

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the July 2020 Meeting

Update: Due to COVID-19 there had 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 – the latest was a full Parish Council meeting on 8th July 2020 by ZOOM. 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.

Planning Applications: There were 5 planning applications considered: 20/00585/HOUSE PP-08790588 29 Latchingdon Road: Single storey rear extension including demolition of existing garage: the Members had no objections and no comments to make. The second application considered was: 20/00546/FUL PP-08766123 Glen Loy, Latchingdon Road: Subdivision of a single bungalow into two dwellings: the members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

1. *It is outside the development boundary. Contrary to policy S8 of the Maldon District LDP (Settlement Boundaries and the Countryside)*
2. *Plot splitting. Contrary to policy D1 of the Maldon District LDP (Design Quality and Built Environment)*

The next application was: 20/00620/COUPA PP-08805167 Land adjacent to Norton Hall, St Stephens Road: Prior notification for the conversion of two agricultural barns into two dwelling houses (NB these barns are not actually adjacent to Norton Hall, but relate to the two agricultural barns between the house called The Barn and the house at 51 St Stephens Road.): the Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

1. *It is outside the development boundary. Contrary to policy S8 of the Maldon District LDP (Settlement Boundaries and the Countryside)*
2. *Change of use of rural buildings for residential use. Contrary to policy S1 of the Maldon District LDP (Sustainable Development) and Policy D1 (Design Quality and Built Environment)*

The fourth application considered was: 20/00633/WTPO PP-08832599 9A St Stephens Road: T1 - Oak tree - 3m crown reduction. The Members had no objections to these works providing they are in line with MDC's Tree Officer's recommendations. The final application considered was from Chelmsford City Council 20/00002/MAS Land North of South Woodham Ferrers: Stage Two Masterplan: the main concern of the Members with this development is the road issue i.e. the impact of that a large volume of homes will have on the road network for all the surrounding villages.

Planning Decisions: (covering the period w/e 6th March to 3rd July 2020): there were 9 decisions advised by Maldon District Council (MDC) during this period,

namely: FUL/MAL/19/01270 Oakwood Manor, Station Road: Section 73A application for the siting of 2 No. mobile homes. This was refused by MDC (the Parish Council had recommended refusal). HOUSE/MAL/20/00171: 12 Latchingdon Road: Erection of single storey side rear extension and rebuild garage. This was approved by MDC (the Parish Council had not objected). HOUSE/MAL/20/00189 Ashmead Lodge 41 Stow Road: Proposed first floor extension with terrace and single storey extension to the rear and the formation of raised terrace at ground floor level. MDC refused permission for this extension (the Parish Council had not objected). FUL/MAL/20/00047 Land West of Nathilda, Purleigh Grove: Variation of condition 2 on approved planning permission FUL/MAL/19/00166 (Erection of a single, one and a half storey dwelling with detached garage on land west of Nathilda). MDC approved this variation. WTPO/MAL/20/00225 7 St Stephens Road: T1 Oak - Crown reduction of 3m. MDC approves these works. FUL/MAL/20/00246 Langleys Burnham Avenue: Construction of new storage building: MDC approved. COUPA/MAL/20/00335 Land Adjacent to Norton Hall St Stephens Road: Prior notification for the conversion of two agricultural barns into two dwelling houses. MDC refused. HOUSE/MAL/20/00344 The Spinney, Fambridge Road: New outbuilding on site, new septic tank. MDC refused permission. HOUSE/MAL/20/00391 21 St Stephens Road: Single storey rear extension. MDC approved this extension (the Parish Council had not objected).

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

District Cllr Report: District Cllr Mrs Fleming reported that Maldon District Council was also still operating under delegated powers and remote meetings and gave a brief update advising that Splash at Promenade park will not reopen this summer; that nominations for Maldon DC's recognition of service awards closes on 28th August 2020; that Maldon High Street now has a 20mph speed limit for safety reasons – to make shoppers feel safe whilst socially distancing on the footways; Maldon District Council has applied to the Beeching Reversal Fund in relation to the Maldon and Witham Railway Line. Cllr Richardson thanked Cllr Mrs Fleming for her support regarding the Parish Council's CIF (Community Initiative Fund) application for the Playground & Car Park (PCP) Project.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: during March 2020 the Parish Council paid for 4 further speed check sessions of TRUCAM by the local Community Protection Team. During these sessions a further 13 speeding offences were recorded and forwarded to the Police for processing (13 offences were also recorded during the sessions in January 2020) the drivers will either receive 3 points on their licence and £100 fine or be offered a speed awareness course at a cost of £100. Further sessions will be carried out in July and August.

New Notice Board: the Parish Council approved the cost to install a new notice board alongside the Allotment Site.

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: this will be reopened in July 2020, once a full risk assessment has been undertaken, but it is not feasible for disinfection of play equipment to be carried out in terms of practicality and would be ineffective, therefore it will be the responsibility of parents/guardians and users to sanitise using their own sanitising products before and after usage and to practice social distancing whilst in the playground or field. Signage will be put in place to remind users.

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 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday www.maldoncvcs.org.uk/corona

Playground & Car Park (PCP) Project: The Working Group setup by the Parish Council, as discussed in last month's Beacon, continues to make progress in developing proposals for the new Play Area and Car Park extension at the village hall. At the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of 17 June 2020 the Council gave approval for the Working Group to submit a planning application to Maldon District Council for the car park extension (to double the current capacity).

In parallel with work on the car park extension, the Working group has been engaged with Chelmsford City Council to obtain costed proposals from suppliers of play equipment for the new play area at the village hall. Five suppliers have expressed an interest and are working on designs and selection of play equipment. At the Parish Council meeting of 8 July 2020 the Council agreed a 'wish list' of play equipment comprising:

- Junior multiplay unit
- Infant multiplay unit
- Basket swing
- Zip line
- Spring animal
- Standard mix of flat and cradle swings

The equipment will comprise mainly of treated pine with the surrounding base being made up of either play bark (as existing) or wet pour (rubber) surface. All of the new equipment will be sited between the basketball court and the football pitch on the playing field. The Council aims to review the 'long list' of proposals over the coming weeks with a view to agreeing a 'short list' of proposals to be taken further. The Parish Council will give residents the opportunity to comment on the designs and equipment selection.

The Parish Council recognises and appreciates the sterling effort that has gone into raising funds locally for the new play area and the Parish Council has also set aside funds to be used for this purpose. A grant application will be made to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) funded by Essex County Council.

As advised in last month's Beacon the Working Group are also investigating the feasibility and funding options for improvements to the road surface of Cherry Blossom Lane to up to the Village Hall/Playing Field.

The Parish Council/Working Group plan 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). Further announcements will be made via The Beacon, the Parish Council website and notice boards in the near future.

Housing Needs Survey: the report has been received from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). Thank you very much to everyone who completed and returned their surveys - the survey had a 28% response rate which is above the county average of 25%. It is proposed to consider and discuss this at the September 2020 Parish Council meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler Officer from the RCCE present (remotely).

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>

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 2020:

Wednesdays 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December. At this point it is likely that some if not all will be conducted remotely by ZOOM. 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.