Planning Applications: whilst there had been details of three planning applications supplied to the Parish Council by Maldon District Council to consider and comment on since the December meeting, the Members were only able to respond on one of these as Maldon District Council could not extend the respond by time for comments and, due to other commitments, it was not possible to convene another meeting in December. The two planning applications the Parish Council have not submitted comments on are: i) HOUSE/MAL/14/01083 Lone Pines, 63A Latchingdon Road – Alterations to existing conservatory including the provision of a new roof and the erection of a link between the conservatory structure and existing swimming pool; ii) FUL/MAL/14/01197 Turncole Farm, The Marshes, Southminster - Application for variation of conditions 9 & 14 on approved application FUL/MAL/10/01070 (Wind Farm Development consisting of seven three-bladed, horizontal-axis wind turbines, each up to 126.5m maximum height to blade tip, with associated electricity transformers, underground cabling, access tracks, road widening works, crane hard standing, control building, substation compound, communications mast and anemometry mast for a period of twenty five years. Also temporary works including a construction compound, lay down area, rotor assembly pads, turning heads, welfare facilities and four guyed anemometry masts - allowed on appeal references APP/X1545/A/12/2179484 and APP/X1545/A/12/2179225) Condition 9 - To facilitate the option to deliver turbine components via marine delivery. Condition 14 - Reduce the minimum hub hut to maximise the options in relation to turbine selection.

The following application: HOUSE/MAL/14/01163 PP-03818032, 19 St Stephens Road - proposed new detached garage was considered; Members objected to the works as a permanent building is proposed close to the frontage which will make a substantial intrusion to this tree lined landscape.

Planning Decisions: there were four planning decisions advised by Maldon District Council for Cold Norton in December and January: the first was: HOUSE/MAL/14/00625 18 Green Trees Avenue: installation of solar panels at rear of property (retrospective). Maldon District Council refused (the Parish Council had not objected). The second application considered related to: FUL/MAL/14/00906 White Acres, Crown Road: Alterations, remodelling and extensions to planning permission FUL/MAL/11/00741(One 4 bed bungalow with basement and one 5 bed bungalow with basement). MDC approved this application (the Parish Council had not objected). The third decision advised was: AGR/MAL/14/01097 Land At Corner Of Fambridge Road & St Stephens Road: Erection of agricultural a building for the storage of farm machinery and shelter for animals during adverse weather. MDC refused this (the Parish Council had objected). The last advised was for HOUSE/MAL/14/00612 Toad Hall, Station Road: Proposed double garage and rooms above with single storey link from existing dwelling. Maldon District Council refused this application (the Parish Council had objected).

Planning applications and decisions: if you would like to see full details of any planning applications, please contact the Maldon District Council offices on 01621 854477 or visit the web site www.maldon.gov.uk

Comments by Residents on Planning Applications: residents can comment on any planning application (comments must relate to planning issues) by writing to
Precept for 2015-2016: The Councillors having spent a substantial length of time over the course of two Parish Council meetings considering the figures, agreed at this meeting to set the Precept at £24,700, an increase of £1,700 over the previous year; an increase necessary to cover rises in maintenance and administration costs, plus an allowance for election costs and Cllr Training.

Defibrillator at the Village Hall: Good news - the Village Hall Management Committee has been successful in its application for a grant towards costs and only needs a further £400.

The Norton: the Members acknowledged the hard work, patience and commitment of the Community Pub Committee in purchasing and thereby securing this facility for the village.

Solar Panels at the Village Hall: The Parish Council considered the report and quotes and then agreed the application prepared to apply for a Public Works Loan.

Toilets and St Stephens Meeting Room at the Village Hall: renovation works will commence on 23rd February and take 4 weeks.

Villager of the Year: this will be decided at the February Parish Council meeting (see details for nominations in this edition of The Beacon) and the shield will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish & District Council Elections: these will be held on Thursday 7th May 2015 (same day as the General Election). Please contact the Clerk if you would like to know what is involved in being a Parish Councillor.

Parish Council Meetings: meetings are held at 8pm in The Norton Meeting Room at the Village Hall. Provisionally scheduled for 2015: Wednesdays 4th February, 4th March and 2nd April. Members of the Public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings and to speak during the time set aside for that purpose.

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 or phone (Monday to Friday before 5 pm please) 01621 829566.