

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2025 AT 7.30PM IN THE LES BARCLAY ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr B Haydon (Chairman)
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)
County Cllr Jane Fleming

- 557. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr White and Cllr Wiffen.

558. 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.

559. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Members of the Public present.

- 560 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** held on Wednesday 5th February 2025.

- 561. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** not available

- 562. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr Mrs Fleming spoke to the Members about Devolution, advising that the UK government has confirmed that Essex will be part of its Devolution Priority Programme. This includes Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council. The UK government has also confirmed that the elections scheduled for May this year for Essex County Council and Thurrock Council will be suspended. It is likely that the Mayoral election will be in May 2026 along with Councillor elections

Cllr Fleming left the meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 563.** Members noted the update from the NhW Co-ordinator.

- 564.** Members noted update re Cold Norton Speed Watch

FINANCE

Payments Approved:

565. Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. To insurance renewal. Invoice dated 1st March 2025 £100.67. Cheque No.912514
566. Maria Dyer office expenses from 1st to 28 February 2025 £54.84 (£54.09 net). Cheque No.912515
567. TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) to works at Cowpiece 9th May 2024, plus timber. Invoice No.33028989 dated 29th January 2025. £440.00 (£370.00 net). Cheque No.912516
568. Cllr Tim Dixon to reimbursement of expenses: purchase of 3 x replacement Cherry Blossom Trees for extended car park at village hall (plus 2 bags of compost). Invoice dated 4th February 2025 £103.83 (£86.53 net). Cheque No.912517
569. TMA Chartered Surveyors to building survey and reinstatement cost assessment for village hall. Invoice No.TM35027 dated 18th February 2025 £1,860.00 (£1,550.00 net). Cheque No.912518
570. PWLB to 4 loans will be taken by Direct Debit 20th March 2025 £5,247.79
571. BT village hall phone charge 1st February to 30th April 2025. Invoice No.QO4356 dated 13th February 2025 £238.79 (£198.99 net), but less credit note No.NO4356 dated 31st January 2025 £105.07 (£87.56 net) therefore £133.72 (£111.43 net)
572. Tax/NI to 5th April 2025. £789.45. Cheque No. 912520
573. Maldon District Council to Grounds Maintenance 2024-2025 £2,844.00 PA January to March Q4 £853.20 (£711.00 net). Cheque No.912521.
574. All staff costs £836.70

575. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10 th Dec 2024	£	604.55
Santander as at 3 rd February 2025	£	<u>23,387.99</u>
	£	23,992.54

576. Solar Panels at Village Hall

FIT payment of £290.75 for the period 20th September to 19th December 2024.

577. Change of signatories for Parish Bank Accounts

It was agreed that Cllr Richardson and Cllr Romang be removed, and Cllr Mrs Gunn and Cllr Mrs Luck be added to the signatories.

PLANNING

578. **Planning Application received by the Parish Council:** the following was considered, and the response was:

25/00158/WTPO PP-13792817 9 Henney Close: T1, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T10, T11, T12, T13 T14, T16 - Maple Trees - Crown reduction by 3.5m, T2, T3, T15 - Ash Trees - Crown reduction by 3.5m, T9 - Maple Tree- Remove. Week No.8 21st February 2025:

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".

579. **Maldon District Council Decisions:** covering decisions advised from w/e 7 February to w/e 28 February 2025; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

24/00962/LDE

Cold Norton

Claim for a lawful development certificate for the existing static caravan property that is a residential dwelling and has been used as such for over 10 years.

Wayback Farm St Stephens Road Cold Norton Chelmsford

(UPRN - 010014000364)

Anne Pharoah

REFUSED

580. Neighbourhood Planning (NP) in Maldon District

Members noted meeting still to be arranged with a Dengie PC re their NP experience.

PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION

581. EV Charging Point

Nothing to report

582. Playground

Next inspection by Sovereign 14th March 2025.

583. Bicycle Racks

Location to be assessed once works are completed by side of village hall entrance.

584. VILLAGE HALL

Members were updated regrading financial outgoings for Calor Gas, Electricity and cleaning at the VH and advised that the solar panels need clearing underneath.

Members noted survey, works programme and reinstatement cost for village hall supplied by email and that quotes need to be obtained for the works highlighted in the survey/report. It was agreed that the heating and its controls need to be looked at as soon as possible, several 'known' contractors were mentioned. VPMC to be asked for details of the original installation.

Cllr Romang left the meeting

585. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk advised that a card had been sent to District Cllr Sue White, that a letter had been supplied to the owner of the car that had been parking overnight in the VH car park since November 2024.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

586. TRUCAM

Members noted that during January there had been seven captures with 44 mph recorded in 30mph area.

Members noted that the hourly rate will increase to £43.24 per hour from April 2025 (currently £42.47 per hour) and were all in agreement that the TRUCAM service remains at three hours per calendar month for the coming financial year.

587. Parking at School

Nothing to report re SEPP or the 3PR Scheme.

588. 20mph along St Stephens Road

Members noted that this is now operational

589. Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at the Zebra Crossing

Members were advised that the Clerk has spoken to the resident and is following up with MOAT.

OPEN SPACE

590. Village Caretaker work: Mr Wiseman continued to carry out this work, including regular litter picks and emptying bins on playing field.

591. Cowpiece

Cllr Dixon gave a report to Members regarding the TCV work day on 4th March 2025, advising that eight volunteers had cleared the paths, removed vegetation above the pond and a dead tree was removed near the remaining bench near the pond. It was agreed that a second bench is not required at this time. It was a pleasant day: a newt was spotted, birds were singing and ducks were making good use of the pond which now has a decent level of water. It was noted that the fence around the site needs attention. Clerk to clarify ownership/responsibility of the fence.

ACTION: CLERK

592. Cherry Blossom Memorial Trees

Members noted that the three replacement trees had now been planted, but that much is needed, Cllr Dixon to obtain. **ACTION: CLLR DIXON**

593. Goal Posts in Playing Field/Sheds

Members were advised that still no response from the children's football team. Clerk was requested to advise the team to remove the above by 1st May 2025. **ACTION: CLERK**

594. Football Team (adult)

Nothing to report.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

595. British Regional Transport Association (BRTA) Saturday 8th February 2025

Members noted notes from this meeting, a subsequent ZOOM meeting and related correspondence.

596. Maldon Parish & Town Council Forum Tuesday 25th March 2025

Members noted Cllr Jacklin will attend with the Clerk.

597. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils 16th April 2025

Members noted the date. Cllr Mrs Luck advised that she would not be able to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

598. Greater Essex Mayoral County Combined Authority Statutory Public Consultation (close date 13th April 2025)

Members noted link. County Cllr Mrs Fleming had advised that she would arrange for a pdf version to be supplied, so a PC response could be discussed and agreed. **ACTION: CLLR FLEMING**

599. PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Nothing to report

SOCIAL EVENTS

600 Party in the Park 2025: Saturday 28th June

Cllr Jacklin updated Members, advising that more stalls had been booked.

601. Applause 2025 Rural Touring/subsidised shows (brought forward from February meeting)

It was agreed that this would be reviewed for 2026.

DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW

602. Standing Orders

Members reviewed and agreed that no changes were required.

603. Risk Assessment

Members reviewed and agreed that no changes were required.

604. 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).

Clerk advised that a resident had reported an issue with vegetation from the rear of the allotment site impacting on their garden. A site visit will be undertaken.

605. MEETINGS IN 2025

Wednesdays: 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December.

Dates for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) were considered. Clerk to check availability of County Cllr Mrs Fleming.

ACTION: CLERK

606. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In accordance with S.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to resolve that in view of the nature of the business to be discussed it is in the opinion of the Committee advisable that the Public and Press be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

607. CO-OPTION TO PARISH COUNCIL

Members considered the applications and were all in agreement to co-opt David Myers to the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm

Chairman.....

Date.....