

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
From the July 2010 Meeting

At this meeting 8 members of the public were in attendance. Please note all Parish Council meetings are open and Members of the Public are most welcome to listen to all or part of the proceedings and speak at a time decided by the Chairman.

Planning Applications: at this meeting the Parish Councillors considered four applications. The first, reference HOUSE/MAL/10/00458, related to the erection of a conservatory to the rear elevation and a family room to the side elevation at **9 Henney Close, Cold Norton** – the Councillors had no objections to this proposal. The second application, reference FUL/MAL/10/00161, was for an 80 bedroom hotel, associated car parking, landscaping and revised access arrangements (variation to FUL/MAL/98/0120) at **Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Cold Norton**. Prior to discussing this application the Chairman reminded all present that what was being considered at this meeting was an application for an 80 bed hotel and that the approved application for a 60 bedroom hotel is still valid. The Chairman closed the meeting to allow Members of the Public to express their opinions relating to this new application. The meeting was then reopened and extensive discussions took place amongst the Councillors – the majority view of the Councillors then present was to object to this application, for the following reasons:

- Traffic concerns/detrimental effect on highways: congestion occurs at present, this will intensify with the increased traffic the above will generate.
- Safety issues connected with the increased traffic which will result from having a hotel along a road, with a 40mph limit which is generally not adhered to – from both private vehicles conveying people to/from the facility and commercial vehicles servicing the hotel
- Noise is currently a significant issue in this rural setting: noise levels will therefore increase with the introduction of a 60 bed hotel to this site; an 80 bed hotel would increase the level to an even more unacceptable level
- Utilities: within Cold Norton residents already experience frequent electric power cuts, some for very extensive time periods; there are also ongoing drainage problems; the addition of a hotel of this size would put a further strain on these utilities, already struggling to cope with the current number of homes
- Light pollution is another concern, this will only increase with an additional building of this size
- Landscape: the new proposed building will form an unacceptable “wall” across the landscape, inappropriate in a rural location
- Car parking: the current car park, which was increased as part of /in preparation for the 60 bed hotel proposed, is already fully occupied most days even without the 60 bed hotel it was intended to service; the Councillors question how the car parking currently available will accommodate the vehicles belonging to the occupants of the proposed 80 bed hotel and the vehicles of the people using the additional new function room which is part of the above application.
- Occupancy - the Councillors question the need for an 80 bed hotel: the applicant has not demonstrated the need for the extra 20 beds over the approved 60 bed hotel – other suitable accommodation is available within nearby towns and villages.

The third application considered, reference FUL/MAL/10/00516, at **Dunromin, Fambridge Road, Cold Norton**, was applying for permission for demolition of the dwelling house and construction of a new dwelling house including change of use for part of the site from paddock to residential. The majority of the Councillors objected to this application, citing the following reasons:

- The proposed dwelling is outside the village development boundary (reference S2 - development outside defined settlement boundary)
- The development proposed is too large in scale and does not reflect the size of the current dwelling it is planning to replace (reference CC6 – landscape protection)

The final application considered at this meeting was reference FUL/MAL/10/00488, **Blue House Farm, Hagg Hill, Purleigh** – demolition of existing dwelling with replacement dwelling – following discussions it was agreed to advise Maldon District Council that Cold Norton Parish Council had no objections to this application, despite the fact that the proposal went against the Parish Council's planning policy – the reason why the Council were not going to object was due to the *'distinctive design - so much better than the existing'*.

(Please note this is a summary of the applications – if you wish to view the actual plans and all relating correspondence to these or any planning applications please visit the MDC web site on www.maldon.gov.uk)

Village Hall Project: the whereabouts of Mr Cyril May who had resided in Greentrees Avenue is still proving to be a mystery despite much research. Mr May's signature is required in order for the final land transfer paperwork to be concluded relating to the land the village hall 'sits' on. The Councillors reviewed an alternative search company, suggested by the Solicitor – the Clerk is to now investigate the maximum costs involved. (If anyone has any information relating to Mr May or his family, please contact the Clerk). Members were advised that as a result of the renovations at the hall new classes had started up and that the Village Hall Management Committee is preparing a series of fund raising events.

Vandalism: the fencing around the younger children's enclosed play area continues to be a target. The Clerk has obtained some quotes for installing metal fencing around this area, which would be cemented into the ground, but initial prices are looking prohibitive, further options/grants will be investigated for the Councillors to consider at a future meeting. Please do contact the Police if you see any vandalism taking place. Vandalism was also the cause of damage to the top of the slide in this area – the damaged green baize will now be replaced with sturdier decking.

Playing Field: members were advised of and approved the costs for re-aligning the entrance gate to this area. Signage removed whilst the village hall was being renovated will now be replaced i.e. 'prohibiting the playing of golf or archery' and 'no dogs allowed on the playing field'. The Councillors also approved the costs to replace the temporary entry/exit gate installed by the village hall contractors near the swing/slide area which goes straight out onto Cherry Blossom Lane, with high fencing as was originally in position.

Southminster Halloween Events: Members considered the request from Southminster Parish Council to contribute financially towards these events which are

free to all children/teenagers in the Dengie, but decided that as no children/teenagers from Cold Norton were recorded as attending last year and only 7 recorded in 2008 that no donation would be made this year.

Maldon District Council Conservation & Design Awards 2010: Members decided that the Village Hall project should be put forward for the relevant category – the Clerk is to liaise with the Architect regarding Cold Norton's entry.

Village Plan: due to timing constraints this item was deferred to the next meeting, but if you would like to be involved in this, which helps your Councillors to plan/prioritise for the future, please contact the Clerk to find out what is involved.

Parish Council Meetings: Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2010: Wednesdays 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December. All meetings start at 8 pm in a meeting room (TBA) 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 along Latchingdon Road,

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.