

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
From the October 2010 Meeting

At this meeting 2 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.

The Norton Community Pub: Prior to the meeting commencing Mr Paul Guppy gave a presentation on behalf of The Norton Community Pub Committee regarding future proposals for the pub and its site.

Professor Les Barclay: There then followed a very deserving tribute to Professor Barclay in recognition of his 40 years as a Parish Councillor for Cold Norton, his dedication to the role and his very valuable contribution to the Council and the village. Mr. Wakeling read out the names of Professor Barclay's fellow Councillors when he joined the Parish Council in 1970 and went through minutes from the May and July meetings from 1970, which in those days were hand written – copies of these minutes had been obtained from the Essex Records Office and were given to Professor Barclay as a memento. Mr Wakeling then presented Professor Barclay with an engraved crystal ice bucket and card as a personal gift of thanks from all the current serving Councillors, the present Parish Clerk and the previous Parish Clerk.

Planning Applications: at this meeting the Parish Councillors considered three planning applications – two related to work to trees, namely WTPO/MAL/10/00813 Clovelly 18 Station Crescent, Cold Norton T1 Oak – TPO 4/89 reshape and remove dead wood and damaged branch. Crown lift to 3.35metres thin outer crown by 15% maximum and WTPO/MAL/10/00823 9A St. Stephens Road, Cold Norton. TPO 15/96 (T5 on order) Oak – remove back to branch collar, lowest branch over carriageway, remove epicormic growth from growth level up to height of 4.5 metres and reduce height spread of tree by up to 2.5m from shoot tip – the Parish Councillors had no objections to either of these applications providing the works are carried out under the guidance of Maldon District Council's Tree Officer. The third application was LDP/MAL/10/00614 PP-01160480 10 Howe Green Road, Cold Norton. Claim for Lawful Development Certificate for proposed solar panels to be located on the flat roof at the rear of the property. The Parish Councillors objected to this application, here follows the letter which was sent to MDC, which gives the Council's reason for objecting:

Cold Norton Parish Council objects to this application for a Certificate of Lawful Development as it is not within the permitted guidelines for solar panels: we refer you to <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/public/buildingwork/projects/workcommonsolar6apr/> which includes what may be considered permitted development – essentially panels should be more or less flush with the roof or wall surfaces, extending to no more than 200mm from the surface etc. The drawings submitted with this application indicate that the panels are not flush with the surface and extend to more than the 200mm stated in the guidelines.

The proposed development is therefore not lawful and the Parish Council believes that it requires planning permission.

Completion of the Audit for the year ended 31st March 2010: Members had all been supplied with a copy of the Annual Return form with signed audit certificate from the External Auditor (Audit Commission) and advised that the external auditor had made no comments in section 3. Members were advised that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to Inspect the Annual Return Form plus copies of the sections 1-4 of the Audit Return would now be displayed on the locked notice board on Latchingdon Road for the time required (members of the public may request copy of the audit return on display – details on notice board).

Highways Matters: the following matters are being discussed with ECC Highways department: problems with phasing of traffic lights at bridge, speeding cars from bridge to Country Produce, reinstatement of lines on junction of Hackmans Lane/Stow Road/Latchingdon and provision of a directional sign on Latchingdon Road for the Village Hall.

Village Survey/Plan: as no members of the public had come forward to be involved in considering the questions to be included in a survey to establish what is important to village residents, which will then in turn help the Parish Council to prioritise and channel its funds and efforts in line with the wishes of residents, a working party has been formed consisting of Parish Councillors Philip Wakeling, Sue Garnham and Alison McDonald to consider the questions to be included. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to be involved or would be willing to help deliver and collect the questionnaires.

Parish Elections: May 2011 will see the end of the four year term of office for the Parish Councillors. Cold Norton Parish Council has 7 members and it is understood that some Councillors will be standing down at this time. Forms will be available from Maldon District Council (date to be advised), once completed these have to be returned by hand to the Elections Office at MDC by the nominated date – a ‘voting’ election will only become necessary if there are more than 7 names put forward. If you want to know what is involved in being a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk or come along to a Parish Council meeting as detailed below.

Parish Council Meetings: Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2010: Tuesday 2nd November (NB changed date) and Wednesday 1st December and in 2011 Wednesday 12th January. All meetings start at 8 pm in The Norton Meeting 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.

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.