

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the June 2020 Meeting

Update: Due to COVID-19 there have been no Parish Council meetings since March 2020. Decisions required to be made have been undertaken through delegated power granted to the Clerk, who is the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council (Current Legislation States: *Responsibility for the performance of statutory functions and powers of a Local Council may be delegated to its staff (Local Government Act 1972 S101 (1) (a))*). This does not mean that the Clerk is making all the decisions, but essentially this means that the Clerk emails to the Cllrs information relating to a decision to be made/opinion to be given – the Cllrs email back their opinion and the Clerk then makes the appropriate response, which as in meetings would be based on the majority opinion.

It is now permitted for meetings to be held remotely and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parish Council and a full Parish Council meeting were both held by ZOOM on 10th June 2020 and an Extraordinary Meeting was held by ZOOM on 17th June 2020. However, the process of delegated power still applies, so some decisions will still be made through this process and then ratified at the next PC meeting. Below is a report giving information/decisions from the two meetings and the delegated power system.

At the AGM officers were elected as follows:

Chairman: Cllr Brian Haydon

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Marion Gunn

Playing Field Representatives: Cllr Brian Haydon and Cllr Jeremy Richardson

Nature Conservation Area Representative: Cllr Brian Haydon

Village Hall Representative: Cllr Alex Romang

Public Rights of Way (Footpaths) Representatives: Cllr Brian Haydon and Mr Philip Wakeling

Transport Representative: Mrs A Allen

Police/NAP Representatives: Cllr Brian Haydon and Cllr Mrs Joanne Luck

Stow Maries Aerodrome Representative: Cllr Brian Haydon

The Internal Auditor was confirmed as ASAP Office Services. The External Auditor appointed by the Audit Commission is PKF Littlejohn. Signatories are Cllrs Haydon, Romang and Richardson.

The AGM was followed by the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council

Planning Applications: There were x planning applications considered since the March Meeting, firstly: 20/00391/HOUSE PP-08655771; 21 St Stephens Road: Single storey rear extension, the Members had no objections and no comments to make. The second application was: 20/00449/HOUSE PP-08696740; Oakwood House, St Stephens Road: Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front extension top existing garage: the Members had no objections and no comments to make. The last application considered was: 20/00419/HOUSE PP-08679884; 1 Clarke Rise: Two storey side extension & single storey rear extension: the Members recommended that this application be refused as this house is within a small development of affordable housing and the proposed extension was too extensive and would not be consistent with the rest of the houses in the development.

Planning Decisions: will be included in a future report.

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

Philip Wakeling: at the March meeting it was noted that regretfully Mr Wakeling would be leaving the Parish Council at the end of that month, having advised Members at the beginning of the year of his intention to stand down at the end of the current financial year. Mr Wakeling first became a Parish Councillor in 1987 and during these 33 years he was elected Chairman of the Parish Council for nine terms of office. In the course of his long service on the Parish Council, Mr Wakeling was involved in all the major Parish Council projects including the major renovations to Village Hall ten years ago and was part of the group of Cllrs that initiated the Village Appraisals that the Parish Council undertook in 2000 and 2011 to ensure that decisions made by the Parish Council are in line with residents' views. Mr Wakeling is a very keen walker and this meant that he regularly walked the footpaths in the village (Public Rights of Way) and made sure that any issues were promptly reported to be rectified, so that others could also enjoy them safely. In fact, as you will have read above, Mr Wakeling has offered to remain as one of the Parish Council's footpaths representatives, so Mr Wakeling will continue his regular inspections of Cold Norton's footpaths. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Haydon thanked Cllr Wakeling for his hard work and leadership during his long service on the Parish Council and for his personal help and said that he would be greatly missed by all on the Parish Council. Cllr Wakeling thanked Cllr Haydon for his kind words and said that it is a good Council and is in very good hands with the current Members.

District Cllr Report: District Cllr Mrs Fleming reported that Maldon District Council was also operating under delegated powers and remote meetings and gave a brief update advising that there is a discretionary grant situation in operation for businesses in the Parishes.

County Cllr Report: County Cllr Mrs Channer had already supplied Members by email with an annual report re ECC and at the meeting gave a brief update relating to the opening of Maldon High Street and other shopping areas in the County and that in certain areas speed limits were being lowered to 20mph for safety reasons because of narrowness of pavements and the 2 meter ruling. 16 libraries will be reopening along with recycling centres and country parks. County Cllr Mrs Channer thanked the Cllrs and residents for volunteering for various tasks at this difficult time.

Recycling Bags/.Green Food Waste Bags: As the village hall is closed if you need either pink or green recycling bags, please email the Parish Clerk: mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk or the Chairman: brian.haydon@btinternet.com

Playing Field/Playground: whilst the Government has said we may go outside for longer periods etc. because the children's play equipment is part of the field area we have been advised not to reopen the field in general because we cannot clean the play equipment. The Parish Council will reopen the playing field when advised that there is a change to these current instructions. Re Children's Play Areas and Outdoor Gyms at the time of writing there is no Government published current guidance on the re-opening of children's play areas or outdoor gym equipment. It is believed that Public Health England is looking at this.

Cold Norton Hub: The Hub is still here if you need help with shopping/posting letters or parcels/collecting prescriptions/dog walking/someone to talk to. Please contact Brian Haydon: telephone: 01621 829599; email: brian.haydon@btinternet.com or Maria Dyer: telephone: 01621 829566; email: mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk

Maldon Community Coronavirus Response: is also still operating to assist. Telephone: 01621 851997 see full details of this service in this magazine.

Playground & Car Park (PCP) Project: a dedicated Working Group, made up of a Parish Cllr and a team of residents, has been formed to investigate options/ manage the refurbishment of the Play Area at the Village Hall and to develop plans for an overflow car park. These plans were first outlined at the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting and arose as a result of the Playing Field Questionnaire distributed to all residents in 2018. The Working Group has been investigating requirements, designs, costs and funding options for the Play Area and a proposed Overflow Car Park that would double the capacity of the existing car park. They are working with design partners from Chelmsford City Council (CCC) and Maldon District Council (MDC). The Working Group prepares detailed monthly progress reports for the Parish Council to consider and agree next steps.

MDC has detailed Parking Design Standards which have to be taken into account, including provision for electric vehicles and cycles as a more future-looking sustainable design of the overflow car park. Proposed expansion of the car park has to be justified based on multiple uses, such as users of the village hall (e.g. regulars, clubs, weddings, events), users of the play area and playing field (sports teams) and parents and staff of Cold Norton Primary School that use the village hall car park. A planning application for the proposed car park has now been submitted to MDC.

Next step will be outline designs of the Play Area via CCC's list of approved suppliers.

One consistent response to the Playing Field Questionnaire of 2018 was the need for improvements to Cherry Blossom Lane (CBL) in order to make the Village Hall, Play Area and Playing Field more accessible for all. The Working Group is therefore investigating the feasibility and funding options for improvements to the road surface of CBL up to the Village Hall. They have engaged with an independent civil engineer at CCC to produce an initial costed design for the work.

The PC plans to hold a further public consultation to enable residents to comment on all aspects of the project once the designs are available, subject to the Governments COVID-19 social distancing rules etc. Further announcements will be made via The Beacon, the Parish Council website and notice boards in the near future.

At the meeting the Parish Council acknowledged and recorded the large commitment in time and effort of the Working Group in developing this project.

Highways or Public Right of Way (Footpath) Issues: whilst the Parish Council will report these matters to ECC Highways when made aware of an issue, residents can report issues relating to footpaths or other highways issues (e.g. potholes, road signs, vegetation etc.) direct to highways via:

<http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads.aspx>

Bradwell B Stage 1 Consultation: thank you to those that completed the Parish Council questionnaire (i.e. 74 out of 431 households – a 17.2 % response). The PC response is being written at the moment and will be published on the Parish Council web site when completed.

Street Lights on Latchingdon Road: these belong to the Parish Council, so if you notice one isn't working please contact the Clerk.

Footpath Map: there is a full colour map which shows all the Public Rights of Way in our Village if you would like a copy of this, please contact the Clerk and one will be popped through your letterbox (just keep your distance from other walkers).

Parish Council Meetings: The next remote meeting by ZOOM is scheduled for Wednesday 8th July 2020. Members of the Public and Press are cordially invited to attend the meeting. For log in details, meeting ID and password please contact the Clerk by email: mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk by 5.30pm before the meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting: planned for Thursday 14th May 2020 has been postponed.

To contact the Parish Council: please write to: The Parish Clerk (Maria Dyer), at Exordium, 30b Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 6JG. Email: mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 829566. Please note the Clerk works part time and will respond as soon as possible.