

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the February 2021 Meeting

Parish Council Meetings: at present these are being held remotely by ZOOM. Local councils have the powers to hold public meetings remotely by using video or telephone conferencing technology currently until 7th May 2021, so until this time PC meetings will continue to be held remotely by ZOOM. However, the process of delegated power still applies, so some decisions may still be made through this process and then ratified at the next PC meeting. Delegated power has been 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 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.

District Cllr Report: District Cllr Mrs Fleming advised that the Elections (ECC) appear to be going ahead in May; that MDC Committee Meetings continue to be online; that MDC Officers are continuing to distribute grants from Central Government; that MDC will be setting the budget on 23rd February; that a new Financial Officer started during lockdown. MDC has lost income from low usage of the town car parks and at Promenade Park because of COVID-19, but MDC had good reserves.

Planning Applications: there were no planning applications this month for Cold Norton

Planning Decisions: (covering the period w/e 15th January to w/e 29th January 2021): there were 3 decisions advised by Maldon District Council (MDC) during this period, namely: FUL/MAL/20/01096 Barn 2 St Stephens Road: siting of a mobile home as an agricultural workers dwelling. MDC refused permission (the Parish Council had not objected). FUL/MAL/20/01146 The Buffs Victoria Road: proposed two storey replacement dwelling with front gable and integral garage. MDC granted planning permission (the Parish Council has recommended refusal). LDP/MAL/20/01167 27 The Fairways: claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed conversion of existing double garage into a single garage and habitable room (playroom / study). MDC approved (the Parish Council had not been required to submit an opinion on this LDP).

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 .

Vacancies on the Parish Council: the Chairman of the Parish Council warmly welcomed the two new Cllrs, namely Cllr Dixon and Cllr Jacklin to their first Parish Council meeting as Cllrs and there were changes made to the representatives for Public Rights of Way and the Police: Cllr Jacklin will replace Cllr Haydon for Public Right of Way, working alongside Mr Wakeling; Cllr Dixon will replace Cllrs Mrs Gunn and Mrs Luck as the Police representative.

So, to recap the roles on the Parish Council are now:

Chairman: Cllr Haydon

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Gunn:

Playing Field Representatives: Cllr Richardson and Cllr Haydon

Cowpiece Nature Reserve Representative: Cllr Haydon

Parish Council Representative on Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Romang

Parish Public Rights of Way (footpaths) Representatives: Mr Wakeling & Cllr Jacklin

Parish Council Representative for Transport: Mrs A Allen

Parish Council Representative for Police: Cllr Dixon

Parish Council Representative for Stow Maries Aerodrome: Cllr Haydon

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

Maldon Community Coronavirus Response: this is also still operating; contact number is: 01621 851997.

Playground & Car Park (PCP) Project: see separate article in this issue.

Highways or Public Right of Way (Footpath) Issues: 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. There are currently two lights not working – these will be replaced shortly by LEDs along with 4 other lights as a part of the Parish Council programme to upgrade all the Parish Council owned lights to the more efficient and cost-effective LEDs which are also better for the environment.

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).

Development North of B1012 South Woodham Ferrers: the Parish Council is taking an active role in supporting the various groups lobbying CCC to reconsider the impact this development will have on the road infrastructure in SWF and the effect it will have on the villages in the Dengie.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: will be starting again in February.

Climate Crisis: Cllr Richardson attended a conference (by Zoom) and reported back to the Members on the ways that Cold Norton can play its part with actions to help towards averting a climate crisis.

Census: this will be taking place on 21st March 2021 – see information in this magazine, but the Clerk has been sent various pieces of information, so do contact the Clerk. This is the first time the Census will be 'digital', but please note there are still 'paper' options for those that need them – it is important that everyone completes the census and there is help if you need it.

Parish Council Meetings in 2021:

Wednesdays 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December.

The March, April and May meetings will be conducted by ZOOM, which the Council is legally permitted to do. But the order allowing Councils to meet remotely expires on 7th May 2021. At this point guidance is still awaited as to the situation regarding meetings after 7th May 2021.

Members of the Public and Press are cordially invited to attend meetings.

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 2021: date still to be set, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

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.