



Cold Norton's Annual Parish Meeting
Held at 8 pm on Monday 8th May 2012
At Cold Norton Village Hall

THOSE PRESENT: Parish Councillors:
Mr. J. Archer (also a District Councillor)
Professor L. Barclay (Vice Chairman)
Mrs S Garnham
Mr. P. Wakeling (Chairman)

Mrs. P. Channer, County Councillor
Ms S White, District Councillor
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk) and 9 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Parish Cllrs: Mr Litscher, Mr Rivers and Mrs Jennings and
PC Sam Pateman

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 9th May 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record.

THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT was given by Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Philip Wakeling, as follows:

Mr. Wakeling welcomed everyone to the meeting, which had followed the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee. Mr. Wakeling then named the current **Parish Councillors:** John Archer, Les Barclay, Sue Garnham, Von Jennings, Charles Litscher, Stewart Rivers and himself, Philip Wakeling, advising that he had been elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year with Les Barclay as Vice Chairman.

Mr Wakeling then spoke about **financial matters**, confirming that the accounts are audited and signed off annually. The spend to March 2012 was advised as £21,777 and that the accounts are on display this evening; the precept requested for the coming financial year 2012/13 was advised as £21,560, which includes a built in £5,500 reserve. Mr Wakeling then went through some of the main budget categories that the Parish Council spends money on, these include: administration, grass cutting, public works loans, Clerk's salary, street lighting and village caretaker

Moving onto **planning matters** Mr Wakeling advised that the Parish Council had considered 31 planning applications in the past year, reminding the audience that Maldon District Council makes the final decision. Of the 31 considered by the Parish Council, MDC had upheld the Parish Council's decision on 24 applications, in relation to five of the applications MDC disagreed with the Parish's opinion, decisions re two applications were not yet known.

There had been two major applications in the year, the first for change of use to the siting of five caravans for occupation by Gypsy Families – the PC meeting was well attended by residents and MDC had supported the Parish Council's objection to this application. The second major application related to The Norton and these works are going ahead, taking into account the opinion and conditions the PC put forward. Mr Wakeling advised that a breakdown of all applications was available to view at the end of the reports.

Continuing with planning matters Mr Wakeling advised that Planning Policy would change because of the **Localism Act**. The Parish Council has a Planning Policy, which has been ratified by its Councillors. From the results of the recent village survey the Council has produced a new **Parish Plan** and Mr Wakeling asked all those present to consider this plan (copies had been distributed) which had been approved by the Parish Council. Mr Wakeling advised those present that as MDC did not yet have a Local Development Plan that it was important for the Parish Council to set out this plan for the village. Mr Wakeling then went through the plan expanding as appropriate, advising that it didn't contain anything new or controversial, but aimed to maintain a nucleus to the village. Les Barclay then proposed that a resolution be made to accept this Parish Plan, Roger Hawes seconded the proposal and everyone present at the meeting agreed.

The next topic to be covered was **highways and road safety**, Mr Wakeling advised that the Parish Council maintains a list of problems and follows up with ECC Highways. Speeding through the village continues to be a problem. At this point professor Barclay outlined how speed watch scheme could work and appealed for 10 volunteers to come forward and contact the Clerk with their details.

Green Waste – reminding residents that the collection of green waste had been discontinued by MDC, Mr Wakeling advised that Stow Maries Parish Council was keen to set up a system with other interested Councils – in Cold Norton MDC records showed that only 6 residents made regular use of the MDC service, but advised residents who were interested in being involved in the Stow Maries initiative to contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors at the end of this meeting.

The **Village Hall** was the next subject to be reported on. Mr Wakeling advised that the Parish Council supported the Village Hall Management Committee with 2 Parish Councillors attending VHMC meetings, namely Mrs Garnham and Professor Barclay. In regards to the **Village Hall Project** this was completed a year ago and all the certificates relating to the removal of asbestos had now been supplied by the contractor and the project could be signed off. 'Knots' in the window frames remained the only issue remained to be resolved by the contractor and then the financial account will be closed. It is thought that the project maybe £3,000 over budget, but it is hoped that it will be a 'break-even' situation. The next report to the **Big Lottery** will be in 2015, which Mr Wakeling will do, but the 2020 report may need someone else to submit!!! Mr Wakeling thanked Mr Paul Guppy again for all his help with the Village Hall Project.

With regards to parking in the **village hall car park**, Mr Wakeling that signs are now up and vehicles not abiding by the regulations will be stickered.

Mr Wakeling then thanked Mr Alec Paul and Mr Charles Litscher for their work at Cow Piece.

Moving onto the **playing field** – Mr Wakeling acknowledged Pre School's achievement at fund raising and getting grants to install a free flow outdoor play space. Also that the Parish Council had been awarded a grant to replace the fencing around the younger children's play area. Talks are on-going re updating the skate ramps, subject to funds.

The Parish Council had again entered the **Best Kept Village Competition**, stressing in the entry form that Cold Norton is not a typical 'chocolate box' village, but a small village with big ambitions as shown by obtaining very large lottery grant to renovate the village hall and saving the pub.

Public Right of Way – Roger Hawes was thanked for his work as the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership with ECC) representative for the village and his work on the footpath map, currently in progress. Together with Roger's work and ECC the village footpaths are kept open; Mr Wakeling also thanked the local Farmers who keep the paths open.

With regards to the **Village Survey**, Mr Wakeling reported an excellent return of 72% of the questionnaires, which makes the data very meaningful. Mr Wakeling then went on to talk about some data from the survey: 97% of respondents wanted the rural character of the village preserved; residents were concerned about speeding; most residents use their own transport as opposed to public transport; ideas were forthcoming for new clubs, but these need leaders; play equipment needs improving; the village shop is well supported as is The Norton Pub. Mr Wakeling advised that results from the survey will be used to formulate the Parish Council's plans.

The final topic Mr Wakeling spoke about was the **Queens Jubilee**, thanking Mrs Garnham for all her work so far and to come!! The **village sign** will be refurbished and reinstated in time for the village Jubilee celebrations and the **beacon** will be moved from the back of the Church to the playing field so that the village can participate in the national beacon lighting ceremony

Mr Wakeling then thanked Mrs Channer as our County Councillor, the District Councillors, Ms Sue White and Mrs John Archer, his fellow Parish Councillors and Clerk Maria Dyer for all their work for the village over the past year.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MR. JOHN ARCHER

Cllr. Archer commenced his report talking about **financial matters** advising that there will be no increase in Council Tax, but that using reserves cannot go on indefinitely.

With regards to **new housing** in the District, Cllr Archer advised that MDC has to consider all villages and towns in the district. Everyone will be consulted via a survey in Summer 2012.

Moving onto transport, Cllr Archer advised that the **Dengie Dart** is becoming more and more popular and that ECC and Arrow Taxis and both happy with usage

Cllr Archer then spoke about **Bradwell Power Station** advising that it is being demolished and that no canisters are there; there is a possibility if a 'new' Bradwell power station as there were no problems with the old one – a new Bradwell would bring jobs to the area.

In regards to **Stow Maries Aerodrome**, Cllr Archer advised that due to lots of hard work this was expanding and an excellent exhibition had opened last weekend – this will be a wonderful tourist attraction for the district; on 30th April 2012 the site was awarded Grade II Listed status.

The next topic Cllr Archer covered was in regards to the Crouch Harbour Authority in Burnham and the Crossrail/RSPB Project, advising that 2 ships a day will start in June/July bringing down materials from London to produce new land for **Wallasea Island Nature Reserve** – this will be another good tourist attraction for the district. Cllr Archer confirmed that a new launch had been given to the Crouch Harbour Authority by Crossrail.

The final topic to be covered by Cllr Archer was the **new waste service**, advising that there had been problems to start with re plastics and food waste, but these were now being resolved.

Professor Barclay asked Cllr Archer if the Dengie Dart Service was to be extended to South Woodham Ferrers – Cllr Archer said would bring this up with Arrow Taxis.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS PENNY CHANNER

Cllr Mrs Channer started her report advising that Essex County Council had set its **budget** for 2012/13 but that the budget situation for this coming year and beyond continues to be a challenge and was designed alongside a new 5 year corporate vision and corporate plan.

The **Corporate Plan** has been designed to ensure that we focus resources and can deliver the five corporate priorities that support the vision. Essex County Council wants an Essex that supports people, communities and businesses to be safe and successful. Where individuals, communities and businesses have aspirations and be supported to achieve their potential. To achieve our priorities with less money means not only having five priorities but also recognising that we need to work differently

Essex County Council agreed **no increase in Council tax for the second year running**. This was done with the Essex taxpayer and their families in mind .Apart from protecting residents from a Council Tax increase the budget aim is to protect critical frontline services as much as Essex County Council is able to, however some difficult decisions were required as part of the budget process. Essex County Council has managed through efficiencies and savings within the last 12 months to deliver up savings of £90M and continues to be on track to save £330M per annum by 2013. Thus is due to the commitment and dedication of the staff and Members.

From 31st March Essex County Council no longer shares a Chief Executive with Brentwood Borough Council and to reflect her changing role Joanna Killian, **ECC Chief Executive**, has volunteered to reduce her salary by £15,000, in addition to the five per cent reduction she took in 2011/12.

Moving onto **Adult Social Services**, Cllr Mrs Channer advised that these are recognised to be one of the best in the country, but that ECC is reviewing contracts with suppliers of adult social care to ensure a fair price for care services that are competitive and delivering best value to the customer.

Apprenticeships are supported through the Essex County Council innovative apprenticeship programme and these have real differences to young people in the scheme - over 1380 apprenticeships have been created and the number of apprenticeships is 80% higher than before the apprenticeship programme was launched.

Recycling rates across Essex have increased to over 50%.

Through membership of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) an **enterprise zone** was secured for Harlow creating over 5000 new jobs.

Cllr Mrs Channer then spoke about the forthcoming **Olympic Games** of 2012 with the Olympic **mountain biking** venue at Hadleigh having been completed on time and within budget.

Reporting next about **highways** matters Cllr Mrs Channer advised that the new **A12 Junction 28** in North Colchester was opened over three months ahead of schedule and that **Sadlers Farm** road improvements continue to take place with completion scheduled for spring.

Next Cllr Mrs Channer advised that ECC has been selected by the government as one of the four **pilot areas** nationally to develop a new innovative **Whole Place Community Budget**. This indicates that Essex is one of the innovative, forward thinking areas in the country - a unique opportunity for ECC to work with the district and borough councils, the Fire, Police, and health services - we have to outline our approach by October 2012. It is an opportunity to see how we can transform the way public services are delivered across Essex.

Moving onto **Superfast Broadband**, Cllr Mrs Channer advised that £5M is being made available to help roll this out across Essex. With Government and private match funding an investment of £20M will be provided to roll out the superfast broadband connectivity to local businesses and residents alike.

Going back to **highways matters**, Cllr Mrs Channer advised that ECC has formed a new partnership with Ringway Jacobs which will deliver savings over the next ten years. Residents through technology applied will be able to **track progress on pot holes** and other maintenance matters more easily.

Vulnerable people was the next topic of Cllr Mrs Channer's report advising that fees have been increased to foster carers and the support package improved so that more children of Essex can be placed with carers in the county. Contracts have been announced for the County's **85 children's centres**. **Essex Adoption Service** has been rated as good with outstanding features by Ofsted in the latest inspection. With regard to our vulnerable people ECC will make £100,000 available through **credit unions** across Essex targeted at some of the most financially vulnerable residents to promote financial inclusion.

Cllr Mrs Channer announced that ECC is investing in an improved **customer service centre** enabling residents to engage with the authority to get information they need more quickly and easily.

Going back to **financial matters** Cllr Mrs Channer advised that The Council agreed to decrease its capital budget for from £134M in 2012/13 to £69.3M by 2016/17 so that borrowing costs are reduced.

Regarding '**Health and Wellbeing**' Cllr Mrs Channer advised that Public health responsibility will in the future move to Local Authorities as a result of Government health reforms and this means that the authority will have more responsibility regarding the health and wellbeing of Essex residents.

The **Local Highways panels** are to be refreshed with a sum of money devolved for local prioritisation of work.

'**Good for Essex**' campaign has been launched which is aimed at getting more residents involved in their local community.

Cllr Mrs Channer announced that ECC wants to support and encourage celebration for the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** and has produced a promotional pack of information which will consist of materials, advice and tips which residents can use to help plan and promote their street parties.

Essex County Council trading Standards has continued to play a major role in supporting business in Essex and protecting residents from exploitation, in particular the increase in doorstep crime preying on the vulnerable and old.

It has been announced that local **Youth Strategy Groups** will be set up to make recommendations on youth provision in their area. These groups will act as local champions for young people's services, make recommendations to the responsible Cabinet Member to support the development of new local provision and support partners and key stakeholders in the identification of local priorities.

Cllr Mrs Channer announced that the tender for the **Dengie local bus services** had closed. Each parish affected by the changes had provided a response to the options, together with The District Council, Youth Council and the 50plus group. The outcome of the tender is due soon. **The Dengie DaRT**, dial a ride service set up to improve access to Maldon St Peter's Hospital and Broomfield Hospital has proven to be successful. It has two parts, a fixed part between Broomfield and St Peter's and a booked section to run forward between any

address in Heybridge, Maldon and certain Parishes within the Dengie. The need was highlighted from the Rural Needs Survey and the Maldon Strategic partnership, Place Shaping Sub Group. The service commenced in May 2011 and month on month passenger numbers have increased. The long term aim is to expand the service.

Moving into grants, Cllr Mrs Channer advised that ECC's **Big Society Fund** awarded grants of £692,485 to 93 groups across the County, and announced the good news that the 2012/13 Big Society Fund is now open.

Cllr Mrs Channer advised that two Essex County Councillors were recognised for their service to Local Government. **Cllr Peter Martin** the Leader of Essex County Council received an **MBE** and **Cllr David Finch**, the Deputy Leader and Finance and Transformation Cabinet Member was awarded the '**Outstanding Contribution to Finance Performance**' award at the Local Government Information Unit Councillor Achievement awards in February.

Cllr Mrs Channer concluded her report by saying: *"So finishing as the report more or less began - Essex County Council with its share of the Council tax frozen at 0% aims to protect the council tax payers of Essex in these challenging times while protecting frontline services as much as possible, safeguarding the most vulnerable and prioritising expenditure regarding economic infrastructure."*

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Unfortunately the Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Sam Pateman was unable to attend the meeting, but supplied a written report this was read out by Mr. Wakeling and reproduced below:

Cold Norton Parish Report

Introduction and Contacts

You neighbourhood officers;

*PC 3555 Sam Pateman
PCSO 72391 Tom Gower*

Both Tom and I work at Southminster Police Station. If you wish to speak to either of us about any ongoing issues that affect you or the local neighbourhood please get in contact. Dial 101 and then extension number: 485819 (or ask for Southminster.)

*If you wish to report a crime or non-urgent incident please dial 101.
Anything of an emergency nature (crime happening there and then or risk of injury/loss of life) please dial 999.*

Policing in Essex Overview

As you may be aware Essex Police has recently implemented its Policing 'blueprint' in response to the large budget cuts imposed on the force over the next few years. Pre 'blueprint' the vast majority of crime, anti-social behaviour and 999 emergency response incidents were dealt with by officers who were based locally at Maldon and Southminster Police Stations. Now things work on a more centralised basis.

Any Crime based incident that is reported is now dealt with by the Area Investigation Team (AIT) which is based out of Chelmsford Police Station. They generally work on a diary based system whereby an appointment will be made with the victim, at the time they phone, to see them at a mutually convenient time. Minor incidents of crime where there is little or no

chance of a suspect being identified are now generally dealt with over the phone and won't receive a visit from an officer. There are exceptions to this; i.e. if the victim is vulnerable.

Any emergency response based incidents are now dealt with by the Response and Patrol Team (R&P) who are based at South Woodham Ferrers. Their role is to be the first responders to emergencies and should be conducting targeted patrols in areas of persistent crime or anti-social behaviour when they are not. If an emergency call results in a crime, this in turn is passed back to AIT to investigate until its conclusion. These are the officers you should see patrolling the village from time to time, along with myself of course!

Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) are still based locally and you have several officers and community support officers based out of Maldon and Southminster Stations. NPT is divided into two. One half deals with non-crime related incidents i.e. neighbour disputes, parking issues, and nuisance youth issues. The other (smaller) half are the Dedicated Neighbourhood Officers of which I am one. Dedicated officers deal with ongoing or repeated neighbourhood issues that may require some time to resolve.

Please be assured, although there has been much change in the district, you shouldn't notice any great difference in the service you receive.

Crime Statistic

Unfortunately it is not easy to obtain crime figures for Cold Norton alone. Our system shows Cold Norton as part of Purleigh 'beat' which encompasses North Fambridge, Purleigh, Cold Norton & Stow Maries. The figures will relate to all of these places combined. As you are aware they are all quite similar villages and very low crime areas in general.

Between 1st April 2011 and 31st March 2012 there were 354 Crimes in all for the Purleigh beat. This compares with 394 crimes that were reported the previous year, a drop of 40. The 3 most common offence types within those 354 crimes were Criminal damage, thefts and vehicle related crime.

Incidents of Interest

I am not aware of any Incidents of Interest at this time.

Local Priorities

I have not had any issues of an ongoing nature reported to me for the Cold Norton area. Cold Norton was not represented at the recent NAPS meeting.

Neighbourhood Meetings

Up until now Neighbourhood Meetings were based around the NAPS. These are currently being reviewed and how the Police engage with the local community is likely to change in the future. I will update you when I know more.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

This award had been created by the Parish Council in 2011 to recognise services to the village. Mr Wakeling announced that this year this accolade was to go to Mr Roger Hawes, in recognition of all he does to benefit residents in Cold Norton, including, being the Editor of The Beacon Magazine, the Parish Paths Partnership Representative for Cold Norton Footpaths and was responsible for producing the very comprehensive and detailed marketing plan and application that resulted in the village being awarded a very large Big Lottery Grant to extend the village hall.

QUESTIONS

At the end of the reports there was an open session of questions and discussions.

There was just one topic/question raised, this was by Mr Paul Guppy, voicing his disappointment at the lack of action he experienced recently when reporting a crime – just being allocated as crime number and offered ‘counselling’; Mr Guppy advised that a ‘uniform’ presence would be appreciated then and in response to crime in the playground.

Mr Wakeling then advised the audience that there were leaflets available from some of the clubs operating their groups in the village hall. The Leader of the Tai Chi Group briefly outlined the benefits of Tai Chi and details of the class held at the hall.

The meeting was then closed at 9.10pm - all present were invited to stay for refreshments, and advised that the Councillors and Guests would all be available to talk to on an informal basis.

Chairman..... Date.....