

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE LES BARCLAY ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mrs M Gunn (Vice Chairman)
Cllr P Jacklin
Cllr Mrs J Luck
Cllr D Myers

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

25/26.221 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Haydon, Dixon and Evans and District Cllr Wiffen.

25/26.222 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.

25/26.223 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: there were no Members of the public present.

25/26.224 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DATED 4th FEBRUARY 2026 held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

25/26.225 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Members noted Cllr Wiffen's February report and Cllr Whites notes re planning supplied by email.

25/26.226 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Members noted Cllr Fleming's February report that had been supplied by email. The Members and Cllr Fleming discussed the possibility of reviving the Cold Norton Speed Watch Group in conjunction with Stow Maries; the absence of 'bus flags' to indicate the official stops in Cold Norton and the condition of the footway opposite Londis.

25/26.227 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
Clerk updated Members re proposed Police actions

25/26.228 FINANCE

25/26.228.1 Approval of Payments:

25/26.228.1.1 Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. Invoice dated 26th February 2026 £220.26 (includes insurance renewal & bin bags)) £220.26 (£219.47 net). Cheque No.912604

25/26.228.1.2 Maria Dyer office expenses from 4th February to 10th March 2026 £111.70 (£100.04 net)., Cheque No.912608

25/26.228.1.3 Cold Norton Village Hall Management Committee to clearing of gutters and gutter inspection. Invoice dated 25th February 2026 £265.00. Cheque No.912609

25/26.228.1.4 Sue Lees Consultancy to advance quarterly maintenance fee for CNPC website (payments due in Jan, April, July and October). Invoice No.INV007407 dated 1st March 2026 £30.00. Cheque No.912610

25/26.228.1.5 Sue Lees Consultancy to maintenance: advance fee for WordPress Maintenance Plan (twice yearly in April and October). Invoice No.INV007408 dated 1st March 2026 £40.00.Cheque No.912610

25/26.228.1.6 Maldon District Council to ground maintenance agreement 2025-2026 January to March 2026 Q4. Invoice NO.COL58694219 dated 4th March 2026 £872.03 (£726.69 net). Cheque No.912611

25/26.228.1.7 Essex Wildlife Trust to renewal of membership from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 £40.00. (no increase over previous year). Cheque No.912612

25/26.228.1.8 Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to annual membership renewal from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 £85.80 (£71.50 net). (increase of £1.50 - 2.14% over previous year). Cheque No.912613

25/26.228.1.9 KOMPAN Limited to supply and delivery of Sensory Multi Play Panel for younger children's enclosed play area (locality grant will cover cost). Invoice to come £900.48 (£750.40 net). Cheque No.912614

25/26.228.1.10 PWLB to 4 loans will be taken by Direct Debit 20 March 2026 £5,215.24

25/26.228.1.11 BT to phone services (new contract) 12 Dec 2025 to 30 Apr 2026. Invoice No.QO47LL dated 12th February 2026 £74.03 (£61.69 net). Taken by Direct Debit 26th February 2026

25/26.228.1.12 Npower to streetlights for January 2026. Invoice No.IN149043397 dated 6th February 2026 £343.64 (£327.28 net). Taken by direct debit on 20th February 2026

25/26.228.1.13 Npower to streetlights for February 2026. Invoice No.IN15082848 dated 6th March 2026 £278.19 (£264.94 net). Will be taken by direct debit on 20th March 2026

25/26.228.1.14 Santander to monthly administration charge for business account 2nd January 2026 to 1st February 2026. £9.99. Taken by Direct Debit 5th March 2026

25/26.228.1.15 All Staff Costs £832.00

25/26.228.1.16 HMRC to TAX/NI for quarter to 5th April 2026 £1,078.29. Cheque No.912616

25/26.228.2 Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10th Dec 2025	£	612.51
Santander as at 2nd March 2026	£	<u>49,916.29</u>
	£	50,528.80

25/26.228.3 Solar Panels at Village Hall

Members noted FIT payment of £880.07 received for the period 23rd June to 30th September 2025 and FIT payment of £277.44 received for the period 1st October to 27th December 2025

Members noted next meter reading will be due on 27th March 2026

25/26.228.4 Enclosed Soft Play Area Outside Village Hall

Members considered quote to repair the sunken areas and agreed to appoint Bounce Bound to undertake the works at a cost of £900 ex VAT. Pre School to contribute 50% of cost. **ACTION: CLERK**

Members noted quote being obtained to rectify section of soft play area that is impacting on VH wall.

25/26.228.5 Training Course – Basic Tree Survey & Inspection

Members considered and approved the cost of £195.00 for Cllr Dixon to attend this course.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.228.6 Santander Bank Signatories

Members noted bank signatories have now been changed and a further compensation of £170 (£70 already received in October) will be credited to the PC Bank account to further compensate for the delay.

25/26.229. PLANNING

25/26.229.1. To consider Planning Applications received by the Parish Council:

25/26.229.1.1 26/00064/FUL PP-14394554 Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Stow Road:

Erection of nine replacement driving range bays and ball machine canopy. Week No.6 dated 6th Feb 2026

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

25/26.229.1.2 25/01119/OUTM PP-14574871 Land West of Hurndall Avenue North Fambridge: Outline application with all matters reserved other than access for the erection of up to 198 dwellings, provision for non-residential uses comprising of uses within use class E, F1 or F2, with associated open space, allotments and infrastructure. Week 5 dated 30th January 2026.

The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

This application for a housing development in North Fambridge will also impact on neighbouring parishes/villages, especially in regard to highways and infrastructure.

1. *Highways: as there is a limited train service and an even more limited bus service, potential new residents will be forced to travel by car with a minimum of 198 cars trying to join the single road access to leave the village and then enter the already heavily used Lower Burnham Road (B1012) – the only access road from The Dengie. 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. *Infrastructure concerns: inadequate sewage facility already exists, as does health care provision within the Maldon District – existing practices are at capacity. There is no primary education within North Fambridge, so even young children would have to be transported by car to other village schools which are at capacity. The three nearby senior schools we understand are also at capacity due to new housing developments in this district and the approved large-scale development (c1,200 houses in South Woodham Ferrers) will further exacerbate the situation.*
3. *Environment Impact and effect on wildlife. Contrary to policies N1 & N2 (National Environment & Green Infrastructure) and D2 (Environmental Impact of New Development) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*
4. *Flood Risk: this area is projected to be below the annual flood level in 2050 due to climate change, sea level rising and coastal flooding (Source: Climate Central).*

25/26.229.2 Maldon District Council Decisions Covering decisions from w/e 6 February to w/e 6 March 2026. a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

25/00432/OUT

Purleigh

Outline application with all matters reserved for a self build replacement dwelling house
Eastholme Latchingdon Road Purleigh Essex
(UPRN - 100091256840)
Mr S Birkumshaw

APPROVED

26/00047/NMA

Purleigh

Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission 24/00742/FUL (Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated landscaping and ancillary works) Amendment sought: Amend the size of skylight above the front door to be smaller in size.

Land Adjacent Eastholm Latchingdon Road Purleigh Essex
(UPRN - 010013995295)
Jacob

APPROVED

25/00926/SOR

Stow Maries

Request for Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion for residential development for up to 1,770 dwellings

Land South West Of Hogwell Farm Hogwell Chase Stow Maries Essex
(UPRN - 010013994766)
Croudace Homes Limited

EIA Required

25/26.229.3 Connexin - Digital Infrastructure

Members considered request from Connexin regarding PC support to recruit residents hosting a gateway. Clerk to respond as discussed re using 'public buildings'.

ACTION: CLERK

**25/26.229.4 Planning Application Morris Farm Proposed Development 1,770 homes
(25/00926/SOR Land South West of Hogwell Farm, Hogwell Chase, Stow Maries)**

Members noted public meeting will be held on Monday 16th March 2026 730pm in Smythe Hall, Stow Maries.
Cllrs Dixon, Jacklin and Evans plan to attend.

25/26.229.5 Local Plan for Maldon

Members noted update on the Local Plan Review & Five-Year Housing Land Supply.

25/26.230 PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION

25/26.230.1 EV Charging Point

Nothing to report

25/26.230.2. Playground

Members noted next Sovereign Inspection would be during w/e 13th March 2026

25/26.230.3. Bicycle racks

Nothing to report

25/26.230.4 Cherry Blossom Lane Kerb

Members considered quotes to rectify repair work to kerb and were all in agreement to appoint Hillside Building Contractors to undertake these works at a cost of £97.65.

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.231 VILLAGE HALL

Clerk updated Members

Members noted that the folding screens in The Les Barclay Room will be removed on 1st April.

25/26.232 CLERKS REPORT

Items already covered under agenda items.

25/26.233 HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

25/26.233.1 TRUCAM

Member noted that in January there had been eight captures with 58mph recorded in 40mph area and in February there were three captures with 77mph recorded in a 40mph area. Clerk advised that the Police are aware of this particular case and will making additional speed checks in conjunction with TRUCAM.

25/26.233.2 Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at Zebra Crossing

Nothing to report

25/26.233.3 Parking opposite Londis

Discussed with County Cllr Fleming earlier in meeting in relation to the SEPP application

ACTION: CLERK

25/26.233.4 Speed Watch

Clerk updated Members

25/26.233.5 Buses – ‘Love Your Bus’ Grant

Awaiting outcome of the two applications which will benefit Cold Norton residents.

25.26.233.6 Parking in St Stephens Road at School Times

Police have advised that they have spoken with the local Parking Enforcement team and will be looking to attend jointly on a number of occasions during school drop-off and pick-up times. This should help address the parking concerns and provide a visible deterrent.

25/26.234 OPEN SPACE

25/26.234.1 Village Caretaker work: Mr Wiseman continued to carry out this work, undertaking regular litter picks and emptying bins on playing field.

25/26.234.2 Cowpiece

Members noted that the order for a pond appraisal had been placed

25/26.234.3 Football in Playing Field

Clerk updated Members .

25/26.234.4 Allotment Site.

Nothing to report

25/26.234.5 Thirty for 30/Village Biodiversity Champions

Nothing to report.

25/26.235 TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

25/26.235.1 Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils meeting 17th February 2026

Members had been supplied with a copy of the agenda. Cllr Mrs Luck attended the meeting and updated Members advising that planning matters including the proposed wind farm in the Dengie.

25/26.235.2 Local Council Nature Recovery Planning Day Monday 23rd February 2026

No one had been available to attend.

25/26.235.3 RCCE Membership Event Thursday 26th February 2026

Members noted report from Cllr Evans who attended the event.

25/26.235.4 Green Essex Network Meeting Tuesday 17th March 2026 1pm to 2pm by Zoom

Members noted receipt of ECC presentation slides & notes from online meeting on 3rd February and that agenda & Zoom link for 17th March meeting will be forwarded when received.

25/26.235.5 Local Nature Recovery & Biodiversity Net Gain Webinar Tues 17th March 7pm to 8pm

Members noted and will check diaries re attendance.

25/26.235.6 Maldon Parish/Town Council Forum 18th May 2026

Members noted that minutes etc awaited from 3rd February Forum; Cllr Haydon and Clerk plan to attend the 18th May meeting. Cllr Mrs Gunn may also attend tbc.

25/26.235.7 Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee Wednesday 3rd June

Members noted date of next meeting

25/26.236 CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

25/26.236.1 ECC Climate Action

Members noted receipt of ECC Essex Climate Action Plan 2025-2028 & ECC Essex Climate Action Annual Report 2024-2025.

25/26.237 PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Nothing to report.

25/26.238 SOCIAL EVENTS

25/26.238.1 Party in the Park 2026

It was agreed that there would not be a Party in the Park this year.

25/26.238.2 Pantomime/Film Event

Being researched by Cllr Myers

25/26.239 Parish Council Policies

Risk assessment: Members considered and agreed no changes are required.

ACTION: CLERK

Standing Orders: Members considered and agreed to change the section relating to Public Speaking Time to 20 minutes and that individual Members of the Public can speak for 4 minutes

ACTION: CLERK

Financial Regulations: Members considered and agreed to continue with current regulations, but that this would be reconsidered in conjunction with the NALC Template

ACTION: CLLR/CLERK

IT Policy: template will be reviewed

ACTION: CLLR JACKLIN/CLERK

25/26.240 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.

25/26.241 MEETINGS IN 2026

Wednesdays: 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

Annual Parish Meeting: this must be held between 1st March and 1st June – date to be agreed.

Cllr Mrs Gunn will be chairing this meeting. Cllr Mrs Gunn to advise availability

ACTION: CLLR MRS GUNN

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 22.35pm

Chairman.....

Date.....