: Draft Statement of Community Involvement and Essex Minerals Development Documents** – Prof. Barclay will complete the response forms. **ACTION: PROF. BARCLAY**

- 388. **MDC – Adoption of Maldon District Replacement Local Plan** - noted.

- 389. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – there was none

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2006: Wednesday 11th January 2006, 1st February, 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December.

Chairman.....

Date.....