

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2025 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 Mrs J Luck
Cllr A Romang

In attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Parish Clerk)
One Member of the Public

504. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B Haydon and Cllr P Jacklin, County Cllr Mrs Fleming and District Cllrs White and Wiffen.

505. 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.

506. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Member of Public present advised that the fingerposts at Public Rights of Way FP14 and FP15 were still down.

507. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

508. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: not available

509. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: not available

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

510. Members noted the update from the NhW Co-ordinator.

511. Members noted update re Cold Norton Speed Watch

FINANCE

Payments Approved:

512. Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. Invoice dated 31st January 2025 £78.00. Cheque No.912505

513. Maria Dyer office expenses from 3rd to 31st January 2025 £89.23 (£77.81net). Cheque No.912506

514. Sue Lees Consultancy to SSL Certificate to renew for one year for Cold Norton Website (yearly cost due 5th February 2025). Invoice No.INV006858 dated 5th January 2025 £75.00. Cheque No.912507

515. Starboard Systems Limited to Scribe Accounts Package Renewal due 31st March 2025 for 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 (NB CNPC on a 3 year agreement for reduced increase) £428.54 (£357.12 net). Cheque No.912508

516. Maldon District Council to Community Engagement Team Services for TRUCAM October to December 2024 inc. 9 hours. Invoice No.COL58592017 dated 27th January 2025 £458.68 (£382.23 net). Cheque No.912509
517. Cold Norton Village Hall to hire of The Les Barclay Room for PC meetings December 2024 to February 2025 inc. 6 hours. Invoice dated 2nd February 2025 £59.40. Cheque No.912510
518. Cold Norton Parochial Church Council further grant of £200.00 towards cost of remedial work on west window as a well-used public footpath crosses under this window to ensure the safety of those using the footpath, as agreed at January meeting (Minute No.473 applies). Cheque No.912511
519. M Gunn to replacement cheque for cheque No.022449 never presented for travel expenses £8.28. Cheque No.912512
520. BT to phone at Village Hall Invoice No.QO41YC dated 13th November 2024 £224.75 (£187.29 net) Taken by direct debit on 27th November 2024 (NB this invoice was queried as much higher than usual and a credit is expected)
521. Npower to streetlights for January 2025 Invoice IN12459725 dated 5th February 2025 £311.07 (£296.26 net) was taken by direct debit on 19th February 2025.
522. Information Commissioner Data Protection Fee Renewal Order Ref No.ICO:00019266447 email dated 5th February 2025 Reference Z7679664, £52 reduced to £47 by paying by Direct Debit, will be taken on 2nd March 2025.
523. All staff costs £836.70

524. **Financial Statement**
Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10 th Dec 2024	£	604.55
Santander as at 2 nd January 2025	£	<u>26,771.15</u>
	£	27,375.70

PLANNING

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

25/00044/LDP PP-13704573 Beacon Hill House, Latchingdon Road: claim for lawful development certificate for proposed single storey front extension to existing outbuilding. Week No.4 dated 24th January 2025:

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

24/01004/OUTM PP-13623594 Land South of Threeways and 45 The Street, Latchingdon: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for means of access, for up to 140 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) including 40% affordable housing; new site access and internal access roads; a new village centre (Use Class E(a); flexible employment space (Use Class E); car and cycle parking; landscaping; sustainable urban drainage systems; public open space and footpaths; community woodlands and allotments; together with associated infrastructure. Week No.5 dated 31st January 2025:

The Parish Council recommended refusal for the following reasons:

Concerns relating to the following which need addressing/considered by the developer:

1. *Traffic*
2. *School places*
3. *Drainage*
4. *Health facilities*
5. *Education*
6. *Local transport*

Concern is that with the 92 x new homes already approved in the village, that these proposed 140

homes will bring the total to potentially 232 new homes and, even conservatively only allowing for two people per new home, this will increase the population in Latchingdon by 41% to 1,602 based on 2021 Census figure of 1,138. This increased number will put considerably strain on existing infrastructure and use of services not only in Latchingdon, but in the surrounding villages and Maldon i.e., school places, access to doctors and other essential amenities.

As is the norm with applications like this, access to public transport has not been realistically reported – public transport in the area is an extremely limited service by bus and the nearest train station is a bus or car drive away. Therefore, use of private vehicles, potentially up to 464 (two per each new house), will add to the already congested single lane road through Latchingdon and then flowing through the neighbouring villages which also have single lane roads.

Members would also welcome more detail from the developer on what is meant by 'flexible employment space' and what their definition of 'affordable housing' equates to - as it is proposed to make up 40% of the development.

- 526. Maldon District Council Decisions:** covering decisions advised from w/e 10 January to w/e 31 January 2025; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

24/00742/FUL Purleigh
Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated landscaping and ancillary works
Land Adjacent Eastholm Latchingdon Road Purleigh Essex
(UPRN - 010013995295)
Jacob **APPROVED**

- 527. Neighbourhood Planning (NP) in Maldon District**
Members noted Clerk still to contact a Dengie PC re their NP experience.

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

- 528. EV Charging Point**
Nothing to report
- 529. Playground**
Nothing to report
- 530. Bicycle racks**
Nothing to report
- 531. Construction Works in Cherry Blossom Lane:** parking by construction workers in village hall car park and lorries delivering materials to the site were discussed. Clerk to follow up with developer
ACTION: CLERK
- 532. VILLAGE HALL**
Members noted report of financial outgoings
Member considered quotes for valuation and survey of hall and were all in agreement to appoint TMA at a cost of £1,550 ex VAT. Clerk was asked to discuss with the surveyor the heating in the main hall and temperature/timing controls. **ACTION: CLERK**
Members considered quotes for clearance of vegetation at rear of hall and cost to have this area added to current maintenance contract and quotes to attend to the strip of land along front of village hall and area alongside steps to village hall. Cllr Dixon offered to undertake the works at the rear of the hall and Members were all in agreement to appoint MDC Parks Department to undertake the other works at a cost of £555.00 ex VAT. **ACTION: CLERK**
Members considered outline of proposed new contract with BT for phone and internet service; to be reviewed with Cllr Jacklin who had been researching options. **ACTION: CLERK**

533. CLERKS REPORT

Nothing to report not already covered.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

534. TRUCAM

Members noted that the January report was awaited.

535. Parking at School

Nothing to report re SEPP or the 3PR Scheme.

536. 20mph along St Stephens Road

No further information available

537. Overgrowing hedges/vegetation

Nothing to report re vegetation at Zebra crossing.

OPEN SPACE

538. Village Caretaker work: Mr Wiseman continued to carry out this work. In addition to the regular litter picks and emptying bins on playing field, a tree between on footpath between Ferris Avenue and Latchingdon Road was cut down and cut into logs and piled up for free collection. NB there was 'fly tipping' at the village hall which Mr Wiseman cleared from the playing field bins and by the gas tank and bin store area.

539. Cowpiece

Cllr Dixon updated Members regarding test bore holes and advised the next scheduled check on the bore holes would take place on 7th February; Cllr Dixon advised that a response had been received from FWAG (Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group) in relation to the photographs supplied. It was noted that to be considered suitable the pond would need to maintain a certain water level for nine months a year.

Members note that the TCV is booked to attend the site on Tuesday 4th March; works to be undertaken are keeping paths clear and removal of vegetation above the pond. Cllr Dixon to attend. It was noted that one of the benches is broken Clerk to discuss removal/replacement with Village Caretaker

ACTION: CLERK

540. Cherry Blossom Trees

Members noted that Cllr Dixon had taken delivery of 3 x replacement trees

541. Goal Posts from Junior Team

Clerk was requested to ask the Football Club to remove these from site.

ACTION: CLERK

542. Football Team

Members noted that interest has been expressed in using the playing field. Clerk following up.

ACTION: CLERK

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

543. Passenger Transport Meeting 4th December 2024

Members noted notes from the above meeting.

544. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils 8th January 2025

Members noted minutes are awaited (no one from CNPC available to attend as this clashed with CNPC January meeting)

545. Maldon & Heybridge Transport & Users Group (MHTBUG) 17th January 2025

Members noted Cllr Jacklin had attended and had emailed notes from meeting to Members 18th January 2025. Further correspondence was also forwarded to Members.

546. **Maldon & Heybridge Transport & Users Group (MHTBUG) 3rd February 2025**
No one available to attend; apologies sent.
547. **British Regional Transport Association (BRTA) Braintree Meeting Saturday 8th February 2025**
Members noted invitation to attend as discussion will include reopening of Maldon Branch Line, but no one available to attend.
548. **Maldon Parish & Town Council Forum Tuesday 25th March 2025**
Clerk to attend; Chairman and Vice Chairman not available.
549. **Maldon District Council Schedule of Meeting April 2025 to March 2025.**
Members noted.

CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

550. **Essex Air Quality Strategy Public Consultation Closes 2nd March 2025**
Members noted a response from the Parish Council is requested. Clerk has requested a copy of the consultation form and will forward to Members. **ACTION: CLERK**
551. **PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER**
Nothing to report

SOCIAL EVENTS

552. **Party in the Park 2025: Saturday 28th June**
Report not available
553. **Applause 2025 Rural Touring/subsidised shows** (brought forward from January meeting)
Report not available
554. **CLLR RESIGNATION/VACANCY**
Vacancy has been advertised; applications will be considered at the March meeting as agreed.
555. **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).

It was reported that the dog waste bin by the bridge is failing.
It was reported that there is still an issue with a particular car in the village hall car park.
556. **MEETINGS IN 2025**
Wednesdays: 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.49pm

Chairman.....

Date.....