



Cold Norton's Annual Parish Meeting Held at 8 pm on Wednesday 20th April 2022

THOSE PRESENT: Parish Councillors:

Cllr B Haydon (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M Gunn (Vice Chairman)
Cllr P Jacklin
Cllr Mrs J Luck
Cllr J Richardson
Cllr A Romang

Cllr Mrs J Fleming, Essex County Councillor
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk) and 15 Members of the Public

WELCOME

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Brian Haydon welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the proceedings for the evening.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Dixon and District Cllr Ms Sue White.

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON ZOOM 21ST APRIL 2021.

Cllr Romang proposed that these be approved; Cllr Richardson seconded the proposal. These were then duly signed as a correct record by Cllr Haydon, together with the minutes from 2019, which had not been signed as there had not been an Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in 2020 due to COVID 19, but had been approved at the 2021 APM held by ZOOM.

THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN CLLR BRIAN HAYDON

Welcome to our Parish Councillors

Brian Haydon	Chairman & Stow Maries Aerodrome Representative
Marion Gunn	Vice Chairman & Nature Conservation Area Representative
Alex Romang	Parish Council Representative on Village Hall Management Committee
Joanne Luck	Parish Councillor

Jem Richardson	Parish Councillor & Leader PCP Working Group
Tim Dixon	Parish Council Representative for Police/NAP
Phil Jacklin	Parish Council Rights of Way Representative

Covid 19

- The pandemic has continued to affect all of us to a greater or lesser degree but certainly seems to have brought us all closer together.
- The Parish Council supports the Community Hub which is still able to provide limited help upon request.
- We are sure that, in addition to the formal Hub, lots of you are coming together and offering neighbourly help in many ways. Thank you so much!

Finance

- The Parish Council budget for the year from 1st April 2022 has been set at £38,749 including provision for the Playground and Car Park project.
- This represents an increase of £560.00 over the previous year which equates to £0.07 per month per household.
- The Council continues to benefit from the income derived from the solar panels on the Village Hall amounting to c. £2,000.
- Regular items of expenditure include Village Caretaking, maintenance, grass cutting, litter clearing, street lighting, PWLB loans, and administration.

Planning

- Planning Applications are considered and approved by Maldon District Council who seek opinions from individual residents and the Parish Council which expresses its view according to the planning policy guided by the village surveys of 2000 and 2011. The PC does not have decision making authority.
- This year from April 2021 to March 2022 the Cold Norton Parish Council provided input on 26 applications. 2 applications were subsequently withdrawn. Of the remaining 24 applications CNPC recommended approval for 1 application whilst 15 were not objected to. 8 applications were recommended for refusal.
- Maldon District Council agreed with the opinion of CNPC for 18 of the applications, did not agree with 5 and a decision is still awaited for one application.
- The Parish Council continues to engage in the Bradwell 8 consultation process which has been conducted with periodic Zoom Meetings. The original response document is still available on the Cold Norton Parish website. BRADWELL-B-STAGE-1-RESPONSE.pdf (cold-norton.org.uk)
- The Parish Council is continuing to participate in consultation for the South Woodham Ferrers North Development Masterplan adopted by the Chelmsford City Council. In conjunction with the other Dengie Parish Councils, now established as 'The United Dengie Councils' we are lobbying for road improvements to accommodate increases traffic volumes due to this development and other new housing in Maldon and the Dengie plus Bradwell B related traffic.

- Maldon District Council are conducting a review of the current LDP (Local Development Plan) which the CNPC has evaluated in detail before making a direct response, which is available on the PC Website. In addition, this evaluation was distributed to every householder with the request to log onto the MDC Website and make individual responses to add weight to our collective voice.

Highways & Road Safety

- Speeding continues to be an issue along Latchingdon Road and St Stephens Road so trial speed traps provided by the Trucam team from Maldon District Council were introduced to monitor infringements to the limit through the village. These proved useful and have now been implemented regularly.
- With the assistance of our Essex County Councillor, Jane Fleming, a Traffic Survey has been instigated to support future road safety initiatives.
- The PC continues to monitor and report issues relating to potholes, footways and public rights of way such as overgrown vegetation, broken signs etc. These matters are the responsibility of Essex Highways, who have an excellent website where issues can be reported directly into the system by members of the public: <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/problem-check>
- Parking by parents dropping off and collecting children from the Primary School continues to create congestion at times and the PC works with the school to encourage use of the village hall car park. Parents have helped minimise disruption to the extent possible resulting in improvements.

Village Hall

- Activities in the Hall have gradually increased during the year and it continues to be used by Pre-School.
- The Village Hall Management Committee has worked hard to maintain the building during the slow return to activity and conserve funds considering the drastic reduction in income.
- Limited financial support has been available, but any relevant grants have been applied for including support for a replacement boiler.
- Minimum fixed costs involved in owning and maintaining the Hall have been included in the Parish Council budget and included in the Precept.
- Grateful thanks are due to the Management Committee for their support and hard work.

Playground and Car Park Project

- The PCP Project has been ongoing throughout the year by the Working Group lead by Jeremy Richardson.
- The Children's Playground was completed and formally opened by Cllr Penny Channer, Leader of MDC, to great enthusiasm.
- Community consultation and participation has been encouraged throughout the process.
- Jem will make a presentation featuring the next steps later in the meeting.

- Thanks to Jem and the working group for the work and time devoted to this exciting enterprise.

2022 Village Appraisal

- The Parish Council has conducted a Village Appraisal over the last decades and plans to update our collective views on how the Village should develop over the next 10 years.
- This information enables the Parish Council to respond to events such as planning consultations and Village Hall management initiatives with a documented consensus of residents' aspirations and opinions.

Other Matters

- The Norton Pub has been able to serve the community thanks to hard work by Boris and George supported by the renewed Norton Community Pub Committee and is looking forward to strong support from us all.
- The Parish Council manages the open spaces in the village including the playing field grass cutting, Cowpiece Nature Reserve and Three Ashes Corner.
- The new play equipment is checked weekly by a roster of Councillors and formally inspected annually by the independent authority.
- Dog Fouling continues to be an issue at times and is subject to a maximum fine of £1,000 so please be vigilant.
- Unfortunately, there are still incidents of fly tipping and littering of gas cylinders. Reports may be made to MDC directly or through the Parish Council.

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome

- The Parish Council has a place on the Joint Consultative Committee of SMGWA and is currently represented by myself at quarterly meetings to exchange information and keep the local communities involved in the care, development and promotion of the Aerodromes' activities. SMGWA has recently been awarded 'Museum' status, which is a considerable accolade.
- I encourage you to visit their website to book upcoming events such as Wings and Wheels for a very interesting day out.
- There is also a very good café on site operating in the Mess. Entrance is free of charge for those only visiting the Café.

.... and Finally

- Welcome to new residents to our village. We know you will enjoy becoming part of our community.
- I'd like to repeat my thanks to everyone who has helped individual residents and the village community during the last year:
 - NHS heroes
 - Essential workers collecting recycling, making deliveries, staffing supermarkets, doctors, vets

- Community Hub
- Cold Norton Primary School and Cold Norton Pre-School
- Village Hall Management Committee
- Seed Library
- The many unspoken kindnesses between friends and neighbours
- My fellow Parish Councillors

Questions/Comments following Chairman's Report:

1. A Local Social Club has booked the Village Hall for 13 events and needs 20 spaces for this club's events.
2. Seating in the new playground is needed outside the younger children's enclosed play area. Cllr Haydon advised that 2 more seats will be installed in the next few weeks.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT 2020/21 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS JANE FLEMING

This is my first report for the Cold Norton Annual Parish Meeting as an Essex County Councillor. I was delighted to be elected to represent the Maldon Division at Essex County Council in May 2021.

The Maldon Division comprises Cold Norton and the parishes of Stow Maries, North Fambridge, Purleigh including Cock Clarks, Woodham Walter, Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh, and Maldon Town. I am fortunate in that I have lived and worked in the Division for the past twenty-five years, and already represented part of the Division as a Maldon District Councillor so knew it well before taking up the role at ECC.

The May 2021 elections returned 53 Conservative County Councillors, so Essex County Council remains a Conservative controlled Council. Following the elections, at the May Full Council, Councillor Kevin Bentley was elected Leader of the Council and a new Cabinet appointed. In July, the Leader and Cabinet published an ambitious new plan for Essex - "Everyone's Essex, our Plan for Essex 2021-2025". Focusing on Renewal, Equality and Ambition, the plan contains twenty commitments and directs investment in the Economy, the Environment, Children & Families and Health & Wellbeing.

The ECC Locality Fund reopened for applications in May, and I am pleased to say that all of the £10,000 for the Maldon Division, has been spent. My thanks go to the councils and community groups who approached me with their projects and for the hard work put in. This financial year, Parish Council projects supported in the Maldon Division include outdoor seating, bins and boiler replacement for Cold Norton's Village Hall and Playground project, fruit trees for North Fambridge's Community Orchard, and Woodham Mortimer's projector for their Village Hall. Community Groups and organisations in the Maldon Division also supported by the ECC Locality Fund include the Woodham Walter Village Hall "Warm Up the Hall" project, and outdoor seating for the Action for Family Carers' Day Centre at Brickhouse Farm. Plus, a new freezer to support the food bank work at Peters Hospital Café, support for the project to re site the Steam Tug Brent at The Hythe, and support for the refurbishment of an outbuilding for community activities at Purleigh Community Shop.

The Locality Fund opens again for applications this May, so if you have a project or community initiative, please do contact me with your suggestions/applications at cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council also supported the community through the Community Initiative Fund, a fund administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils on behalf of ECC. Town & Parish Councils, community groups, social enterprises and individuals in Essex were invited to apply. Successful applicants in the Maldon Division supported include the work of the Woodham Walter Village Hall "Warm Up the Hall" project and the establishment of the Chelmer and Blackwater Reserve in Maldon. The Chelmer and Blackwater Reserve is an exciting new venture by a community interest company on the site known locally as

Ironworks Meadow. You can view it as you walk along the river wall from the Tesco superstore towards Beeleigh and work has already started on what will become a new nature reserve.

The winter months always bring additional pressures to the most vulnerable, so a £9.4 million Household Support Fund was announced in November for Essex families and vulnerable residents. This fund included £3.2 million for School Holiday Food Vouchers during the Christmas, February, and Easter 2022 School Holidays for those eligible and £2.5 million for support those most in need with food costs, energy and water bills and other essentials. The fund also directed £120,000 for rough sleepers in Essex distributed through borough, city, and district councils and £200,000 to local Citizens Advice and £108,000 to Care Leavers for food and essential items. Also £630,000 was directed to the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service including £600,000 for a one-off fuel payment to eligible families.

In the New Year, the Essex Year of Reading was launched with a programme of fun activities and events that will run throughout the rest of this year to support pupils whose education has been affected by Covid 19. In 2021 Essex County Council committed to keeping all 74 Essex Libraries open, so shortly before Christmas, the new Draft Library Plan was launched with an eight week consultation seeking residents' views on the future shape of the Library Service in Essex. The results of that consultation have just been presented to the People and Families Scrutiny Committee. There is a strong emphasis on children and young people's literacy and an excellent initiative to provide every Essex primary school pupil and Year Seven pupil with a library card. This will be rolled out prior to National Literacy Week.

Also launched in the New Year, was the Leader and Deputy Leader's Levelling Up Plan for Essex. Priority areas and cohorts in the County were identified to achieve better outcomes and close the gap on the Essex and national averages. Priority places identified were Tendring, Basildon and Colchester housing estates, Harlow, Rural Braintree, and Canvey Island. Priority cohorts identified were children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions, children on free school meals, working families and young adults (16-25 years) who have not been in education, training, or employment for around 6-12 months.

In February, Essex County Council agreed its new Budget for 2022/23. The one thing that strikes you as a new Member is the sheer size of Essex County Council – the net Revenue Budget for 2022/23 is £1.083 Billion. Like all local authorities, Essex has experienced a number of challenges this year including: the impact of the pandemic, issues with supply chains, inflation, and the increasing costs of adult social care. The Council had a stark choice in balancing its budget - of increasing taxes or facing unacceptable cuts in services. Therefore, the Council increased their Council Tax precept by 4.59% (£1.16 per week for a Band D Council Taxpayer) of which 2.59% is for Adult Social Care.

Adult Social Care & Health accounts for £737m of Council spending which is over 40% of the gross Revenue Budget. This spending supports the most vulnerable in our communities including older people, people with learning difficulties, mental health difficulties and physical and sensory impairments.

The Budget also contained an ambitious £1.3 Billion Capital Programme to invest in the County's infrastructure as we build back from the pandemic including £696 million for Economic Renewal, £332 million for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport and £248 million to support Educational Excellence, Learning and Employability. An additional £2 Million 'Pothole Fund' was also announced targeting fixes where they are needed the most.

Major infrastructure projects that will affect the Division in the coming years include, the A12 widening and junction changes at Hatfield Peverel, the Army & Navy Roundabout redesign, Hoe Mill Bridge replacement and highways works associated with the delivery of the North Heybridge & South Maldon Garden suburbs around Maldon.

All 12 Boroughs, City and District areas have a Local Highways Panel who are responsible for making recommendations and setting priorities for Highways Schemes in their areas. The Panels are made up of a representative number of Members from Essex County Council and the individual Borough, City or District. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis and prioritise local concerns and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for the implementation of highways schemes that meet the concerns of local people.

Local Highways Panel funding was doubled in the 2021/2022 budget, resulting in the Maldon LHP budget being increased to £400,000 per financial year and this commitment was continued for this coming financial year. The Maldon LHP has underspent this year due to staffing shortages and the impacts of the pandemic, however the underspend will be carried forward into this next financial year. The way in which the Panels work is currently undergoing scrutiny largely due to the time taken from application to implementation.

If you have concerns about an issue in the Division, please email me:

cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk

Cllr Mrs Fleming is also a District Cllr and added the following relating to Maldon District Council (MDC):

MDC Local Development Plan: please get involved, there will be more consultations (at least 2). Public opinion is very important and District Cllrs need evidence in the form of emails. The call for sites: 200 have been submitted, but not all will be actioned.

Ride London: 27th May 2023. The women's race will start in Maldon – High Street will be closed from 4am to 10pm.

New primary school in Maldon: but lack of infrastructure with new houses e.g. allowance for new Doctor's surgeries

Questions/Comments following Cllr Mrs Fleming's Report:

1. MDC influence re doctors and surgeries re new development in Maldon?
Response: this goes to NHS for recommendations
2. The large CCC development in South Woodham Ferrers – how does MDC feature in this decision? Response: MDC will have been consulted, but with COVID 19 was restricted. There is a "Duty to Cooperate" - councils should share information.
3. How many responses were there to the MDC LDP consultation? Response: 500.
4. Issue of speeding before bridge – more than the 40mph limit.
Response: Cllr Mrs Fleming has requested site meetings with the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways in Cold Norton and other villages to discuss various highways issues.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MS SUE WHITE

(Read by Cllr Haydon)

I'm so sorry I couldn't attend this annual parish meeting as I have missed seeing everyone since lockdown. It has been a strange 3 years, but things are slowly returning to normal.

I have been putting pressure on officers for timely meetings and responses to members of the public and parish councils and officers have informed me that this will become a priority, as I think they sometimes forget they are here to work for the public and should deal with issues promptly.

I have had some minor successes with waste and planning, but we definitely need to return to normal working.

Some other pieces of information are:

Free Business Support for Firms in Mid and North Essex Goes Live

A series of free business support packages, helping firms with topics such as finance, low carbon and digital skills, has gone live in mid and North Essex. The programmes are funded by the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB).

The fully funded support programmes on offer to businesses, provided by Colbea, Let's Do Business and BEST Growth Hub, are:

- Business support navigation
- First steps to start up success
- Introduction to Finance
- Low Carbon Support
- Digital Skills and cyber security
- Import/export advice
- Finance and debt management

To sign up visit www.tendringdc.gov.uk/north-essex-economic-board.

Cllr Cunningham advised: "This support, worth more than £600,000 in total, is fully-funded and will allow your business to grow – can you afford to not take this opportunity?"

NEEB is also funding other work, including a skills programme for local residents, which will launch in the next few weeks.

Launch of 'One Maldon District'

A new cross-sector partnership has been launched in the District of Maldon – 'One Maldon District' will bring together senior level representatives from across the local statutory, voluntary, and private sectors to improve health, wellbeing, and community safety across the district.

'One Maldon District' will enable organisations to work together to make impactful decisions to improve the quality of life of residents and help break down organisational barriers to ensure we approach challenges in the district in a joined-up way. The first meeting was held on 4 April 2022. Please follow the One Maldon District on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Facebook: [Maldon District Council](https://www.facebook.com/MaldonDistrictCouncil)

Twitter: [@MaldonDC](https://twitter.com/MaldonDC)

Instagram: [@maldondistrictcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/maldondistrictcouncil)

Council Tax and Fees and Charges 2022/23

At the Full Council meeting held 24 February 2022, Maldon District Councillors approved the council tax and fees and charges for 2022/23.

The average Band D property in the Maldon District will see an increase of just £5 per year or 9.6p per week, in the amount which is retained by Maldon District Council. With inflation at 5.5%, this council tax increase of 9.6p per week is well below at 2.41%.

The Government has recognised the pressures currently facing both Councils and residents and has introduced a £150 refund for those in band A-D properties as well as allocating money for a discretionary fund.

Council Offices

I have challenged ECC being involved in the feasibility study and did suggest getting it valued by Savills or someone similar rather than doing the study. Originally it was suggested that ECC Homes LLP would be involved in both sections, but I have asked and been assured that it will go out to tender. It was also suggested that it would be very expensive and difficult to remove the existing buildings, but I have asked whether it can be converted, as I think that converting that building will be cost effective.

Questions to Leader

I asked whether Officers should be arranging prompt meetings with members and members of the public (including Parishes and am awaiting a response).

Stow Maries Airfield Funding

The airfield was looking to change the loan that we gave them into a grant. I argued that it was a loan and should be repaid as it was taxpayers' money, and this was agreed at Full Council.

Meetings with ECC

I have personal meetings arranged with ECC regarding roads and infrastructure.

As always, if any of you have any issues whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact me.

King regards

Sue White

Tel 07850 209368

PLAYGROUND & CAR PARK (PCP) PROJECT – CLLR JEREMY RICHARDSON

PCP Project Background and Status:

- Initiated in 2018 following response to Playing Field Questionnaire, key findings were:
- Playing field and Village Hall are underutilised because:
- Poor state of the play equipment
- Lack of equipment for children of all ages
- Lack of car park space
- Poor state of Cherry Blossom Lane (CBL)

Brief history since 2018:

- Fund raising by residents through 2019/2020
- Parish council established the PCP Working Group to push forward, comprising of Councillors and Residents
- Parish Council Loan Application approved May 2021 enabling play area to proceed
- The Working Group:
 - Completed public consultation with Residents selecting KOMPAN play equipment
 - Engaged with Chelmsford City Council Parks Dept. as play area partner
 - Applied for planning permission for car park extension (planning permission obtained November 2020)
 - Engaged with 4 local contractors for proposals and estimates for work on CBL and the Car park extension

New Play Area:

- Installation progressed through Winter 2021/Spring 2022
- Passed independent RPII Safety Inspection February 2022
- Declared OPEN at Grand Opening Ceremony 5th March 2022

Car Park Extension:

- Planning Permission obtained Nov 2020
- 14 extra spaces
- One charging bay for electric vehicles

- Cycle Stands
- Plastic grid surface with grass infill
- Restricted to cars and light vans only
- Parish Council applied for a Public Works Loan to complete the work

Cherry Blossom Lane:

Working Group:

- Joined by local resident with commercial construction experience
- Obtained advice from Civil Engineering Consultancy (FOC)
- Developed a detailed design and specification for the work
- Engaged with 4 Contractors who proposed for the work
- Now reduced to a shortlist of 2

Car Park extension and Cherry Blossom Lane to be Let as one contract, funded by a Public Works Loan. Loan approval obtained March 2022

We are now planning for work to proceed in late 2022.

Conclusion - The PCP project is a major investment for the Village:

- New Play Area completed
- Car Park extension and Cherry Blossom Lane works in progress, awaiting proposals and plans from shortlisted contractors (there will be a lockable bollard for the extension to the new car park area).

If possible, we aim for work on the Car Park and Cherry Blossom Lane to commence in Summer 2022

There were no questions or comments following this report.

POLICE REPORT

Not available.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2022

This award had been created by the Parish Council in 2011 to recognise services to the village.

Cllr Wakeling announced that this year the award was being made to **Mr Philip Wakeling** a long-term resident of the village and past Parish Cllr including many years as Chairman of the Parish Council, who was part of the working group that was responsible for the extension to the village hall. Mr Wakeling had continued to contribute to the village by checking the Public Rights of Way in the village to ensure they are walkable, by working with Cllr Jeremy Richardson on the Playground/Car Park/Road project and now taking on the role of Chairman of the community pub The Norton and being a very active member of the Maldon Citizen Advice Bureau.

Unfortunately, Mr Wakeling was not present at the APM, so will be presented with the engraved plaque by Cllr Haydon at a later date.

OPEN SESSION OF QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

There were no additional questions or comments, but Residents were advised that it is hoped that arrangements can be made with MDC for pink recycling and green food waste bags to be made available to collect from the village hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm. Cllr Haydon thanked everyone for attending and invited all present to stay for refreshments, kindly being served by Mrs Chris Hawes and Mrs Margaret Taylor, who were duly thanked. Residents were advised that the Councillors would all be available to talk to on an informal basis during this time.

Chairman..... Date.....