

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2026 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 S Evans
Cllr P Jacklin
Cllr Mrs J Luck
Cllr D Myers

In attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Parish Clerk)
County Cllr Mrs J Fleming

25/26.181 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr Wiffen

25/26.182 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.

25/26.183 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: there were no Members of the public present.

25/26.184 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DATED 3RD DECEMBER 2025 held on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

25/26.185 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: not available

25/26.186 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Fleming reminded the Members to take part in the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) consultation which will close on 11th January 2026 and talked briefly about the postponed Mayoral and Councillor Elections. There was then an update/discussion re Cold Norton applying for a 'Love Your Bus' Grant to extend certain services; the Members were all in agreement to apply for the grant if the proposed extensions are feasible, which would also involve/benefit Purleigh and Stow Maries residents (awaiting confirmation from the Bus Operator).

25/26.187 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
Members discussed the proposal put forward by Cllr Myers to deter anti-social behaviour. Following discussion it was agreed that the options/feasibility be discussed with MDC and the Police.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.188 FINANCE

25/26.188.1 Approval of Payments:

25/26.188.1.1 Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. Inv dated 4 Jan 26 £260.00. Cheque No.912591

25/26.188.1.2 Maria Dyer office expenses from 30th November 2025 to 6th January 2026 £26.36 (£25.74 net). Cheque No.912592

25/26.188.1.3 Essex Wildlife Trust to renewal of membership from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 £40.00. Cheque No.912593

25/26.188.1.4 Society for Local Council Clerks to renewal of subscription for Parish Clerk £200.00. Cheque No.912594

25/26.188.1.5 Cllr T Dixon to reimbursement for purchase of plaque for Mrs Garnham £113.95 (£94.96 net). Cheque No.912595

25/26.188.1.6 Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee to use of The Les Barclay Room for Parish Council meetings in October, November and December 2025. Invoice dated 30th December 2025 £62.40. Cheque No.912596

25/26.188.1.7 Wave to water at allotments 30 May to 29 November 2025. Invoice No.15886074 dated 30th November 2025 £109.16 taken by direct debit on 14th December 2025.

25/26.188.1.8 Santander to monthly administration charge for business account 2nd October to 1st November 2025. Invoice No.192599148 dated 14 November 2025. Taken 2nd December 2025

25/26.188.1.9 Santander to monthly administration charge for business account 2nd November to 1st December 2025. Invoice No.193067821 dated 14 December 2025. Taken 1st January 2026

25/26.188.1.10 Essex & Herts Air Ambulance to grant agreed at December PC meeting £100.00 (Minute No. 25/26.168.3 applies). Cheque No.912597

25/26.188.1.11 Cold Norton Parochial Church Council to grant of £100.00 towards cost of remedial work to the Lighting Conductor at the Church (as this affects village residents using the Public Right of Way through the Church Yard) as agreed at December meeting (Minute No. 25/26.168.3 applies). Cheque No.912598

25/26.188.1.12 Npower to streetlights for November 2025. Invoice No.IN14513276 dated 5th December 2025 £322.35 (£307.00 net). Taken by direct debit on 19th December 2025.

25/26.188.1.13 All Staff Costs £832.00

25/26.188.2 Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10th Sept 2025	£	612.51
Santander as at 2nd November 2025	£	<u>29,220.48</u>
	£	29,832.99

25/26.188.3 Santander

To note: change from Business Everyday Current Account (now discontinued) to Business Current Account; main difference to PC usage is a monthly administration charge of £9.99 and 70p charge per cheque deposited, as detailed on correspondence forwarded to Members.

25/26.188.4 Precept 2026-27: Members considered the budget calculations updated from the December meeting and were all in agreement that the Precept for 2026/27 should be £49,499 (an increase of £2,468).

25/26.188.5 Locality Fund

Members noted that Cllr Fleming has put forward for Cold Norton Parish Council) to receive funding of up to £821.48 to fund the purchase and part fund the installation of a Sensory Board for the Children's Play Area in Cold Norton. Nomination still to be approved.

Members agreed to the terms of the funding if approved.

25/26.189. PLANNING

25/26.189.1. Planning Applications received by the Parish Council: the following was considered, and the responses were:

25/26.189.1.1 25/01022/FULM PP-14350416 Land East of Bridge Wick Lane, Dengie:

The construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of an onshore wind electricity generating facility and associated infrastructure, comprising up to 15 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), onsite substation, access tracks, underground cabling, temporary construction compounds, temporary concrete batching plant, and landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement. Week No.49 dated 5th December 2025:

The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

1. *Traffic Impact During Build: concerns particularly re Lower Burnham Road with size and number of HGV that will be involved. (Given site of development can materials not be brought in by water?) Contrary to policy T2 (Accessibility) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*
2. *Environment Impact: on the Coastal Footpath, Salt Marsh. Oyster Beds and boundary of a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), plus effect on wildlife. Contrary to policies N1 & N2 (National Environment & Green Infrastructure), D2 (Environmental Impact of New Development) and D3 (Conservation & Heritage Assets) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*

25/26.189.1.2 25/00993/FUL PP-14412890 Three Rivers Golf & Country Club: erection of steel posts to support raised safety netting along pre-existing fence line forming driving range boundary. Week No.50 dated 12th December 2025:

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

Whilst the Members have no objections there are concerns: would not like to see any further development/commercialisation undertaken which would have a negative effect on the environment/wildlife i.e. impact from floodlights, increased traffic and noise pollution.

25/26.189.2 Maldon District Council Decisions: covering decisions advised from w/e 5 December to w/e 19 December 2025; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

25/00774/FUL Cold Norton

Single storey infill extensions. Fenestration alterations including the relocation of the front door and addition of rooflight.

Ancillary Annexe at Wild Farm Lower Burnham Road Cold Norton

(UPRN - 010094637832)

Mr M Otter - GPO Designs Ltd **APPROVED**

25/26.189.3 Connexin - Digital Infrastructure

Members noted briefing sessions will be held in Maldon Town Hall on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 5.30pm and 6.45pm. Cllrs Haydon, Dixon Jacklin and Luck plan to attend.

25/26.189.4 Planning Application Morris Farm Proposed Development 1,770 homes (25/00926/SOR Land South West of Hogwell Farm, Hogwell Chase, Stow Maries)

Members discussed a request from Stow Maries Parish Council to contribute, along with other local Parish Councils, to commissioning a planning report. Following discussion Members were all in agreement, based on quote supplied by Stow Maries PC and with all neighbouring Parish Councils contributing, to contribute £300.00 towards the cost of a planning report.

25/26.190 PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION

25/26.190.1 EV Charging Point

Members considered the communication from ECC and were in agreement that the Clerk discuss with ECC the option of an EV in the Village Hall Car Park and in other suggested points in the village.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.190.2. Playground

Nothing to report

25/26.190.3. Bicycle racks

Nothing to report.

25/26.190.4 Cherry Blossom Lane Kerb

Members noted that Penny Homes had advised that they would be using Ashe Green to carry out the road extension work with the work scheduled to start this month; Ashe Green to be briefed regarding work to damaged kerb. Cllr Dixon to attend the site visit with the Clerk.

ACTION: CCLR DIXON/CLERK

25/26.190.5 Lights in car park extension

Members noted that replacement lights had now been installed

25/26.190.6 Trees

Members noted that the Arboriculturist has suggested that this time the tree survey is carried out in the summer as alternating surveys between winter and summer allows a more thorough assessment.

25/26.191 VILLAGE HALL

Members noted meeting to discuss survey with VHMC had been arranged for 8th January 2026.

25/26.192 CLERKS REPORT

Clerk requested approval to sign up for a Data Protection Essentials (GDPR) online training course, delivered through the Nimble e-learning platform at £17 ex VAT. Members agreed. Clerk advised that the Electoral Register was now available and a copy had been supplied to the Clerk. Clerk advised that Cllrs can also apply for a copy and outlined the strict usage rules - there were no requests for the application form. Clerk advised that any Cllr encountering problems setting up their dedicated Cllr email address should contact Sue Lees Consultancy for assistance.

25/26.193 HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**25/26.193.1 TRUCAM**

Members noted that in November there had been five captures with 51mph recorded in a 40mph area.

25/26.193.2 Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at Zebra Crossing

Nothing to report

25/26.193.3 Parking opposite Londis

Nothing to report

25/26.193.4 Speed Watch

Members noted that Clerk had spoken to Clerk at Stow Maries, Stow Maries PC still keen, awaiting response from Purleigh PC re a 'three village' group. Clerk suggested contacting Cold Norton Speed Watch to ascertain their view in manning sessions for a 3-village speed watch group if a member from Stow or Purleigh is responsible for the timetable. Member agreed. Clerk to email Cllr Myers to contact CN Speed Watch members.

ACTION: CLERK/CLLR MYERS

25/26.193.5 Buses – 'Love Your Bus' Grant

Discussed as part of County Cllr report –Minute No.25/26.186 applies.

25/26.194 OPEN SPACE

25/26.194.1 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 has at Three Ash Corner/Stow Road cut back overgrown edges, removed brush, cleared gutter and unblocked drain; at Hackmans Lane cut back fallen trees, cleared path edge and removed brush; at St Stephens Road cleared around bench and dog waste bins and at the Village Hall tidied the bin area.

25/26.194.2 Cowpiece

Cllr Dixon advised that as 7th January 2026 there was still no water in the pond. Concern re number of trees in the vicinity causing lack of water.

25/26.194.3 Football in Playing Field

Clerk advised that a second team would like to play football here on Saturdays, but want storage for goals etc. As there are already two 'football' sheds on the field, Clerk to speak to both clubs to ascertain if they could discuss sharing equipment/marketing out pitches.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.194.4 Allotment Site.

Nothing to report

25/26.194.5 Plaques for Memorial Trees

Members noted that the plaque for Mrs Garnham had now been installed.

25/26.194.6 Thirty for 30/Village Biodiversity Champions

Nothing to report

25/26.195 TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

**25/26.195.1 Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee:
Tuesday 7th October 2025 & Wednesday 28th January 2026**

Members noted that minutes are awaited from the 7th October meeting and that Cllr Haydon will be attending the 28th January meeting.

25/26.195.2 Maldon Parish/Town Council Forums

Members noted next Forums have been set for Tuesday 3rd February 2026 and Monday 18th May 2026.

25/26.195.3 RCCE Membership Event Thursday 26th February 2026

Members noted details of above; Cllr Dixon and Cllr Evans hope to attend.

25/26.196 CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

25/26.196.1 CouncilWise Training & Support

Members noted launch of new training and support for Parish Councils. Clerk will review training session.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.197 PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Nothing to report

25/26.198 SOCIAL EVENTS

25/26.198.1 Party in the Park 2026

Nothing to report

25/26.198.2 Spring Garage Sale

Brought forward from December meeting. It was agreed to bring this up the forthcoming meeting with the VHMC

25/26.199 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).

Cllr Dixon advised that he had joined the NE Badger Group and to let him know about any news relating to badgers.

25/26.200 MEETINGS IN 2026

Wednesdays: 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 22.03pm

Chairman.....

Date.....