

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2026 HELD IN THE LES BARCLAY ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL commencing immediately after the Annual General Meeting

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mrs M Gunn (Vice Chairman)
Cllr T Dixon
Cllr S Evans
Cllr D Myers

In attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Parish Clerk)
District Cllr Ms L Wiffen
Plus 11 Members of the Public

26/27.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Luck and Cllr Jacklin

26/27.5 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.

26/27.6 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Wiffen's read out her report for April

26/27.7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: the Members of the Public present had attended to voice their concerns about inconsiderate parking in Victoria Road and Henney Close. Their spokesperson outlined the issues including parking on the pavement, forcing residents to walk in the road, vehicles reversing out onto the main road; whilst there are no parking restrictions in force (i.e. yellow lines) the parking along the narrow roads is hampering access for larger vehicles e.g. heating oil lorries, and of more concern that emergency vehicles such as an ambulance or fire engine would not be able to drive through. It was believed that the offending vehicles are a combination of visitors to the pub, business vehicles, parents dropping off/collecting school children and residents living on Latchingdon Road. It was explained to the Members of the Public that this was not a Parish Council matter as it had no powers for this issue, but a Highways/Police matter, however PC would report the concern to the local Police Officer; the Members of the Public were advised to take photographs of the offending vehicles as evidence.

Cllr Wiffen and the Members of the Public left the meeting.

26/27.8 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DATED 30TH MARCH 2026 held on Wednesday 30th March 2026 were approved as correct and were signed accordingly.

26.27.9 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Members noted Cllr Fleming's April report supplied by email.

26/27.10 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT/ POLICE MATTERS & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Members were advised that Luke Danbrook had very kindly taken on the role of Cold Norton Neighbourhood Watch (NhW) Co-ordinator. Thanks were expressed to Colin Horner from Purleigh NhW for acting as the Cold Norton NhW Co-ordinator in the interim period. Members then discussed speeding issue concerns in the village at night and at the weekend. Clerk reminded Members that this had been relayed to the local Police, who were aware of the situation and had advised that checks would be undertaken.

26/27.11 FINANCE

26/27.11.1 Approval of Payments:

26/27.11.1.1 Maldon District Council to Community Engagement Team Services (TRUCAM) January to March 2026. Invoice No.COL58594303 dated 19th March 2026. £466.99 (£389.16 net). Cheque No.912621

26/27.11.1.2 Sue Lees Consultancy to Hosting Space: hosting for website & mail server (up to 10 basic mailboxes) for 1 year (£12 per month or £120 per year with 2 free months). Invoice No.INV007455 dated 16th April 2026. £120.00. Cheque No.912622

26/27.11.1.3 Maria Dyer office expenses from 31st March to 30th April 2026. £29.75 (£28.25 net). Cheque No.912624

26/27.11.1.4 Mr Roy Wiseman to village caretaker tasks. Invoice dated 4th May 2026 £182.00. Cheque No.912625.

26/27.11.1.5 Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) to 2026/2027 Affiliation Fees. Invoice No.19220 dated 9th April 2026. £409.90 (EALC fee £328.54; NALC fee £81.36 based on 946 electorate). Cheque No.912626

26/27.11.1.6 Stillwater Management to site appraisal of pond at Cowpiece. Invoice No.80346 dated 16th April 2026 (special rate). £216.00 (£180.00 net). Cheque No.912627

26/27.11.1.7 Clear Insurance to insurance from 1st June 2026 to 31st May 2027. Invoice No.LCO00345 dated 28th April 2026 £1,041.38 (Premium £880.69; Insurance Premium Tax £105.69; admin fee £55.00). Cheque No.912628

26/27.11.1.8 SLCC Essex Branch to fee for Clerk to attend SLCC Essex 2026 AGM and Training Day In June £27.00.(subsidised by SLCC Essex Branch). Cheque No.912629

26/27.11.1.9 Santander to monthly administration charge for business account 2nd March 2026 to 1st April 2026. £9.99. Direct Debit was taken on 2nd May 2026

26/27.11.1.10 Npower to streetlights for March 2026. Invoice No.IN15270704 dated 9th April 2026 £264.69 (£252.09 net). Was taken by direct debit on 23rd April 2026.

26/27.11.1.11 BT phone & Wi-Fi at Village Hall. Invoice No.MO48Y3 dated 13th April 2026 £137.70 (£114.75 net). Was taken by Direct Debit on 27th April 2026.

26/27.11.1.12 All Staff Costs £836.20

26/27.11.2 Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 10th Mar 2026	£	614.06
Santander as at 2nd April 2026	£	<u>41,740.24 *</u>
	£	42,354.30

* Includes Locality Fund Grant of £821.48 from ECC re new piece of play equipment

26/27.11.3 Precept 2026/27

Members noted that the parish precept of £49,499 was paid into CNPC A/C on 23rd April.

26/27.11.4 Solar Panels at Village Hall

Members noted that the FIT payment for the period 28th December 2025 to 24th March 2026 was £315.18

26.27.11.5 PWLB (Public Works Loan Board)

Members noted that the balance outstanding for the four loans as at 31st March 2026 was £137,405.20 and that they had been supplied with a breakdown.

26/27.12. PLANNING

26/27.12.1. Planning Applications received by the Parish Council: the following were considered, and the responses were:

26/27.12.1.1 25/01022/FULM PP-14350416 Land East of Bridge Wick Lane Dengie Essex: 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.
This application has been amended by submission of revised plans/information documents

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.*

The following new comment/observation to be considered in addition to those above submitted in January 2026.

NB in relation to item 1 the Parish Council was contacted by phone by the developer to point out that the Lower Burnham Road would not be used but that the route was in fact via Fambridge Road turning left at Pale Pit roundabout and would be going through Latchingdon village – it was pointed out to the developer that this was not at all suitable as both Fambridge Road and the road to and through Latchingdon are both single lane roads and lorries coming along Fambridge Road in the opposite direction have to use passing places, plus there are already traffic issues through Latchingdon with 'normal' traffic.

3. *HGV Traffic – figures quoted by the developer are very disingenuous (only 1.4% increase of total traffic), by comparing the lesser number of lorries to the greater number of cars going through the villages as 1 lorry is more or less equivalent to 10 cars – one lorry does not equate to one car. In addition, old properties along the route to the wind farm site will be adversely affected by the increased number of heavy vehicles.*

At this point Members raised the subject of the involvement of The Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils in these large planning applications. Clerk to contact the Chairman of this group.

ACTION; CLERK

26/27.12.1.2 26/00254/WTPO PP-14854480 26 Station Crescent: (TPO 07/00) T19 & T20 Ash – Fell to ground level. T3, T6, T8, T10, T25 Ash – Crown reduction by 3.5m. Week No.17 dated 24th April 2026:

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".

26/27.12.2 Maldon District Council Decisions: covering decisions advised from w/e 3 April to w/e 1 May 2026; a detailed list had been supplied to Members, which is summarised below:

26/00064/FUL

Cold Norton

Erection of nine replacement driving range bays and ball machine canopy
Three Rivers Golf & Country Club Stow Road Cold Norton Chelmsford
(UPRN - 200000916977)
Peachey's Retirement & Trust Scheme **APPROVED**

26/27.12.3 Connexin - Digital Infrastructure

Members noted that a smart meter pole had been erected at the end of Green Trees Avenue.

26/27.13 PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK EXTENSION

26/27.13.1 EV Charging Point

Nothing to report

26/27.13.2. Playground

Members noted that delivery of new piece of play equipment (Sensory panel) was expected w/c 18th May. That orders had been placed for installation of the Sensory Panel, repair to junior multiplay unit and service/retention of zip wire to be carried out early June. That annual inspection of play equipment by The Play Inspection Company (organised by MDC) would be undertaken in May or June. That order placed with Online Playgrounds for three play equipment inspections in September, December 2026 and March 2027.

26/27.13.3. Bicycle racks

Nothing to report

26/27.13.4 Cherry Blossom Lane Kerb

Members considered additional cost of £82 for this work; Cllr Mrs Gunn proposed this be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Evans, all Members were in agreement. Clerk to issue amended order.

ACTION: CLERK

26/27.14 VILLAGE HALL

Clerk updated Members regarding quotes for roof and solar panel works.

Members noted that folding screens in The Les Barclay Room could not be removed on 1st April due to contractor illness and was now scheduled for Saturday 9th May subject to availability of someone to open/close hall. Cllr Mrs Gunn and Cllr Dixon very kindly offered to do to undertake these tasks. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements

ACTION: CLERK

Members noted that the Village Hall Management Committee AGM is scheduled for Thursday 14th May 2026 at 11.45am.

26/27.15 CLERKS REPORT

Clerk outlined details of a group training option. Details of individual sessions requested for discussion at a future meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

26/27.16 HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

26/27.16.1 TRUCAM

Member noted that in March there had been two captures with 38 mph recorded in in 30mph area and 46mph recorded in 40mph area and in April there were seven captures with 37mph recorded in a 30mph zone and 64mph recorded in a 40mph area.

26/27.16.2 Overgrowing hedges/vegetation at Zebra Crossing

Nothing to report

26/27.16.3 Parking opposite Londis

Nothing to report

26/27.16.4 Speed Watch

Members noted that Clerk has spoken to the new Cllr at Stow Maries who will assist with forming a joint speed watch group; members of original Cold Norton Speed Watch group still to be contacted to ascertain if they will form part of the 'new' group.

ACTION: CLERK

26/27.16.5 Buses – 'Love Your Bus' Grant

Members noted that further information and publicity material is awaited; new service is scheduled to start on 1st July 2026.

26/27.16.6 Parking in St Stephens Road at School Times

Nothing to report

26/27.17 OPEN SPACE**26/27.17.1 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 cleared around the gas tank at the VH, cut overgrown vegetation around benches and dog waste bins on St Stephens Road.

26/27.17.2 Cowpiece

Discussion of pond appraisal undertaken on 27th March 2026 was deferred to the June meeting.

26/27.17.3 Football in Playing Field

Nothing to report

26/27.17.4 Allotment Site.

Nothing to report

26/27.17.5 Thirty for 30/Village Biodiversity Champions

Nothing to report

26/27.18 TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS**26/27.18.1 Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils meeting 17th February 2026**

Members noted that minutes are still awaited.

26/27.18.2 Environmental Collaboration Essex (formerly called Green Essex Network) Webinar 17th March 2026

Members noted notes from this meeting

26/27.18.3 Environmental Collaboration Essex (formerly called Green Essex Network) Webinar 28th April 2026

Members noted notes from this meeting – no one had been available to attend.

26/27.18.4 Creating a Local Nature Plan for your Parish Wednesday 6th May 2026

No one had been available to attend.

Clerk advised that as previously advised there is a duty on public authorities (including parish councils) to create a Local Nature Plan (in relation to conserving biodiversity). Clerk has already started to research papers, and will request notes from 6th May meeting above, for consideration at a future meeting,

26/27.18.5 Maldon Parish/Town Council Forum 18th May 2026

Members noted that Clerk plans to attend the 18th May meeting. Chairman's and Vice Chairman's attendance to be confirmed.

26/27.18.6 Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee Wednesday 27th May

Clerk to ascertain if the person representing the Parish Council must be a Cllr.

ACTION: CLERK

26/27.18.7 National Emergency Briefing – Online Film

No one was able to view the screening on 9th April. Clerk to make enquires re dates of future screenings.

ACTION: CLERK

26/27.18.8 Environmental Collaboration (EC) Essex meeting Tuesday 9th June 2026 9.30am to 10.30am (online)

Members noted Clerk plans to attend this as EV Charging Points will be discussed. Cllrs to advise if they wish to also attend.

26/27.19 CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS**26/27.19.1 Essex Village of the Year & Community Awards 2026**

Members noted guidelines for these awards but decided that they would not be submitting any entries,

26/27.20 PARISH COUNCIL WELFARE OFFICER

Nothing to report.

26/27.21 SOCIAL EVENTS

26/27.21.1 Pantomime/Film Event

Cllr Myers reported on his research into Pantomimes; Clerk to speak to the Preschool leader to ascertain likely interest/support from preschool parents.

26/27.21.2 Firework Event

Cllr Evans advised that this had been suggested as a possible village event.

26/27.22 Parish Council Policies

Review of current Financial Regulations/NALC – deferred to a future meeting,

26/27.23 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 Myers brought up the fact that at one point FP14 'goes into' a coppice (and does not extend beyond the coppice) and prior to that point there is no signage and the footpath is not marked out or maintained/covered by crops. Clerk advised that a previous Parish Council had asked the landowner if it could be extended to meet Bridleway 29, but this request was declined. Following the meeting Cllr Myers took the matter of the signage and clearance of the footpath to the coppice up with ECC Highways/PRoW and was advised: *"This is a rather unusual situation where the footpath comes to a dead-end on the far side of the field. Therefore, we do not mark the route or ask the landowners to provide a route through the crop."*

26/27.24 MEETINGS IN 2026

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

NB Essex Election Day is Thursday 7th May 2026

26/27.24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Will be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 8pm in The Les Barclay Room

SMOG (Stow Maries Opposition Group) will do a short presentation at the APM

25/26.25 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 were instructed to withdraw

There were no Members of the Public present.

25/26. 26 VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2026

Members discussed and agreed the recipient for the 2026 award. Clerk to arrange for shield to be engraved accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 22.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....