

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER 2007 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Prof. L. Barclay
Mrs. G. Gold (Chairman)
Mr. P. Guppy
Mr. C. Litscher
Mrs. A. McDonald
Mr. P. Wakeling
In attendance: Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)

383. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** had been received from Mr. John Archer and Mr Sears (District Councillor)
384. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 14th November 2007 were approved and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Payments

385. Dave Bull general village caretaker work Invoice No. 58 dated 05.12.07 £141.75 cheque No. 613
386. EALC Invoice No. EALC583/2007 dated 13.11.07 1 delegate for Statutory Planning Day 29th November 2007 £50 Cheque No.614
387. BT Village Hall Public Phone Inv No.QO29B7 dated 13.11.07 £40.19 (£34.20 net) Cheque No .615
388. Ron Laurie investigating Impact Accounts System, correcting system errors, printing out complete system reports for 2006/7 & setting up corrected system for 2007/8. Inv dated 15.11.07 £113.45 Cheque No. 616.
389. Society of Local Council Clerks Membership renewal for 2008 £91 Cheque No. 617
390. E-on Energy invoice No.H5SF534451 dated 03.12.07 Street lighting for November 2007 £38.54 (£36.70 net) will be taken by direct debit on 13.12.07
391. Maria Dyer office expenses £65.48 (£65.17 net) Cheque No. 618
392. Dale Hire Harris Fencing October and November Invoice CH147866 dated 06.12.07 £314.34 (£267.52 net) Cheque No. 619
393. Bradley Faulkner grass cutting for November Invoice No 1466 dated 07.12.07 £264.38 (£225 net) Cheque No. 620.

394. Financial Statement

Current balances:

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Standard Life Direct Access as at 1 st December | £ | 130.16 |
| Standard Life 10 Day Notice as at 17 th November | £ | 3,299.54 |
| Abbey as at 1 st December 2007 | £ | <u>9,359.60</u> |
| | £ | 12,789.30 |

395. **Cold Norton Parochial Church Council** – request for financial support: £500 granted towards maintenance of Churchyard, but Clerk to write to PCC and suggest that the price of The Beacon is increased, and that any future requests include details of capital items needing financial support. Cheque No. 622.
396. **Precept:** current situation re this year's budget discussed. To be discussed further at January meeting. Clerk to update figures. **ACTION: CLERK**

PLANNING

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

FUL/MAL/07/01059 Cold Norton
 Walls and hedging with gates to part of east boundary of the property
 Cranswick Lodge Victoria Road Cold Norton Essex
 (UPRN - 100091257349)
 Mr & Mrs L Higginson **APPROVED**

399. **Planning Applications received by the Parish Council** – the below were considered and responses were as follows:

FUL/MAL/07/01289 30C Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton. Single storey rear extension.
 Week No. 47 dated 23rd November 2007:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that:

- providing the fencing in situ ensures that the neighbouring properties will not be overlooked

the proposed development contained in the above application would not be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should APPROVE the application.

FUL/MAL/07/01253 Stow Maries Service Station, The Street, Stow Maries, Essex
 Demolish bungalow and light industrial units, construct new access road and erect new business units (ClassB1) including replacement buildings for existing uses on site. Layout car parking and landscaping. Week No. 46 dated 16th November 2007:

Cold Norton Parish Council considers that the proposed development contained within the above application to be harmful and recommends that Maldon District Council should REFUSE CONSENT.

The Parish Council's main reason for this recommendation is the sheer size of the proposed development, which:

- will be extremely intrusive in a rural landscape, causing serious harm to the location, within a protection area.
- will, by the scale of the proposed development, increase traffic movements many fold, not only through Stow Maries, but, by virtue of its location, also via Cold Norton, due to staff, who would all have to commute by car, to and from the proposed industrial units, plus the inevitable deliveries of materials/collection of finished goods etc by HGV/lorries and also traffic ensuing from business contacts and, depending on the type of business carried out in the units, possibly the 'general public' visiting the site in a consumer context. The road reorganisation plan several years ago was undertaken to divert traffic from these villages onto the Lower Burnham Road in order to protect this rural location.

400. **Statutory Planning Day:** Clerk attended this and will copy relevant notes to all PC Members, but highlighted one new element of planning i.e. the 'Planning Portal' a government internet service www.planningportal.gov.uk where planning applications can be viewed on line. Ultimately the plan is for all applications to be completed on a standard application form and for applications to be viewed on line cutting out hard copies of plans (would mean a laptop/projector/broadband service would need to be in place for PC meetings to view and discuss applications). **ACTION: CLERK**

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

401. **Highways Schedule**

Pram ramps at bridge – rescheduled for mid December.

Drain at top of Station Crescent – rescheduled for mid December.

New signs Farnbridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue – awaiting confirmation that work has been completed.

Road/Speed signs between Stow Maries and Cold Norton – waiting confirmation that all work has been completed. NB larger speed signs are up but some are being obscured by hedgerows. Clerk to contact landowner. **ACTION: CLERK**

Overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – highways arranging for this to be trimmed back in the New Year, unless we can contact the landowner and request he carries out the work.

Hedge/bush by notice board/bus stop opposite The Norton which obscures vision for drivers exiting Victoria Road has now been trimmed back. Clerk to contact the home owner again re future of this hedge. **ACTION: CLERK**

Fence outside school (broken and leaning out towards footway) School has advised that the PTA is arranging repair.

VILLAGE HALL

402. **Report from Parish Council Representatives:** Temporary audible fire alarm (whistles in glass cases have been installed) quotes awaited for bell type system. Well attended Christmas Fayre raised £430. Next meeting: Tuesday 8th January 2008.

403. **Village Hall Project:** Members were advised that we should hear this month re lottery grant. A resolution was passed authorising Mrs Gloria Gold and/or Mr. Philip Wakeling to sign any paperwork relating to the lottery on behalf of Cold Norton Parish Council.

404. **VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS - Neighbourhood Action Panel** – next meeting is scheduled for Monday 7th January 7pm Purleigh Village Hall: Mr Guppy to attend **ACTION: MR. GUPPY**

Maldon & District Crime Reduction Panel - next meeting is 6th February. Representative to be agreed at January meeting.

Graffiti on Bridge – has now been removed. Clerk to contact owners of the old fire station/Dear Dolly site to request they arrange removal of the graffiti on the hoarding. **ACTION: CLERK**

405. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – not available.

OPEN SPACES

406. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve** - Fencing will be erected at end of January. Recommendations from ROSPA report to proceed except life buoy.

407. **Playing Field**

Enclosed play area for younger children: new quadrenna installed. Caretaker starting on other repairs per ROSPA report/as authorised by PC. Bark /alternative surface being investigated/costed. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**

Increased bark requirement 300 ml or alternative material in open play areas – being investigated as above. **ACTION: MR GUPPY**

Picnic bench – Caretaker still to fix

The remaining metal goalpost: Clerk to contact the FA for their opinion/suggestion – there may be an alternative solution to removing this. **ACTION: CLERK**

Loose pieces of football posts – Clerk to contact Danny Bose of Norton FC to discuss removal.

ACTION: CLERK

Hard standing – quotes for repair

ACTION: MR GUPPY

Baby swing hanging lopsided – Caretaker has investigated and it appears that someone is adjusting the height of the chain – he has now rectified this twice since it was reported.

Essex Playing Fields Competition – details of winners had been supplied to Members.

408. Village Caretaker work – report as follows:

I continue to clear round the playground and car park area by the village hall and remove rubbish from behind the temporary fencing.

In the Queen Mother Memorial garden I continue to inspect and tidy the area and tend to the roses.

I continue to remove rubbish from the Cowpiece nature reserve and have continued to maintain the paths and furniture.

I continue to inspect the triangle and pathway by the bridge, remove any litter and clear away the fallen leaves.

There has been further dumping of rubbish bags and garden rubbish in the village hall car park which I have tidied up and placed in the bin, (grass clippings and weeds.) The car park wheelie bin has not been emptied and this has led to rubbish being spread by foxes or cats.

Further to our telephone conversation, I would recommend that I remove the sail from the boat. I have e mailed my colleague and we should be able to start fencing Cowpiece at the end of January. I am removing the graffiti from the bridge using an angle grinder.

Clerk to confirm to Caretaker that the sail on the boat is to be repaired. **ACTION: CLERK**

Clerk to advise PCC to contact e-on re cables through trees as apparently they will trim the branches back at no cost. **ACTION: CLERK**

409. Beacon at back of Church - MDC are going to rectify slight leaning problem – no date advised yet.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

410. Footpath 14 - Request by the dog walkers for the handrail to be extended up the slope has been passed to the PRow for his consideration. Concern was expressed re over urbanisation of a rural location.

411. Footpath 20 - Request for a platform to be constructed over the wet area – PRow has advised that this would be too expensive. Cutting back will be carried out again as requested – date TBA

412. Footpath 23 - Way marking ongoing. PRow has advised: "Could be a good one for PPP volunteers but will pass by County Hall". No further news yet.

413. NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDING ORDERS – discussion/decision re changes deferred to next meeting

414. TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS – Clerk visited the Traffic Control Room in County Hall last month for a presentation on how they operate (NB there wasn't a charge for this). EALC Training Courses Clerk to supply details of Councillor Training Day 2 on 24th January to Mrs McDonald and Mr Guppy. **ACTION: CLERK**

Details had also been supplied to Members re other training sessions/conferences, namely: NALC – Local Leadership in Action, Free Wind Power Workshops for Councillors and Planning Officers and RCCE Going Green Information Events. No one available to attend. Re EALC Training Opportunity for Maldon Parish and Town Councils Clerk to advise EALC preferable training times/subjects.

ACTION: CLERK

415. **RISK ASSESSMENT** - Clerk attended a course/seminar on this, basically whilst this didn't 'produce' a definite list to work through and wasn't specific enough to Parish Councils, the PC does need to review the risk assessments already identified/in place on a regular basis to see if they are still relevant and reconsider again all elements of the Parish Council's business/operation to see if anything needs to be added/changed etc. Clerk to put together a package of relevant papers and talk to the insurance company/other clerks to see if they have any useful information, for consideration at a later meeting by the PC. Clerk advised that Risk Assessments and management thereof are becoming a more important part of the audit procedure/checks.

ACTION: CLERK

CORRESPONDENCE

416. **MDC – Assessing and Meeting Our Customer Needs** - consultation period closes on Friday 8th February 2008

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

417. **EALC has moved offices:**

Essex Association of Local Councils,
2/2a Twyford Court,
High Street,
Great Dunmow,
Essex
CM6 1AE
Tel: 01371 879722
FAX: 01371 879733
E-mail: info@ealc.gov.uk

418. **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.

Members had been supplied with a copy of an article reproduced in the EALC County Update suggesting ways of promoting the profile of a PC). Mr Guppy raised the subject of having an external war memorial in the village (currently there is one, but inside the Church) and offered to look into/grant available etc.

ACTION: MR GUPPY

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Scheduled or provisionally scheduled: Tuesday 15th January (NB changed from 16th at the extraordinary meeting held on 19th December), Wednesday 13th February and Wednesday 5th March 2008

Chairman.....

Date.....