

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2026 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 Mrs J Luck
Cllr D Myers

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

25/26.201 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Haydon and Jacklin and District Cllrs Wiffen and White.

25/26.202 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.

25/26.203 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: there were no Members of the public present.

25/26.204 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DATED 7TH JANUARY 2026 held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

25/26.205 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Members noted January report supplied by email by Cllr Wiffen and also noted email from Cllr White relating to the increase in the number of large planning applications in the Maldon District advising that the three main issues with fighting these big and contentious planning applications are Flooding/Surface Water, Highways and Ecology. Cllr White has provided some information to guide residents in the right direction to challenge planning applications with these issues. This information sheet will be made available to residents.

25/26.206 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Members noted January report supplied by email. At the meeting Cllr Fleming advised the Members that there is a planning application for 195 new homes in North Fambridge, that the 'Love Your Bus' application for changes to the bus service had been submitted, that ECC will be setting its budget for 2026/27 and due to a shortage of foster carers ECC is now opening its own children's home but still need foster carers.

25/26.207 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
Clerk advised Members that the proposal put forward by Cllr Myers to deter anti-social behaviour had been discussed with the local Community Police Officer who will discuss options with the Rural Policing Team and get back to the Clerk. More visits by the local Police team would be organised.

25/26.208 FINANCE

25/26.208.1 Approval of Payments:

25/26.208.1.1 Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks and repair to seat at Howe Green Road and materials. Seat will be stained when weather conditions are suitable. £205.96 (£200.88 net). Cheque No.912600

25/26.208.1.2 Maria Dyer office expenses from 7th January to 3rd February 2026 £26.59 (£25.74 net).
Cheque No.912601

25/26.208.1.3 Cllr P Jacklin to reimbursement for purchase of mains extension lead for the village hall BT Router installation £14.99 (£12.49 net). Cheque No.912602

25/26.208.1.4 Maldon District Council to Community Engagement Team Services for TRUCAM October to December 2025 Q3. Invoice No.COL58593976 dated 9th January 2026 £466.99 (£389.16 net). Cheque No.912603

25/26.208.1.5 Santander to monthly administration charge for business account 2nd December 2025 to 1st January 2026. Invoice No.193530329 dated 1 February 2026 £9.99 Taken by Direct Debit on 1st Feb 2026

25/26.208.1.6 Starboard Systems Limited to Scribe Accounts Renewal for 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 Invoice No.INV-15227 dated 20th January 2026, £532.80 (£444.00 net). Cheque No.912605

25/26.208.1.7 Sue Lees Consultancy to renewal of SSL Certificate for one year. Invoice No.INV007346 dated 20th January 2026 £75.00. Cheque No.912606

25/26.208.1.8 Information Commissioner to renewal of data protection, fee registration ref.Z7679664. Direct Debit payment ref:ICO:000129349999 will be taken on 2nd March 2026 £52.00 less £5.00 reduction for paying by direct debit £47.00

25/26.208.1.9 Npower to streetlights for December 2025. Invoice No.IN14718257 dated 8th January 2026 £355.39 (£338.47net). Taken by direct debit on 22nd January 2026.

25/26.188.1.10 All Staff Costs £832.00

25/26.208.2 Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10th Dec 2025	£	612.51
Santander as at 2nd January 2026	£	<u>26,745.22</u>
	£	27,357.73

25/26208.3 Locality Fund

Members noted that nomination put forward by Cllr Fleming 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 had been approved. Grant must be claimed by 20th March 2026.

25/26.209. PLANNING

25/26.209.1. Planning Application received by the Parish Council: the following was considered, and the response was:

25/26.209.1.1 25/01093/FUL PP-13624930 Land South of Ferguslie, Honeypot Lane, Stow Maries:
Erection of grounds maintenance barn and workshop with associated yard, vehicle parking, storage of materials and landscaping. Week No.3 dated 16th January 2026:

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

25/26.209.2 Maldon District Council Decisions: covering decisions advised from w/e 9 January 2026 to w/e 30 January 2026 (NB covers Week 52 [2025] and Weeks 1 – 5 (2026); a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

25/00858/WTPO

Cold Norton

(TPO 7/00) T41 Pear - Lateral reduction by 2.5m and height reduction by 3m. Prune tree to balance the shape.
T38 Pear - Crown reduction by 2.5m and prune tree to balance shape.

24 Station Crescent Cold Norton Chelmsford Essex

(UPRN - 100090555860)

Mr Mark Graves

APPROVED

25/26.209.3 Connexin - Digital Infrastructure

Members discussed the report by Cllr Jacklin from the Connexin briefing session held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 (other Members had also attended).

**25/26.209.4 Planning Application Morris Farm Proposed Development 1,770 homes
(25/00926/SOR Land South West of Hogwell Farm, Hogwell Chase, Stow Maries)**

Members noted that the Cold Norton Parish Council agreement for financial support for reports had been advised to Stow Maries Parish Council. Awaiting update.

25/26/209.5 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. Following the response to this planning application submitted to MDC, Clerk reported that the developer had telephoned to advise that the Lower Burnham Road would not be used to transport materials to the site and developer would supply a full report to clarify routes for Clerk to forward to Members.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.210 PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION

25/26.210.1 EV Charging Point

Nothing to report

25/26.210.2. Playground

Clerk advised that weekly inspections should continue.

25/26.210.3. Bicycle racks

Clerk suggested to Members that the original proposed siting be reviewed in order not to lose 2 x car parking spaces. Members were in agreement. Clerk to investigate implications. **ACTION: CLERK**

25/26.210.4 Cherry Blossom Lane Kerb

Members noted that Ashe Green have carried out road extension work to new bungalows; unable to carry out kerb works at same time. Site meeting organised with Ashe Green.

ACTION: CLLR DIXON/CLERK

25/26.211 VILLAGE HALL

Members noted report from meeting held with VPMC on 8th January 2026.

Clerk updated Members regarding removal of the folding screens in The Les Barclay Room. Members were all in agreement. Clerk to make arrangements for removal.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.212 CLERKS REPORT

Clerk advised that there had been further issues regarding inconsiderate parking in St Stephens Road by parents dropping off/collecting children from the school. Clerk has spoken to the Local Community Police Officer who will arrange for ad hoc visits at school start/finish times; the school will also remind parents to park at the village hall.

25/26.213 HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

25/26.213.1 TRUCAM

Members noted that in December there had been four captures with 55mph recorded in a 40mph area.

It was noted that speeding continues to be an issue at night through the village. Clerk to ascertain if speed checks can be carried out at night.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.213.2 Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at Zebra Crossing

Nothing to report

25/26.213.3 Parking opposite Londis

Nothing to report regarding repair works to the footway/kerbing and SEPP Application, but Cllr Mrs Gunn advised that this point is also the location at which there should be a bus stop 'flag'. Cllr Mrs Gunn also advised that other bus stop 'flags' on Latchingdon Road were also missing and these had all been reported to ECC Highways. Details to be supplied to County Cllr Mrs Fleming/Clerk.

ACTION: CLLR GUNN

25/26.213.4 Speed Watch

Members noted that a joint speed watch group for Cold Norton, Purleigh and Stow Maries will not be proceeding as unfortunately Purleigh had the same experience as Cold Norton when the leader of the Purleigh Speed Watch Group moved away, no one else in the group would take on the lead role.

Clerk to contact Cold Norton Speed Watch Members

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.213.5 Buses – ‘Love Your Bus’ Grant

Application submitted – Minute No. 25/26.206 applies.

25/26.214 OPEN SPACE

25/26.214.1 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 replaced slats in seat at Howe Green Road (will be stained when weather conditions are suitable), trimmed bushes and cut back brambles at Green Trees Avenue/Latchingdon Road/Ferris Footpath, cut back hedge from Clarke Rise to allotments, cleared broken glass at footway near Clarke Rise.

25/26.214.2 Cowpiece

Cllr Dixon reported that there has now been water in the pond since 10th January.
Regarding pond appraisal Clerk advised that quote was awaited.

25/26.214.3 Football in Playing Field

Clerk confirmed that both teams had been put in touch with each other regarding sharing the pitch/equipment.
Awaiting response.

25/26.214.4 Allotment Site.

Nothing to report

25/26.214.5 Thirty for 30/Village Biodiversity Champions

Nothing to report

25/26.215 TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS**25/26.215.1 Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee:
Tuesday 7th October 2025 & Wednesday 28th January 2026**

Members noted minutes from 7th October meeting plus agenda, report and minutes for 28th January meeting and noted that next meeting will be held on 3rd June 2026.

25/26.215.2 Maldon Parish/Town Council Forums 3rd February & 18th May 2026

Members noted that Cllr Haydon and Clerk were able to attend the 3rd February meeting – notes awaited.

25/26.215.3 Local Council Nature Recovery Planning Day Monday 23rd February 2026

Cllr Dixon hopes to be able to attend - to be confirmed,

25/26.215.4 RCCE Membership Event Thursday 26th February 2026

Cllr Evans plans to attend. Clerk to make booking.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.216 CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS**25/26.216.1 Essex & Suffolk Water**

Members noted that the above are undertaking the installation of smart water meters in this area over next few months and would like to have the opportunity to attend any gatherings in the village to talk to residents about their water service or bring a large engagement vehicle to the VH car park. Members discussed and agreed that the only suitable time for a vehicle in the VH car park would be at the weekend.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.217 PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Nothing to report

25/26.218 SOCIAL EVENTS

25/26.218.1 Party in the Park 2026

Nothing to report at this time; Members discussed the possibility of a pantomime or a film – to be researched

ACTION: CLLR MYERS

25/26.219 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).

There were no matters reported.

25/26.220 MEETINGS IN 2026

Wednesdays: 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 22.48pm

Chairman.....

Date.....