

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
From the March 2010 Meeting

Planning Applications: there were three applications for the Parish Council to consider at this meeting: FUL/MAL/10/00073 was submitted for a single storey side extension to Homestead, Latchingdon Road and FUL/MAL/10/00088 relating to Pensarn, Lower Burnham Road for a roof conversion, side extension and conservatory to this bungalow – the Councillors had no objections to either of these applications. The third application was reference No.FUL/MAL/10/00004 - Land between Middlewick Farm and Wraywick Farm, The Marshes, Southminster. Construction of nine wind turbine generators with an overall height to tip of 125m and associated crane hard standing areas, access tracks, substation building, 80m meteorological mast, hard standing area for marine access, temporary lay down area, temporary construction compound and associated electrical infrastructure. The Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons: i) Wind farms are not cost effective and are ineffective at generating power ii) The proposed wind farm would be visually intrusive in one of the very few unspoilt remaining areas of natural beauty and home for a variety of wildlife iii) The noise pollution that would result from such a development would have detrimental effect on the quality of life for both human and wild life.

Footpath linking footpaths 14 and 28: Members were advised that Essex County Council Legal Services are dealing with this and it is anticipated that the matter will be resolved very shortly.

Village Hall Project: Councillor Wakeling updated Members on all aspects of progress and completion details – please see reports elsewhere in this issue.

Audit and Risk Assessment Training Day: Clerk provided members with a report on the training session attended in February 2010.

Rural Community Council of Essex 2010 Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Village Competition: the Parish Councillors agreed to enter this competition, including in the 'community' section details of the community spirit demonstrated by village residents in relation to the works to the village hall and reopening of The Norton.

Village Appraisal: the last time this was done was in 2000. The Councillors feel it is now time to carry out another one to have a more up to date snapshot profile of the people who live in the village, plus details of their needs and wishes for the future of the village – this will help the Parish Council to prioritise and channel its funds and efforts in line with these wishes. As a starting point a Village Appraisal Committee will need to be formed to decide what should be included as part of this consultation exercise appropriate to today's way of living and future hopes for the village and its community. If you would like to be a member of the Village Appraisal Committee, or are new to the village and would like to see a copy of the village appraisal from 2000, or have any questions please contact the Parish Clerk. All are welcome - ideally

the committee will include a mix of ages, male and female. (At a later stage volunteers will be needed to distribute/collect the questionnaires).

Parish Council Meetings: Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2010: Wednesday 14th April and Tuesday 11th May. The April Meeting will start at 8 pm in the main hall in Cold Norton's Village Hall in Cherry Blossom Lane. Members of the public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings and to speak during the time set aside for that purpose.

Annual Parish Meeting: is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

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.