

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025 HELD IN THE LES BARCLAY ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL – commencing immediately after the Annual General Meeting

The attendance list is the same as for the Annual General Meeting.

25/26.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Haydon, Jacklin and Myers also District Cllrs Ms White and Ms Wiffen

25/26.26 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.

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

25/26.27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: there were no Members of the Public present.

25/26.28 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DATED 5TH APRIL 2025 held on Wednesday 5th April 2025 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

25/26.29 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Members noted March report supplied by email

25/26.30 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Fleming advised that due to 'Devolution' and 'Local Government Reform' it has been 'quiet' at ECC HQ; there is a draft plan for Devolution. Grants under the 'Love your Bus' scheme have been awarded to Burnham, Mayland and Woodham Walter – more grant monies will be released. The Locality Fund for County Cllrs will be open again for applications in June.

25/26.31 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Members noted monthly crime reports to 20th April 2025 from update from NhW Co-ordinator.

Update re Cold Norton Speed Watch not available.

Members noted Clerk has been supplied with contact details of the dedicated local unit for the Maldon District, with offer of attendance at local events

25/26.32 FINANCE

25/26.32.1 Approval of Payments:

25/26.32.1.1 Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. Invoice dated 28th April 2025 £122.35. Cheque No.912531

25/26.32.1.2. Maria Dyer office expenses from 1st April to 30th April 2025. £49.08 (£47.87 net). Cheque No.912532

25/26.32.1.3 Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) to 2025/2026 affiliation fees for EALC & NALC (National Association of Local Councils). Invoice No.18542 dated 1st April 2025 £394.54 (EALC fee £316.06; NALC fee £78.48). Cheque No.912533

25/26.32.1.4. Sue Lees Consultancy to domain renewal for CNPC web site (Domain Renewal for 2 years £15 per year minimum 2 years – renewal due on 26th April every other year). Invoice No.INV006951 dated 10th April 2025 £30.00. Cheque No.912534

25/26.32.1.5. Sue Lees Consultancy to Hosting Space. Hosting for website for 1 year £80 per year – reduced rate, yearly cost due on 1st May). Invoice No.INV006957 dated 16th April 2025 £80.00. Cheque No.912534

25/26.32.1.6. Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee to clearing of gutters and gutter inspection. Invoice dated 10th April 2025 £265.00. Cheque No.912535

25/26.32.1.7. Clear Councils to insurance from 1st June 2025 to 31st May 2026. Invoice No.LCO00345 dated 25th April 2025 £1,100.35 (Premium £937.81; Insurance premium Tax £112.54 & admin fee £50.00). Previous year £928.23. Cheque No.912536

25/26.32.1.8. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) to fee for Clerk to attend AGM/training day in June 2025 £27.00. Cheque No.912537

25/26.32.1.9 Cllr Dixon reimbursement of expenses for purchase of 2 x bags of bark chippings for trees in playing field. Invoice dated 7th May 2025 £16.00 (£13.34 net)

25/26.32.1.9. All staff costs £852.70

25/26.32.1.10 Cold Norton VHMC to support due to increase in insurance fee to cover Calor Gas, electric and cleaning invoices from funds allocated to VHMC in PC budget £2,500.00. Cheque No.912529

25/26.32.2. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10th Mar 2025	£	606.69
Santander as at 2nd April 2025	£	<u>11,493.89</u>
	£	12,100.58

25/26.32.3. Solar Panels at Village Hall

Members noted FIT payment of £352.74 received for the period 20th December 2024 to 22nd March 2025

25/26.32.4 Public Works Loan Board

Members noted total outstanding across four loans as at 31st March 2025 £141,958.58.

25/26.32.5 Card Readers

Cllr Dixon advised that he had noticed a card reader for donations in an Essex Church and wondered if this would be of benefit to the village Church. Whilst it was acknowledged that the village Church does not come under the remit of the Parish Council, enquires would be made to ascertain if the Church with the card reader had noticed an increase in donations since the card reader had been installed, and to then advise the village Church accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.33. PLANNING

25/26.33.1. Planning Applications received by the Parish Council: the following were considered, and the responses were:

25/26.33.1.1 25/00164/HOUSE P-13771908 The Spinney, Farnbridge Road: Single storey side and rear extension. Alterations to fenestration including the relocation of the entrance door. Erection of detached double garage/store and stable to the rear. Week No.14 dated 4th April 2025:

The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

- 1. It is outside the development boundary (S8 – Settlement Boundaries & the Countryside)*
- 2. Previous planning conditions have not been adhered to in regards to retention of vegetation (trees and scrubs) contrary to the aims of the Coastal Protection Zone.*
- 3. Is this a change of use from residential to business?*
- 4. Over development of site (D1 Design Quality & Built Environment & H4 Effective Use of Land)*
- 5. It would appear that the ditches have been compromised within the site as flooding issues have been reported.*

25/26.33.1.2. 25/00393/WTPR PP-13933118 26 Station Crescent: TPO 07/00 T36 Oak tree: crown reduction by 4m. T22 Oak tree: crown reduction by 3m. T28, T29 Ash trees: reduce height by 3m. Week No.16 dated 17th April 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”.

25/26.33.1.3. 25/00388/FUL Great Canney Court, Hackmans Lane: addition of new building containing two dwellings to existing building containing flats and associated works. Week No.18 dated 2nd May 2025:

The Members had no objections, but added the following comment:

Whilst this is outside the development boundary, in principle the Members do not object to this application, however, they have noted that none of the previous reasons for refusing this addition to the site seem to have been addressed.

25/26.33.2 Maldon District Council Decisions: covering decisions advised from w/e 4 April to w/e 2 May 2025; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

25/00158/WTPO

Cold Norton

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 - Poplar Tree- Remove
9 Henney Close Cold Norton Chelmsford Essex
(UPRN - 100090554915)

Miss Kalvinder Bisla

APPROVED

25/00178/WTPO

Cold Norton

(TPO 15/96) T49 - Ash Tree- Reduce the crown by 2m and remove deadwood.
14 St Stephens Road Cold Norton Chelmsford Essex
(UPRN - 100090555802)

Mr Tony Davis

APPROVED

25/26.33.3. Planning and Infrastructure Bill

Members noted information from Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

25/26.34. PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION

25/26.34.1. EV Charging Point

Nothing to report. Cllr Fleming offered to follow up with ECC the questionnaire/requests for sites from 2024 as nothing had been heard from the Sustainable Transport office at ECC; Clerk to forward correspondence etc to Cllr Fleming.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.34.2. Playground

Members noted that KOMPAN had been contacted for recommended issues to be resolved (all low-risk issues).

25/26.34.3. Bicycle racks

Members noted that location for bicycle racks would be assessed once works are completed by side of village hall entrance.

25/26.35. VILLAGE HALL

Members noted report from the VHMC Secretary re the heating system which advised that the problems seem to have emanated from an issue with the thermostat and that the thermostat and the boiler were not 'communicating' correctly with each other. Now rectified. This will be monitored and if this has resolved the problems that a programmable device can be looked at.

Working group to be set up to discuss VH Survey

ACTION: CLERK

It was noted that a new yoga class would be starting at the VH on Friday evenings. Clerk was requested to obtain current hiring charges for the various rooms at the VH and a timetable of regular bookings.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.36. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk reported that a resident's concern regarding Hemlock growing in the playing field was being investigated (NB an inspection undertaken by MDC on 8th May 2025 advised it was not Hemlock but was Cow Parsley).

Clerk advised that the lavender planting under the VH windows would be completed on 8th May 2025.

Clerk advised that an email had been received from the company proposing to install a number of telegraph poles not only in Cold Norton, but district wide.

Clerk advised that all Cllrs will be given a dedicated email address for their role as a Parish Cllr.

25/26.37. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

25/26.37.1 TRUCAM

Members noted that during March there were six captures with 50 mph recorded in 40mph area

25/26.37.2 Parking at School

SEPP: nothing to report.

3PR scheme: nothing to report. Clerk will follow up both with school.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.37.3 Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at Zebra Crossing

Members noted that MOAT has arranged for vegetation to be cut back w/c 5th May 2025 and for regular maintenance.

25/26.37.4. Bus Service 45

Members noted timetable.

25/26.38 OPEN SPACE

25/26.38.1 Village Caretaker work: Mr Wiseman continued to carry out this work. In addition to the regular litter picks and emptying bins on playing field, Mr Wiseman had cleared the areas around the gas tank at the VH, the bench on St Stephens Road and the two dog waste bins on St Stephens Road and trimmed low branches on Latchingdon Road and the Ferris Avenue footway.

25/26.38.2 Cowpiece

Cllr Dixon reported that seeds had been scattered at the site and some clearance works had been undertaken.

25/26.38.3 Goal Posts in Playing Field

Nothing to report

25/26.38.4 Football Team

Nothing to report

25/26.38.5 Allotment Site

Members noted quote received and approved re issue with vegetation from rear of site impacting on neighbouring property; order has been placed, and works will be undertaken w/c 2nd June 2025.

25/26.38.6 PRoW FP14 & FP15

Members noted that a resident had reported to Clerk that horses have been ridden along these two footpaths; duly reported to the ECC PRoW Officer who advised that whilst footpaths are not for horse riders, the landowner may have given the riders permission to ride their horses on his/her land. The PRoW Officer is going to write to the landowner to ascertain if this is the case.

25/26.38.7 Temporary Closure of Footpaths for Special Events at Stow Maries Aerodrome

Members noted the temporary closure of Cold Norton FP3, FP4 & FP5; Stow Maries FP4 and Purleigh FP11 & FP13

25/26.38.8 Additional Planting in Village

Deferred to next meeting as Cllr Myers was unable to attend this meeting.

25/26.39. TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

25/26.39.1. Maldon Parish & Town Council Forum Tuesday 25th March 2025

Members noted as advised Cllr Jacklin and Clerk had attended this meeting (notes from meeting were still awaited), but one of the presentations was 'Emergency Planning' (this presentation had been forwarded to Members) and that nominated emergency points of contact now requested. As none of the Cllrs present were able to put themselves forward for this role, the Clerk will initially be the contact – to be reviewed once further information regarding this role is received.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26. 39.2. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils 16th April 2025

Members noted Cllr Mrs Luck was unable to attend; Members noted receipt of meeting pack, which included minutes from January 2025 meeting.

25/26.40. CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

25/26.40.1. Maldon District Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Review – Dog Control

Members noted details of consultation and close date of 22nd May 2025. Members to complete as individuals.

25/26.41. PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Report not available

25/26.42. SOCIAL EVENTS

25/26.42.1 Party in the Park 2025: Saturday 28th June

Members noted report supplied by Cllr Jacklin

25/26.43 CLLR RESIGNATION

Members noted process in hand following Cllr resignation.

25/26.44. 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).

25/26.45. MEETINGS IN 2025

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

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 22nd May 2025

25/26.46. 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 are instructed to withdraw

There were no Members of the Public present.

25/26. 47. VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2025

Clerk advised nominations received. Members then discussed and agreed the recipient for the 2025 award. Clerk to arrange for shield to be engraved accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.40pm

Chairman.....

Date.....