

# COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2006 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

### THOSE PRESENT:

#### Councillors:

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

**In attendance:** Mr. L. Cooper (District Councillor)  
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

399. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Parish Councillor Mr. Wakeling
400. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

### FINANCE

#### Payments

401. Dave Bull village caretaker work invoice Nos 40 & 41 dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 £189 cheque No. 455
402. Dave Bull – materials invoice No. 39 dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 £26.55 (£22.60 net) cheque No. 455
403. MAIA Services for updating two pages on the web site (approved minutes for October and report from November meeting) Invoice no. 211106-1 dated 21.11.06 £17.62 (£15 net) cheque No. 456
404. Bradley Faulkner Grass Cutting Oct Inv No.1153 dated 25.10.06 £246.75 (£210 net) cheque No. 457
405. SLCC Membership (for Clerk) 2007 Membership £85 cheque No. 458
406. BT Invoice NO.QO25W9 £ 45.52 (£39.48 net) cheque No. 459
407. M. Dyer office expenses £56.52 cheque No.460
408. E-on Energy: street lighting for August 2006 invoice no.000002 dated 09/10/06, direct debit will be processed 30/11/06 £39.10 (£37.24) NB due to new invoicing procedure E-on invoiced energy usage for September last month i.e. before August
409. E-on Energy street lighting for October 2006 invoice No.000003 dated 27.11.06 direct debit will be processed on 18.12.06 £39.10 (£37.24)

#### 410 Financial Statement

##### Current balances:

Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 <sup>st</sup> November	£	125.38
Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 <sup>th</sup> November	£	5,123.76
Abbey as at 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2006	£	<u>3,698.45</u>
	£	<u>8,947.59</u>

Members were also supplied with a full set of accounts as the accounts are now up to up to date after the failure of the computerised account programme.

#### 411 Grants/Donations (S137) were agreed to be paid to:

St. Stephens Church: £500 towards the cost of resurfacing the footway leading to the entrance of the Church also forming part of public footpath No.14. Cheque No. 463

Mr. A. Paul: £25 in recognition of work carried out around the village. Cheque No. 464

#### 412. Budget estimates for 2007/8 and precept calculations

Members discussed and it was agreed further discussion will take place at the January meeting. Clerk to supply further figures/calculations as requested.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**413 Children's Swings:**

Wicksteed have quoted £158.09 to Mr Bull for new chains and shackles for the children's swings. Amount approved. Cheque No. 465

**PLANNING**

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

**TPO/MAL/06/01112 Cold Norton**

Crown lift Ash tree (T1) to 5 metres. Fell four Ash trees (T2-T5) and replace with Field Maple and Silver Birch.

Holly Bush 31A St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 100090555821)

Brian Haydon

**APPROVED** (felling of four ash trees T2-T5)

**REFUSED** (crown lift ash tree T1)

**FUL/MAL/06/01106 Purleigh**

Construction of new dwelling

Old Whitmans Farm Hackmans Lane Purleigh Essex

(UPRN - 100091446668)

Mr and Mrs Clayton

**APPROVED**

**FUL/MAL/06/01202 Cold Norton**

Extension above existing double garage

September Lodge St Stephens Road Cold Norton Essex

(UPRN - 200000909850)

Mr J. Welsted

**APPROVED**

**415. Planning Application received by the Parish Council** – the following was considered and response was as indicated:

**TPO/MAL/06/01304 Sylvanus, 13 St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton.** Fell oak tree to ground level and treat stump. Week No.46 dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed works contained in the above application to be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT. The Parish Council objects to the felling of this tree because:

- The Parish Council Members believe that the tree just needs to be managed and not felled, even though OCA state in their report that, in this particular case, this would not be appropriate, other trees in the area have been successfully managed by selective lopping. OCA have not given sufficient reasons why pruning would not work specifically in this case
- This tree forms part of the 'character' of this road
- As support to its objection the Parish Council would like to cite the precedent set earlier this year by an appeal which disallowed the felling of two oak trees in St. Stephens Road

**416. Appeal Application Reference No. APP/X1545/C/06/2024174 Palepit Farm, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Enforcement Ref. No. ENF/1233/16/06.** Members advised support for MDC to have the enforcement notice upheld.

**HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**

**417. Pedestrian Crossing**

Belisha Beacon has been repaired. Loops are down to measure speed/effect of VAS signs – results not yet known. Problems with VAS signs in hand.

Highways have advised funding programme to encourage walking buses providing schools with up to £1000. Details have been supplied to school, school to advise if they will be applying.

School Secretary had supplied copy of latest school newsletter requesting parents park at either the village hall or pub car park (new publicans have offered this facility to the school – Members requested Clerk write to new publicans and thank them for their offer of parking) **ACTION: CLERK**

**418. Highways Schedule**

Natural spring on Latchingdon between coal yard and No.15 awaiting date for channelling work  
PPV actions, awaiting list of these, but includes siding back to Country Produce  
Pram ramps at bridge - tactile paving alternative being investigated – no decision yet  
Station road entrance onto Latchingdon Road – dropped kerb and footway resurface work – awaiting date.

Jetting of drain at top of Station Crescent – which it was confirmed is the responsibility of Highways and not residents of the unadopted Station Crescent as had previously been thought –awaiting date for jetting plus likely drain cover will need to be lifted. Highways due to inspect next week  
Drain opposite coal yard – scheduled to be dug out this month.

Subsidence at sides of St. Stephens Road – have been told that this would not be done this financial year, but have told highways that it is getting worse – they have said they will look at it next week

Honeypot Lane resurfacing/recycling treatment - is on the action list for next spring

New signs Farnbridge Road/St. Stephens Road – no date yet

Surging manhole between Nos. 10 and 12 St. Stephens Road, which Essex & Suffolk have visited twice and say it is caused by blocked drains which are also causing problems outside school/corner of Latchingdon Road and also opposite allotments. E & S have reported this to highways. Clerk has also discussed it with highways, who advised that jetting of all drains in St. Stephens Road will be carried out on Wednesday (06.12.06).

**419. ECC Highways - Part Night Street Lighting**

Members were advised that as part of trial the lights in the Victoria Road Development and Clarke Rise will be switched off between the hours of 12 and 5 am, those at Palepit Roundabout will remain on. Re turning off of 19 of the 21 PC owned lights, Clerk to investigate cost saving before a further discussion will take place.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**420. ECC Highways September 2007 Tenders – details noted**

**421. Parish Passenger Transport Representatives October Meeting – minutes noted**

**422. Bus Shelters – Members agreed that this need not be investigated further**

**423. MDC - ECC Highways organisational structure – details noted**

**VILLAGE HALL**

**424. Report from Parish Council Representatives:** Members were advised that funding events are going well

**425. Village Hall Project:** it was agreed that the VHMC should pay the addition costs incurred for the elevation plans required by MDC as part of the planning application process as an objection to the extension had been received by MDC. Delay in applying for the lottery grant is due to the project team still waiting for information from the architect.

**426. VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS**

Further vandalism to play area –see Caretaker report minute No. 430

**427. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Council's aim is to set the tax below 5%, preferably 3 – 4%. Promenade Park: splash area is proving very popular, new statue now in place. Local Development Framework – going a stage further – a draft will be sent out shortly.

**OPEN SPACES**

**428. Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Caretaker is willing to undertake the fencing job, liaising with Mr. Litscher /awaiting quote.

**429. Playing Field**

Trees overhanging garden of resident in Latchingdon Road – village caretaker not able to undertake tree trimming duties. As leaves are no longer a problem it was agreed to inspect the trees in the playing field in the spring (April).

Inspection report: contents being discussed with MDC. Comparison re MDC and ROSPA reports still to be made.

Re the 'Football Foundation information on Football Funding for Your Parish' letter Clerk to discuss with Mr.Wakeling.

Re the certificates won in the recent Playing Fields Competition Members requested that they are inexpensively framed and displayed at the village hall.

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

I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall.

I am sad to report that the vandals are still frequenting the play area; I am carrying out repairs as needed.

I have replaced the damaged and missing play equipment rivets, nuts and bolts. I have dismantled and inspected the swings and have obtained prices for replacement parts from the manufacturer. Further to the report on the playground and equipment I shall take steps to comply with its findings.

I shall be replacing the small trees in the playing field that were vandalised in the early spring.

I have weed killed in the car park and play areas and I shall repeat as needed.

In Cowpiece Nature Reserve I continue to inspect the site regularly and to clear away any litter or debris. I am clearing the foot paths and observation platform as required. I have removed the graffiti from the sign and furniture.

In the Queen Mother Memorial Garden, I continue to inspect and tidy the area and give seasonal attention to the roses. Unfortunately the rose bushes have been damaged by some unknown person 'pruning' and some replacements may be required.

I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge and remove any litter. I have started leaf sweeping and collecting as required.

There has been no further fly tipping this month in the village hall car park.

I have spoken to Mrs Dyer about the fencing and will be happy to take this work on.

**431. Allotments:** availability will be 'advertised' in the January issue of The Beacon.

**ACTION: MRS. GARNHAM**

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

**432. Ferris Avenue Path:** Number of forms returned to date remains at ten. Still to start the application process **ACTION: CLERK**

**433. Footpath 3:** Self closing gates being installed to replace the 2 stiles

**434. Footpath 13 (Golf Course):** Style of gate still to be agreed with golf club

**435. Footpath 14:** re the possible rerouting of a section of this footpath across from the Church Mr.Wakeling has prepared a sketch and notes for submission to the landowner with a copy to the PRoW. **ACTION: CLERK**

Together with the 'dog walkers' and the PRoW a suitable place has finally been found for an additional dog waste bin (i.e. turn right outside church gate and go along to edge of churchyard/cemetery where there is an indent of hedge)Clerk to liaise with MDC and Mr. Litscher **ACTION: CLERK**

**436. Footpath 15:** Handrail - is now in situ –problem with churning up of slope to be reviewed

**437. Footpath 16:** Clerk has contacted landowner requesting reinstatement of the footpath

**438. Footpath 19 (and 14):** pictures/plan shown regarding the new gate to accommodate walkers and the sheep the landowner is planning to put into the field. PRoW to show landowner and Church Council Members.

**439. Footpath 20:** re drainage the PRoW has advised that he is looking into an alternative with his contractor.

440. **Footpath 24:** Clerk had contacted re marking out this footpath – landowner has now redone it
441. **Footpath Map:** Will form part of P3 partnership activities
442. **New bridleway:** Now cleared
443. **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3):** contract was signed by The Chairman. Clerk to liaise with P3 re next step. **ACTION: CLERK**
444. **Land Registry – voluntary first registration of CNPC landholdings –** no action yet
445. **COLD NORTON'S WEBSITE:** approved minutes and meeting report supplied to web site manager.
446. **Freedom of Information:** Prof. Barclay and Clerk to liaise re model publication scheme. Copy of latest approved minutes to be placed on Village Hall Notice Board. **ACTION: CLERK**
447. **Files/Documents to Archive/ Retain/Destroy** **ACTION: PROF BARCLAY/  
MRS GARNHAM**

#### CORRESPONDENCE

448. **Chelmsford BC letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> November re Planning** – copy letter had already been supplied. Mrs Allen had reviewed the full set of documents and summarised the contents in terms of their relevance to Cold Norton residents. Members were reminded that the consultation period would end on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006.
449. **ECC Review of Mobile Library Services in Essex** – Members are in favour of the weekly service being retained. Clerk to clarify the situation and write accordingly. **ACTION: CLERK**
450. **EALC Training Sessions:** Members had been supplied with complete list for 2007 and details of the courses up to 1<sup>st</sup> March. No one available to attend, but Members agreed to Clerk attending the book keeping course and the Election Training Session, also for Mrs Bryant, as part of the Village Hall Project Committee, to attend the Funding Course. Cheque No. 466 raised.
451. **South Woodham Ferrers Station Name** – members did not wish to register support.
452. **East Essex Transport Forum** – minutes noted
453. **The White Paper** - Extract from 'The Clerk' magazine November 2006 issue and a report prepared by the EALC - noted
454. **St. Peters High School** - details of sports, conference and meeting facilities - noted
455. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** One Member raised the subject of Country Produce and the difficulty of turning right out of the shop's car park due to the signs, also that the number of car parking spaces has been reduced due to a number of items for sale taking up potential parking spaces. Clerk to relay the Members concerns to the owners of Country Produce. **ACTION: CLERK**
- Members were advised that the fingerpost on Footpath 15 was no longer in situ – Clerk will contact the PRoW. Additionally Members were alerted to the fact that dog fouling of the footpaths and paved areas is again causing a problem, together with dogs not being under close control on the public footpaths. **ACTION: CLERK**
- The PTA at the school has requested use of the Parish Council Notice Board located on school premises. **ACTION: CLERK**

#### DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2007: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Chairman.....

Date.....