

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the September 2020 Meeting

Update: Due to COVID-19 there had been no 'live' 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 9th September 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: Below are 6 planning applications the Parish Council was asked to consider, the first three listed were considered by the delegated process during the August recess, the other three were considered at the September meeting: 20/00709/WTPO PP-08883089 7 Henney Close: TPO 18/95 T1 Oak - 2m crown reduction: Members had no objections, but added the comment: *“providing they are in line with MDC’s Tree Officer’s recommendations”*. 20/00711/FUL PP-08892118: Agricultural Building at Charity Farm Crows Lane Stow Maries (this is within the Cold Norton Parish): Erection of farm machinery workshop. Members had no objections. 20/00720/FUL PP-08892342 Agricultural Building at Charity Farm, Crows Lane, Stow Maries: Erection of grain store. Members had no objections, but the following comment was added: *“Whilst the applicant has stated that; “The farmyard at Charity Farm has easy road access and ample turning area within the site for large grain lorries collecting the crop from the farm”, there is concern that Crows Lane is quite narrow so access for large grain lorries would not seem to be ideal”*. 20/00803/HOUSE PP-08961452: 29 Latchingdon Road: Single Storey Rear Extension including demolition of existing garage. Week No.34 dated 21st August 2020. The Members had no objections. 20/00772/LDP PP-08890635: Toad Hall, Station Road: Claim for lawful development certificate for siting of a caravan for domestic purposes. Week No.35 dated 28th August 2020. Whilst this application was supplied to the Parish Council 'For Information Only' the Members wanted to submit their concern regarding this application *“This is a large property, outside the development boundary and the applicant has not really demonstrated a real need for this additional accommodation for domestic purposes”*. 20/00759/HOUSE PP-08935082: 14A Latchingdon Road: single storey side and rear extension, with dormers in existing roof. Week No.36 dated 4th September 2020: The Members had no objections to this extension.

Planning Decisions: (covering the period w/e 10th July to 4th September 2020): there were 6 decisions advised by Maldon District Council (MDC) during this period, namely: HOUSE/MAL/20/00419 1 Clarke Rise: Two storey side extension & single storey rear extension. This was refused by MDC (the Parish Council had recommended refusal). HOUSE/MAL/20/00585 29 Latchingdon Road: Single storey rear extension including demolition of existing garage. MDC refused permission for

this extension (the Members had not objected). HOUSE/MAL/20/00449 Oakwood House St Stephens Road: Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension including creation of balcony and front extension to existing garage. MDC granted planning permission (the Members had not objected). FUL/MAL/20/00546 Glen Loy Latchingdon Road: Subdivision of a single bungalow into two dwellings. MDC refused permission (the Members had recommended refusal). COUPA/MAL/20/00620 Land Adjacent To Norton Hall St Stephens Road (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): Prior notification for the conversion of two agricultural barns into two dwelling houses. MDC advised 'Prior Approval Granted' (the Members had recommended refusal). WTPO/MAL/20/00633 9A St Stephens Road: T1 - Oak tree - 3m crown reduction. MDC granted permission (the Members 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 .

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: mariadyr30@yahoo.co.uk or the Chairman: brian.haydon@btinternet.com

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: mariadyr30@yahoo.co.uk

Playground & Car Park (PCP) Project: The Working Group setup by the Parish Council, as discussed in previous issues of The Beacon, continues to make progress in developing proposals for the new Play Area and Car Park extension at the village hall.

The planning application for the car park extension is now in the public consultation stage. This will enable us to double the capacity of the car park at the village hall. We needed to take into account current parking standards dictated by Maldon District Council which includes bays for electric vehicles, blue badge holders, cyclists and powered two-wheel vehicles, all intended to encourage visitors to the village hall, playing field and new play area. We will also promote and encourage parents of Cold Norton primary school children to use the extended car park instead of St Stephens Road to pick up / drop off their children, to help alleviate the parking problems down St Stephens.

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. This had now been whittled down to a 'short list' of 3 suppliers - their designs will be on large 3D layout posters we will be inviting all residents to comment and select the 'preferred supplier. We would like to encourage you, your children and grandchildren to take a look at these proposals during October and give us your feedback. All the proposals are based on providing:

- Junior multiplay unit
- Infant multiplay unit

- Basket swing
- Zipline
- 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. We recognise and appreciate the sterling effort that has gone into raising funds locally for the new play area and the Parish Council has also set aside funds. We have also recently submitted a grant application to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) funded by Essex County Council. We believe this will provide the village with a modern well equipped play area suitable for children of all ages and abilities.

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 has now received a proposal to resurface CBL with tarmac and install a surface water drainage channel that links into the existing drainage for the village hall. This proposal is being reviewed and we are keen to know your views.

To give the Parish Council your feedback or if you have any questions please contact the Clerk at mariadyr30@yahoo.co.uk

Housing Needs Survey- Update: The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who responded to the Housing Needs Survey earlier this year. Below is a report from the Rural Housing Enabler at the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), who analysed the responses.

The response rate was above average for this type of survey in Essex and we received some really useful information. To reassure you, all individual responses remain confidential to RCCE and the Parish Council have received an aggregated final report.

Those currently with the most evidenced need are those who are looking to move into their first independent home, with 2 bed properties being preferred. There was also evidence of the need for alternative accommodation for those wishing to downsize their property, but still remain within the parish. The raw data has now been collated and analysed and has allowed RCCE's Rural Housing Enabler to provide a recommendation of the need for a small affordable housing scheme in the parish, under Rural Exception Site policy. 70% of those who responded to the survey stated they would support such a scheme were it to come forward.

A small Rural Exception Site scheme is different to larger more strategic developments as these homes will be prioritised in perpetuity for those with a local connection to the Parish. The mix and tenure is designed according to the needs of the Parish rather than the district. Rural Exception Sites (RES) are only available to parishes of less than 3,000 population and are brought forward on the evidence of need. These schemes really do assist local households to be able to stay where their support networks are, as house prices and rents in rural areas continue to rise.

The Parish Council is considering its possible next steps, **however if a scheme was to go forward, to be eligible for one of these properties you will also need to be on the Maldon District Council Housing Register.** We would therefore like to encourage all those with a housing need to join the Housing Register by visiting www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk , emailing homechoice@maldon.gov.uk or by phoning 01621 854477 for further advice.

If you have any questions regarding affordable housing or rural exception sites, please contact the Parish Council Clerk in the first instance.

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 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: mariadyr30@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: mariadyr30@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 829566. Please note the Clerk works part time and will respond as soon as possible.