

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2024 AT 7.30PM IN THE LES BARCLAY ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mrs M Gunn (Vice Chairman)
Cllr T Dixon
Cllr P Jacklin
Cllr Mrs J Luck
Cllr A Romang

In attendance: Mrs. M Dyer (Parish Clerk)
District Cllr Ms S White
District Cllr Ms L Wiffen

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Haydon and Richardson and County Cllr Mrs Fleming.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

Members have dispensation to discuss and vote in respect of matters relating to the Precept.

Cllr Romang declared a non-pecuniary interest in Allotments as he is an allotment holder.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** there were no Members of the Public present.

4. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 6th March 2024 were approved as correct and signed accordingly.

5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Cllrs Ms White and Ms Wiffen gave an update on District matters including advising the Members that the Secretary of State has approved the King Charles III England Coast Path stretch in Essex, which will form part of the longest managed coastal path in the world. This decision had come at opportune time as plans were in hand for the second Saltmarsh Coast Walking Festival which will take place from 27th September to 6th October 2024; that UFest 2024 will be on Friday 16th August - free all-day community festival in Maldon Promenade Park with a live band, activities, stalls and advice from groups such as Maldon Community Voluntary Service (CVS); that MDC has secured external funding for the District with over £200,000 secured for community and wellbeing projects and had launched a new Rural England Prosperity Fund scheme worth £400,00 to support business and community organisations across the District. Regarding the Council Tax the District Cllrs advised the breakdown is as follows:

- ECC 71p in every £1
- MDC 11p in every £1
- Essex Fire & Crime Commissioner (policy and community safety) 11p in £1
- Essex Fire & Crime Commissioner (fire & rescue) 4p in every £1
- Parish & Town Councils 3p in every £1

Cllrs White and Wiffen left the meeting.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Members noted County Cllr Mrs Flemings's March 2024 report that had been supplied by email.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Members noted the report supplied by the Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator

FINANCE

Approval of Payments

8. Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker invoice dated 7th April 2024 £108.00. Cheque No.022485
9. Maria Dyer office expenses from 5th March to 7th April 2024 £124.00 (£111.81 net). Cheque No.022486
10. Essex Wildlife Trust to renewal of membership from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2023 £40.00. Cheque No.022487
11. Maldon District Council to ground maintenance (£2,307 PA) Q4 January to March 2024 Invoice No.COL58690167 dated 13th March 2024 £692.10 (£576.75 net). Cheque No.022488
12. Maldon District Council to Community Engagement Team Services TRUCAM January to March 2024 inc. Invoice No.COL 58590354 dated 26th March 2024 £437.72 (£364.77 net). Cheque No.022488
13. Sue Lees Consultancy to Hosting Space for Website for one year (reduced rate) due 1st May 2024. Invoice No.0006439 dated 1st April 2024 £70.00. Cheque No.022489
14. EALC to 2024/25 Affiliation Fees (EALC £304.45 & NALC £74.00 based on 932 electorate) Invoice No.17564 dated 2nd April 2024 £378.45 (last year £363.08). Cheque No.022490
15. Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to annual membership 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 £59.70 (£49.75 net). NB change of start of membership year - was previously July. Cheque No.022491
16. Colt Press to providing file of Cold Norton photographs for use in Village Appraisal. Invoice No.102161 dated 8th April 2024 £36.00 (£30.00 net). Cheque No.022492
17. JCM Services to removal of two Willow Trees and stumps eco plugged. Invoice No.INV-1842 dated 22nd March 2024 £1,092.00 (£910.00 net). Cheque No.022493
18. All staff costs April 2024 £1,023.75
19. Npower to streetlights for March 2024 Invoice IN10120447 dated 4th April 2024 £264.76 (£252.15 net) was taken by direct debit on 18th April 2024.

20. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 8th Mar 2023	£	597.82
Santander as at 2nd March 2024	£	<u>19,942.61</u>
	£	20,540.43

21. PWLB Statement:

Members noted balance outstanding as at 31 March 2024 is £146,425.43.

22. Solar Panels at Village Hall

Clerk advised FIT payment of 239.84 received in March 2024.

23. Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Members noted receipt of a thank you letter for the £100 donation.

PLANNING

- 24. Planning Applications received by the Parish Council:** the following were considered, and the responses were:

24/00142/FUL PP-12795128 Norton Hall, St Stephens Road: new porch to dwellinghouse. Rebuild wall adjacent to St Stephens Road. Week No.11 dated 15th March 2024:

The Parish Council had no objections and no comments to make.

24/00232/WTPO PP-12660609 7 St Stephens Road: (TPO15/96) Oak T2 (T4 on TPO) – Fell. Week No.12 dated 22nd March 2024:

The Parish Council didn't submit a view but made the following comments: *"As the Members do not feel they are qualified to comment, they therefore would refer to the MDC Tree Officer's expertise and the Tree Officer being satisfied with the evidence supplied by the insurance company that the tree should be removed"*.

23/01041/FUL PP-12560744 Land rear of Little Canneys, Stow Road: construction of a two-storey, 5 bedroom dwelling. Week No.12 dated 22nd March 2024:

The Members recommended refusal of this application for the following reasons:

1. It is outside the development boundary. (S8 Settlement Boundaries and the Countryside)
2. Plot splitting and proximity to the other house. (D1 Design Quality & Built Environment)
3. Vehicle access (T2 Accessibility)

24/00235/FUL PP-12843199 Land adjacent Eastholm, Latchingdon Road: erection of 2no dwellings with associated landscaping and ancillary works. Week No.12 dated 22nd March 2024:

The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

1. It is outside the Development Boundary (S8 – Settlement Boundaries & the Countryside)
2. Over development of site (D1 Design Quality & Built Environment & H4 Effective Use of Land)
3. Ribbon development (S1 Sustainable Development & S2 Strategic Growth)
4. Safety concerns as proposed entrance/exit opposite village shop already issues with speeding at this point (dangerous situation) (T2 Accessibility). This is technically a 40mph road, but this speed is not adhered to. Very narrow footway which has been damaged by lorries driving on footway.
5. Surface water drainage issue already exists at this location.
6. The local village primary school is already oversubscribed.

24/00239/WTPO PP-12895732 8 Victoria Road: Maple Trees x 6 Apple Tree – reduced by 3.5m. Week No.14 dated 5th April 2024:

The Members had no objections to these works but added the following comment:

"The Parish Council raises no objections to these works providing they are in line with MDC's Tree Officer's recommendations".

FOR INFORMATION: 24/00278/LDP PP-12925068 Toad Hall, Station Road: claim for lawful development certificate for proposed single storey rear extension. Week No.12 dated 22nd March 2024: Members noted.

FOR INFORMATION: FUL/MAL/23/01079 PP-01079 Land between Koombora and Mansfield, Victoria Road: erection of detached dwelling. This application was referred to the NW Planning Committee on 3rd April 2024 – outcome not known. Members noted.

FOR INFORMATION: 24/00099/FUL Great Canney Court, Hackmans Lane: Addition of new building containing four affordable flats to existing building containing flats and associated works. NB this application was proposed as a 'rural exception scheme.' Clerk updated Members advising that contact had been made with the RCCE Rural Housing Enabler & Community Led Housing Advisor.

25. **Maldon District Council Decisions:** covering decisions advised from w/e 8th March to w/e 5th April 2024; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

WTPO/MAL/24/00084 Cold Norton

(W1 on TPO 18/95) T1 - Oak (Quercus) - Crown reduction by 2.5m, remove deadwood over 30mm and old branch stubs. T2 - Field Maple - Reduce southern side of canopy by 1m. T3 - Field Maple - Crown lift to provide 1m clearance about fence.

3 Henney Close Cold Norton Chelmsford Essex
(UPRN - 100090554910)
Mr Gary Brooke - Tree Fella Limited
APPROVED

PLAYGROUND RENOVATIONS & CAR PARK EXTENSION PROJECT WORKING GROUP (PCP)

26. EV Charging Point

Members noted that Cllr Richardson had completed and submitted the ECC survey to find sites for funded EV points.

27. Independent Playground Inspection and Sovereign Inspection

Members noted the Sovereign report from the inspection undertaken on 23rd February 2024. Clerk to discuss the comments relating to the Zip Wire with the supplier, installer and Sovereign.

ACTION: CLERK

28. Dogs on Playing Field

Cllr White offered to speak to MDC. Members discussed signage near new play equipment and using the village Facebook to advise that dogs are not allowed on the playing field.

29. Football Goalpost

Clerk advised Members that an email had been received regarding this. Clerk will speak to the club who used to play at the field.

ACTION: CLERK

VILLAGE HALL

30. Members noted the minutes from the VPMC meeting held on 29th February 2024, agenda for meeting held on 28th March 2024 and updated issues/works required report. Members were advised that Calor Gas and electricity were very expensive. Regarding issues/work required it was agreed that clarification is needed from VPMC regarding outstanding works and where assistance is required from the Parish Council.

ACTION: CLERK

Nothing to report regarding the room divider in The Les Barclay Room. Clerk to follow up.

ACTION: CLERK

Regarding the change to telephone line at village hall to digital, Clerk to contact BT re this and supply of broadband line, also to clarify if there would be a cancellation fee if the current contract was cancelled.

ACTION: CLERK

Members noted articles in RCCE News Report for March 2024 re Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund and information regarding 'Martyn's Law' and village halls.

Quotes for repairing the fencing around the gas tank were discussed. Cllr Mrs Luck proposed that Hillside Building contractors be appointed to carry out these works at a cost of £156.00; Cllr Jacklin seconded the proposal, all Members were in agreement.

RESOLVED: that Hillside Building Contractors be appointed to repair the fencing around the gas tank at a cost of £156.00.

31. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk advised that there had been press coverage in the Maldon & Burnham for several weeks in the 'Community News' Section.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

32. TRUCAM

Members noted that the March report was awaited.

33. Parking at School

Members noted that the Clerk had been in touch with School Parking & Project Officer at SEPP who is responsible for the 3PR initiative for schools. Clerk to follow up with School.

ACTION: CLERK

34. Various Highways Matters Referred to Cllr Mrs Fleming

Members noted that clearing of drains in St Stephens Road near school had been undertaken but those at top of Station Crescent were still to be actioned.

35. POLICE MATTERS AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Nothing to report. Cllrs requested that this topic be added to Neighbourhood Watch agenda item in future.

OPEN SPACE

- 36. Village Caretaker work:** Mr Wiseman continued to carry out this work. In addition to the regular litter picks around the village and emptying bins on playing field, Mr Wiseman also cut brambles at the bridge, removed cuttings and fallen branches and mowed around bush at top of Green Trees Avenue, cut grass, hedge and brambles at allotments and cleared path; trimmed back entrance path at Cowpiece.

37. Trees and Survey

With reference to the condition of the fence on the border of the playing field following the conifer falling, Members requested that initially the owner of the fallen tree be asked to cut the stump down to release the fence.

ACTION: CLERK

38. Cowpiece

Members noted that The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) had attended on Wednesday 10th April and would be returning on 17th April 2024. Clerk gave a report on works carried out at the site.

39. Willow Trees at Playing Field

Members noted that the 2 x Willow trees had been felled on 2nd March and ECO plugged on 6th April 2024.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

40. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils Wednesday 6th March 2024

Members noted minutes from this meeting including request for £40 subscription from each Parish Council.

41. Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee 2024 Meetings

Members noted dates of meetings as 14th May, 17th July and 11th September and that Cllr Haydon plans to attend.

42. Ride London 2024 Friday 24th to Sunday 26th May 2024

Members noted the communications pack forwarded to Members by email.

43. EALC AGM Thursday 26th September 2024 at Colchester Stadium

Members noted date and that further information is to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

44. Government Guidance on Biodiversity

Still to be reviewed.

45. Rural Connections: transport challenges & opportunities for communities in the East

Members noted report from Transport East.

46. Rural England Prosperity Fund

Members noted this new funding source – details to be forwarded to the VHMC in respect of a new water boiler (for hot drinks).

ACTION: CLERK

47. Community Safety Initiatives

Members noted this new funding source – details to be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and it was suggested that perhaps funding could be applied for to purchase 'Bleed Bags'.

ACTION: CLERK

48. Essex Village of the Year & Rural Community Awards 2024

Member discussed and were all in agreement that the village would not be participating.

49. King Charles Official Portrait

Members considered and were in agreement to apply for this free portrait.

ACTION: CLERK

50. VILLAGE APPRAISAL

The Clerk updated Members.

51. PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Nothing to report.

52. SOCIAL EVENTS

Cllr Jacklin updated Members re Party in the Park 2024 to be held on Saturday 29th June 2024
12noon to 7pm.

Nothing to report re pyro-laser show (quiet alternative to noisy fireworks) for Halloween/Bonfire Night
Event.

53. MATTERS TO REPORT (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).

There were no matters reported.

54. MEETINGS IN 2024

Wednesdays: 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November and
4th December

Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 8th May 2024 8pm (in The Les Barclay Room), following
the VHMC AGM at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.28pm

Chairman.....

Date.....