

COLD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE 2012 IN THE NORTON ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors:

Professor L. Barclay (Vice Chairman)
Mrs V, Jennings
Mr S. Rivers
Mr P Wakeling (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs M. Dyer (Parish Clerk)
Mr D. Hine
Mr J. Hine
Mr P Walker
Mr M. Smith

116. **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION FROM JACK & DANNY HINE RE Skate Ramp.**

Master Jack Hine asked the Parish Council to consider extending /changing the existing skate board ramps in the Playing Field at Cherry Blossom Lane, advising that he had consulted with other boys in the village about what equipment would be desirable so that they don't have to travel to other villages where the parks have more extensive skate boarding facilities. Master Hine showed the Cllrs pictures of the type of ramps etc. that they would like and explained the names for the different areas and answered the Cllrs questions. The Members advised that they were not opposed to changing the area, as updating of the equipment in the playing field had come up in the village survey, but would need to see costs involved. It was agreed that Master Hine and his Father will come back to a future meeting with costs.

117. **PRESENTATION FROM MR WALKER & MR SMITH RE WOODHAM RADARS FOOTBALL CLUB**

Mr Walker gave a brief history of Woodham Radars Football Club, advising that it was established in 1972 specifically to allow the youth access to organised football and the chance to enter leagues and compete locally. Members were reminded that a couple of Woodham Radars Youth teams had played their home games at Cold Norton for the season 2011/12. Mr Walker & Mr Smith advised that as this had worked well and the teams had enjoyed playing here that Woodham Radars would like to establish the pitch on Cold Norton as a home ground for 2 or 3 of the Youth teams (under 8's) and are prepared to invest in the site by providing fixed goals and would hope in future to run football training schools in Cold Norton with qualified coaches during the school summer holidays. Following discussion it was agreed that Clerk would check out the following matters: renewal of the grass cutting schedule in line with matches, remedial work to the ditches, plus facility for storage of nets and corner flags and access to toilets. Mr Walker advised that over a season across 2 teams there would be circa 25 games, that car sharing would be organised to ease pressure on the car park and that soil for minor pitch renovation (due to rabbits) would be brought in by the team. The possibility of Saturday morning training sessions was raised – Clerk to ascertain the situation regarding the Boot Camp Class.

ACTION: CLERK

118. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** apologies were received and accepted from Mr Litscher, Mrs Garnham and Mr Archer.

119. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** Members were required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They were 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.

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

120. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE ORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council** both held on Wednesday 2nd May 2012 were both approved as correct and signed accordingly.

FINANCE

Approval of Payments

121. Mr R. Wiseman to village caretaker work 23rd April to 9th May 2012 £36.25. Cheque No1095
122. TCL (trading name of TC Landscapes Limited) re Pre School outdoor play area Invoice No.SEO1850 dated 28.05.12 £14,349.70. Cheque No. 1096
123. E-on to electricity for street lights April 2012 Invoice No.HD0515353 dated 06.05.12. £45.34 (£43.18 net) taken by direct debit on 16.05.12.
124. Mrs Sue Garnham to engraving on Villager of the Year plaque 19.04.12 £10.90 (£9.08 net) Cheque No.1097
125. BT village hall payphone Invoice No.QO47DN dated 14.05.12 £48.82 (£41.93 net) Cheque No.1098
126. SP Bardwell to relocating the beacon invoice No.9804 dated 29.05.12 £600 (£500 net) Cheque No.1099.
127. Essex Playing Fields renewal of membership to March 2013 £25. Cheque No.1100.
128. Maria Dyer office expenses May 2012 £21.53 Cheque No.1101
129. Cold Norton Parochial Church Council to providing refreshments at APM £25 Cheque No.1102
130. HM Customs & Excise Tax/NI to 5th July 2012 £13.00 Cheque No.1104

131. Financial Statement

Current balances:

Barclays 10 Day Notice as at 15th May 2012	£	555.73
Santander as at 2nd May 2012	£	<u>60,282.70</u> *
	£	60,838.43

*Precept money paid in 30th April 2012

132. **Audit Commission letter dated 10th May 2012** – Members had been supplied with copy letter re consultation on appointment of external auditor for 2012/13 and future years plus overview of audit approach and fees. Members were not opposed to proposed appointment of Littlejohn LLP for 5 years from the 2012/13 audit and noted the proposed fees which will apply from the 2112/143 audit.

PLANNING

133. **Planning Applications received by the Parish Council:** the following were considered and the responses were as indicated:

FUL/MAL/12/00310 The Poplars, Cherry Blossom Lane, Cold Norton. Change of use of site for the siting of three additional caravans with separate bath and utility room for occupation by Gypsy Families. Week 20 dated 18th May 2012:

Cold Norton Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal contained within the above application and recommends that Maldon District Council REFUSE CONSENT.

The Council has sympathy with the applicant and the Parish Council may be minded to take a different view if a personal application were submitted. However it must be pointed out that Cold Norton is not suitable for an expanded Traveller Settlement as advised in response to the application submitted in 2011, because of the following factors:

- Education: Cold Norton Primary School is currently oversubscribed and has a waiting list
- Health: there are no health facilities in Cold Norton. All health requirements are met by travelling elsewhere
- Shop: the village shop suffers from vehicular congestion. Pedestrians are served by a narrow poorly maintained footpath alongside a busy minor road prone to speeding traffic
- Transport: the village bus service is poor.
- Employment: there are very limited opportunities within Cold Norton hence most residents have to commute to work. Plus the industrial site which had provided some local employment has now closed.

In addition the proposed site is along a road that is in need of development, requiring it to be made up and fully maintained.

FUL/MAL/12/00237 PP-01879262 Little Cooks Farm, Lower Burnham Road, Cold Norton.

Demolition of outbuildings and barn, conversion of former milking stable to form 2 bed dwelling with associated extension. Change of use from agricultural land to residential. Week 20 dated 18th May 2012:

Whilst this property is outside the development boundary, Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the works proposed within the above application because the scale of development is modest.

However, whilst it is noted that not all the demolition proposed in the application is necessary for the creation of this new modestly sized dwelling, the Parish Council feel it is essential that demolition of all the redundant buildings on the site detailed in the application (outbuildings, barn etc.) be listed as a condition if planning permission is granted.

OUT/MAL/12/00234 Stow Garage, The Street, Stow Maries. Development of 8 houses. Week 20 dated 25th May 2012:

Cold Norton Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal contained within the above application and recommends that Maldon District Council REFUSE CONSENT.

The reason for the Council's objection is that there is insufficient parking for the scale of the development. However, if the parking issue were resolved the Council would be minded to submit a 'no objections' response.

OUT/MAL/12/00286 Site adjacent former Stow Bullocks Public House, The Street, Stow Maries. Outline application for 4 x 2 bed dwellings. Week 21 dated 25th May 2012:

Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the proposal outlined within the above application, subject to detailed plans.

The village survey recently undertaken in Cold Norton suggests the need for smaller properties such as above.

134. **Maldon District Council Decisions:** a detailed list had been copied to Members, which is summarised below:

FUL/MAL/11/01058 Cold Norton

Erection of small hay barn and retention of the storage container for a temporary period until November 2012

Barn Lea Lower Burnham Road Latchingdon Essex

(UPRN - 200000915408)

Mr Martin Wilson **APPROVED**

FUL/MAL/12/00119 Cold Norton

The proposal seeks permanent road widening works for the purpose of facilitating access for abnormal load deliveries to the proposed wind farm at Turncole Farm. The new highway created will be fenced or similar to allow access to the abnormal loads only and not all traffic. The works will take place at the two road junctions between Lower Burnham Road & Fambridge Road near Cold Norton. The works will result in a change of use from residential and agricultural land to form new highway.

(Resubmission of Previous Application FUL/MAL/11/00806)

Lower Burnham Road North Fambridge Essex

Mr Jonathan Knight, RES UK & Ireland Ltd

(UPRN 010013995995) **REFUSED**

135. **Planning Appeal Notice:** Turncole Farm, The Marshes, Southminster. FUL/MAL/10/01070 Appeal Ref No.APP/X/1545/A/12/2174982/NWF. Wind Farm Development. Members had been supplied with copy of the notice. Noted by Members.

136. **Maldon District Council:** Maldon District Local Development Plan letter dated 9th May 2012. Copy letter had been supplied to all Members advising current situation re the LDP. Noted by Members.

137. **Maldon District Council:** Area Planning Committees – Terms of Reference. Letter dated 23rd May 2012. Members had been supplied with copy letter. Members remarked that it is not always clear whether a planning application will be a delegated planning office decision or will be referred to Committee.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

138. **Surface water on Latchingdon Road adjacent to bridge** – awaiting further update. Noted by Members.
139. **Surface water on Latchingdon Road near junction with St Stephens Road** – awaiting update. Noted by Members.
140. **Green Trees Avenue** – cracking road surface reported to Highways – awaiting update. Noted by Members.
141. **Highways Panel** – no further news regarding changes available. Noted by Members

VILLAGE HALL

142. **Report from Parish Council Representatives** – not available. VHMC to consider local contractor for minor works.
143. **Village Hall Project** – Mr Wakeling advised that window knot work had been completed, but that the final invoice was still awaited, Clerk to chase. Mr Wakeling further advised that the roof light in the kitchen still required attention and that there was a broken exterior roof tile – awaiting report from VH expert. Noted by Members.
144. **Parking at Village Hall:** letters to be sent to all regular users.

VANDALISM/POLICE MATTERS

145. **Speed watch.** It was note that no volunteers had been forthcoming. Members commented that a visible police presence was required.
146. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – not available

OPEN SPACES

147. **Cowpiece Nature Reserve:** Mr Litscher and Clerk are still to carry out inspection – delayed due to inclement weather and business commitments. Noted by Members. Members considered a suggestion for a bench at the back of Cowpiece looking out onto the fields, which is a good viewing place for wildlife. Members were not opposed to the suggestion, and will reconsider once the final accounts have been settled on the VH Project.
148. **Playing Field:** Members had been supplied with an update and press clipping relating to the Pre School outdoor play area and agreed to fund A4 signs for inside the hall and on an exterior wall to advise usage of this space. **ACTION: CLERK**
149. **Village Caretaker work:** Members had been advised that Mr Wiseman had continued to carry out this work, and that in addition to the regular litter picks and safety checks at the playing field, Mr Wiseman had carried out maintenance work on the fencing around the younger children's play area and dead headed daffodils at Three Ashes corner & St Stephens Road.
150. **Village Sign: Members had been advised that this** had been renovated by Bakers and was back in situ and the post restrained. Noted by Members,
151. **The Beacon: Members had been advised that this had been relocated** to the meadow at the back of playing field. Noted by Members.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

152. **Footpaths Map:** work in progress. Noted.
153. **Footpath 15 (Bridleway):** Members had been advised that the hand rail at St. Stephens Road entrance had been reinstated and that the way mark post at bottom had been replaced. Noted by Members.
154. **Footpath 20 (Crown Road):** Members had advised that the gate at Crown Road end was now operational. Noted by Members.
155. **Footpath 23/24 obstruction:** reported by a resident. Members had been advised that both the PRoW Officer and Mr. Wakeling had both confirmed that there is no obstruction. Noted.
156. **Footpath 14/Footpath 19:** Members had been advised that the gate is inoperable and had been reported to PRoW Officer who had arranged that as a temporary measure it be propped open. Noted by Members.
157. **Footpath 24:** covered by crop – Members had been advised the the PRoW arranged for it to be cleared. Noted by Members.
158. **Purleigh Footpath 45 (by water tower):** Members had been advised that this was blocked by rape and that the PRoW Officer had arranged for it to be cleared. Noted by Members.
159. **Purleigh Byway 32 (Howe Green Road):** Members had been advised that this is in the process of being downgraded to a bridleway and that ECC Legal Department are processing. Noted by Members.
160. **EMERGENCY PLANNING/PROCEDURES** – nothing to report.

TRAINING/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS.

161. **Parish Transport Meeting Tuesday 15th May 2012:** Cllr had been unable to attend. Noted.
162. **Local Community Liaison Council (Bradwell) meeting at Minerva Centre on Wednesday 13th June 2012 10am:** Members had been supplied with minutes from last meeting held in December 2011 plus NDA (National Decommissioning Authority) report for May 2012. Professor Barclay had advised that is unable to attend this one. No other Member available to attend.
163. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parishes: Wednesday 20th June 2012 7.30pm in Stow Maries.** Noted.
164. **Essex Wildlife Trust Annual Members Day on Saturday 23rd June 2012.** Noted.
165. **2012 Conference EALC/ECC Making the Links Thursday 27th September 2012.** Noted.

CORRESPONDENCE

166. **RCCE Oil Buying Scheme:** Members had been supplied with details and agreed that details should be displayed on Parish noticeboards. **ACTION: CLERK**
167. **NALC Legal Topic Note 80 May 2012.** Members had been supplied with a copy. Clerk to clarify situation with NALC. **ACTION: CLERK**
168. **EALC Briefing Paper re “Funding Arrangements for Localising Support for Council Tax”** Members had been supplied with a copy and advised that the consultation close date was 12th July 2012 (to EALC is 2nd July 2012). Noted by Members.
169. **EALC Briefing Paper re “Improvements to Policy & Legal Framework for Public Rights of Way”** Members had been supplied with a copy and advised that the consultation close date was 6th August 2012 (to EALC is 23rd July 2012). It was agreed that Mr Wakeling as PRoW representative for the PC would respond.

170. **Localism Act/Neighbourhood Planning** Members had been supplied with a variety of related articles. Noted.

171. **QUEENS JUBILEE 2012:** Members had been advised that mugs were being distributed to children and would be sold at events at Jubilee weekend and supplied with a press cutting. At the meeting there was a report of events during the three days of celebration. Members were advised that around £1,000 profit had been made. Clerk was requested to write to Mrs Sue Garnham to thank her for putting this together for the village and to also write to all the members of the 'team' who helped.

ACTION: CLERK

172. **THE NORTON:** Members were advised that wok has now started in the pub

173. **VILLAGE SURVEY:** work in progress

174. **SALT BAG SCHEME:** Members had been advised that the ECC questionnaire had been completed. Noted by Members.

175. **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.)

Members were advised that the subject of CCTV had been raised by Pre School for their new outdoor play area and that conditions of use were being researched.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Provisionally scheduled for 2012: Wednesdays: 4th July, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....