

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

From the July 2008 Meeting

**Free Home Fire Safety Check:** the meeting started with a presentation from the Station Commander at South Woodham Ferrers Fire Station, covering what the Fire Service has to offer the community apart from the all important fire and rescue. One of these services is a free home fire safety check – contact 01245 425223 to arrange an appointment, see posters on the notice boards, or complete a leaflet available in the information rack at the village hall or contact the Clerk for a copy. This service also includes the installation of free smoke detectors if required.

**Parish Councils Accounts - Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008:** all items of the Audit Commission's statutory Annual Return were checked and agreed by the Parish Councillors. The Chairman duly completed and signed the appropriate sections. Clerk will now return the form to the external auditor.

**Poppy Wreath:** the Chairman selected a new design which will be laid at the Church memorial on Remembrance Day on behalf of the village.

**Highways:** a member of the Highways team, Mr Ed Brown, attended this meeting; Mr Brown explained the process involved regarding highways maintenance works and pointed out that Highways will charge property/landowners if Highways have to cut back vegetation which causes an obstruction to the highways/footways or highway signs. The Chairman read out an update of the jobs currently pending completion, namely, the new pram ramps at the bridge – works have been ordered, should be scheduled in four weeks; new signs for Fambridge Road/St. Stephens Road/Newport Avenue –scheduled to be carried out in August; Vehicle activated sign for Stow Road (area between Cold Norton and Stow Maries) – meeting still to be convened with supplier re suitability of site; overgrowing vegetation from bridge to Junction Road – Highways site meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> July; footway just past bridge and near Country Produce cracking – works have been ordered but still to be scheduled; tarmac near kerb at Clarke Rise 'churned up' – repair has been ordered and scheduled to be carried out in July; entry to village and speed sign at corner of Howe Green Road – due to be carried out in July. In addition the speed activated sign at Crown Road is not working correctly – Mr Brown advised he will inform the appropriate Highways team member.

**Playing Field:** Members were advised that several groups using the hall in the evenings are having problems with youngster kicking balls against the village hall doors and some being verbally abusive and that PCSO Butler had been advised and is now is now visiting at random times. Members were also advised that yet again the boat in the enclosed play area has been the subject of vandalism – the steering wheel has been twisted off again – it was decided that it should now be

left off permanently as per the mast. Members had been e-mailed with a copy of the ROSPA inspection report for both the play area and Cowpiece.

**District Councillor Report:** Mr John Archer confirmed Mr Brian Mead's resignation as Councillor for Maldon North Ward.

**Maldon District Council Toilets:** Members were advised that MDC would like "Your Views on Our Loos" – and were all given a copy of the questionnaire. MDC would like views from as many people as possible – the questionnaire may be completed on line at [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk) or you may pick up a copy from MDC Offices, White Horse Lane Toilets, Maldon Tourist Information Centre or Maldon Library. All questionnaires must be completed/returned to MDC by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

**Parish Council Meetings:** scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2008: Wednesdays 10th September, 1st October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, and 3rd December. All meetings start at 8 pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. Members of the public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings and to speak during the time set aside for that purpose. Please note there is not an ordinary meeting in August, but extraordinary meetings will be called if necessary, for example, if planning applications are received which require a response before the next scheduled meeting in September – details will be posted on the two open notice boards.

**To contact the Parish Council:** please write to: The Parish Clerk (Maria Dyer), at Exordium, 30b Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, Chelmsford, Essex. CM3 6JG. E-Mail to [mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk) or phone (Monday to Friday before 5 pm please) 01621 829566.