

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 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 S Evans
Cllr P Jacklin
Cllr Mrs J Luck
Cllr D Myers

In attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Parish Clerk)

Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs Gunn, chairing the meeting in Cllr Haydon's absence, started the meeting by welcoming Cllr Evans to the Parish Council.

25/26.161 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Haydon, County Cllr Fleming and District Cllr Wiffen

25/26.162 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.

25/26.163 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: there were no Members of the Public present

25/26.164 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DATED 5TH NOVEMBER 2025 held on Wednesday 5th November 2025 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

25/26.165 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Members noted November report supplied by email.

25/26.166 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Members noted November report supplied by email.

25/26.167 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Members were advised of an attempted break-in and discovery of gas canisters/boxes and that these had been reported to the Police who had advised that more patrols would now be undertaken in the village.

25/26.168 FINANCE

25/26.168.1 Approval of Payments:

25/26.168.1.1 Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. Invoice dated 28th November 2025 £156.00. Cheque No.912582

25/26.168.1.2 Maria Dyer office expenses from 6th to 29th November 2025 £43.76 (£41.60 net). Cheque No.912583

25/26.168.1.3 Maldon District Council to Grounds Maintenance October 2025 to December 2025 Quarter 3. Invoice No.COL58693747 dated 14th November 2025 £872.03 (£726.69 net). Cheque No.912584

25/26.168.1.4 Essex Playing Fields Association (EPFA) for replacement cheque in respect of 2024 Membership Fee and Playing Fields Competition Entry Fee (EPFA to annual membership renewal £30.00 & Competition 2024 entry fee £10. Cheque No.022496) £40. Cheque No.912585

25/26.168.1.5 Essex Playing Fields Association (EPFA) for replacement cheque in respect of 2025 Membership Fee and Playing Fields Competition Entry Fee (EPFA to annual membership renewal £30.00 & Competition 2024 entry fee £10. Cheque No.912544) £40. Cheque No.912586

25/26.168.1.6 Npower to streetlights for October 2025. Invoice No.IN14356237 dated 9th November 2025 £292.20 (£278.29 net). Taken by direct debit on 23rd November 2025.

25/26.168.1.7 BT to village hall phone 16 October to 31 January 2026 Invoice No.QO466H1 dated 13th November 2025. £200.98 (£167.48 net). Taken by direct debit 27th November 2025 (NB dates will be Queried re last invoice).

25/26.168.1.8 Cllr B Haydon to reimbursement for purchase of solar lights for perimeter of extended car park at village hall £49.98 (£41.65 net). Cheque No.912587

25/26.168.1.9 Sue Lees Consultancy to advance quarterly maintenance fee for web site (Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct). Invoice No.INV007281 dated 1st December 2025 £30.00. Cheque No.912588

25/26.168.1.10 HMRC to tax/NI for quarter to 5th January 2026 £1,107.94. Cheque No.912590

25/26.145.1.11 All Staff costs £832.00

25/26.168.2 Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10th Sept 2025	£	610.73
Santander as at 3rd November 2025	£	<u>31,387.96 *</u>
	£	31,998.69

***Includes £75.00 credit from Santander for issue with changing bank signatories.**

25/26.168.3 Grants: Members considered two applications. Following discussion Members agreed to give a donation of £100.00 to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and £100.00 towards the remedial work to the Lighting Conductor at the Church as this affects village residents using the Public Right of Way through the Church Yard. More information to be requested re the failing lintel. **ACTION: CLERK**

25/26.168.4 Royal British Legion

Members noted that a thank you email had been received for the £75.00 donation to the Poppy Appeal in addition to the £25 for the Poppy Wreath.

25/26.168.5 Precept 2026-27: Members considered budget outline. Clerk to update/amend as discussed. **ACTION: CLERK**

25/26.168.6 Locality Fund

Clerk updated Members advising that for funding available it was proposed that a sensory item be put forward. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Fleming. **ACTION: CLERK**

25/26.169. PLANNING

25/26.169.1. Planning Application received by the Parish Council: the following was considered, and the response was:

25/26.169.1.1 25/00941/FUL PP-14391552 The Spinney, Farnbridge Road: stable, fodder store and ancillary shed for electrical supply and equipment storage. Week No.46 dated 14th November 2025:

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

25/26.169.2 Maldon District Council Decisions: covering decisions advised from w/e 7 November to w/e 28 November 2025; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

25/00782/LDP**Cold Norton**

Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed excavation of a section of a site to allow for the construction of an outbuilding housing a swimming pool within the curtilage of a residential dwelling.

Dunromin Farnbridge Road Cold Norton Chelmsford

(UPRN - 010014000070)

Mrs D Abraham

REFUSED

25/26.169.3 Chelmsford Local Plan Consultation

Members were all in agreement that no comments would be submitted.

25/26.169.4 Affordable Housing

Members were all in agreement that this would not be pursued at this time.

25/26.169.5 Connexin- Digital Infrastructure

Members noted the latest communication from Connexin and requested that Clerk request details of proposed locations for further poles in the village.

ACTION: CLERK

Members noted that Connexin are proposing to host a face-to-face session during w/c 15th December 2025 (details awaited).

25/26.170 PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION**25/26.170.1 EV Charging Point**

Nothing to report.

25/26.170.2. Playground

Nothing to report

25/26.160.3. Bicycle racks

Nothing to report

25/26.170.4 Cherry Blossom Lane Kerb

Members were advised that Penny Homes had been contacted for an update re appointment of a contractor for the road extension; Penny Homes are aware that the Parish Council want to discuss with the contractor work to damaged kerb.

25/26.170.5 Lights in car park extension

Members noted that replacement lights had been purchased, awaiting installation.

25/26.170.7 Trees

Nothing to report

25/26.171 VILLAGE HALL

Members considered topics discussed at VHMC meeting held on 20th November 2025 which Cllr Mrs Gunn had attended and reported on. Cllr Mrs Gunn also reported that there would be a 5% increase to hall hire fees and that the VHMC were expecting large Gas and Water bills.

Dates were discussed for a meeting between the VHMC and the Parish Council.

The topic of Solar Panel revenue from the Village Hall was discussed. Clerk to review income received from Solar Panels versus the Public Works Loan Repayments.

ACTION: CLERK

Cleaning of the solar panels was also considered.

25/26.172 CLERKS REPORT

Clerk updated Members re the proposed removal of the damaged seat at Howe Green Road and Cllrs agreed that as cost to remove would be excessive, that it should be renovated by the Village Caretaker for an estimated cost of £150 including materials and labour.

ACTION: CLERK

Clerk reminded Members that the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation closed on 11th January 2026.

25/26.173 HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

25/26.173.1 TRUCAM

Report for November awaited

25/26.173.2 Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at Zebra Crossing

Nothing to report

25/26.173.3 Parking opposite Londis

Nothing to report re application for restricted parking. Cllrs reported that the damage appeared to be getting worse due to vehicles from works at a nearby property. Clerk to advise Cllr Fleming.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.173.4 Speed Watch

Nothing to report

25/26.173.5 Buses – ‘Love Your Bus’ Grant

Members noted outcome of research amongst village bus users and that a meeting is proposed between PC Cllrs, Cllr Fleming and Transport Made Simple in the New Year to discuss some of the changes suggested by the village bus users.

25/26.173.6 Passenger Transport Meeting

Members noted notes from meeting held on 19th November 2025

25/26.174 OPEN SPACE

25/26.174.1 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 and tidied around the gas tank at the VH and cut back the hedges behind the benches at Hackmans Lane and Howe Green Road, also removing vegetation on the concrete under the bench at Howe Green Road.

25/26.174.2 Cowpiece

Cllr Dixon advised that as at 24th November 2025 there was no water in the pond. Clerk to pursue commissioning an appraisal of the pond.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.174.3 Football in Playing Field

Clerk updated Members. Clerk to follow up as discussed.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.174.4 Allotment Site.

Members noted that MDC is undertaking a survey of allotments to review allotment provision in the District to establish if it is adequate.

25/26.174.5 Plaques for Memorial Trees

Members noted that the Plaque for Cllr Litscher has now been installed.

Cllr Dixon updated Members re second plaque for Mrs Garnham

25/26.174.6 Thirty for 30/Village Biodiversity Champions

Nothing to report

25/26.175 TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

25/26.175.1 Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee:

Tuesday 7th October & Wednesday 10th December 2025

Members noted minutes from 7th October meeting are awaited and Cllr Haydon will be attending the 10th December meeting.

25/26.175.2 Maldon Parish/Town Council Forums

Members noted presentations from Forum held on 6th November had been forwarded by email 7th November 2025 and that the next Forums have been set for Tuesday 3rd February 2026 and Monday 18th May 2026.

25/26.176 CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS
None received

25/26.177 PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER
Nothing to report.

25/26.178 SOCIAL EVENTS
25/26.178.1 Party in the Park 2026
Nothing to report

25/26.179 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).

Public Rights of Way were discussed generally.

25/26.180 MEETINGS IN 2026
Wednesdays: 7th January, 4th February, 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 22.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....