



Cold Norton's Annual Parish Meeting

Held at 8 pm on Wednesday 31st May 2023

THOSE PRESENT: Parish Councillors:

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

Cllr Mrs J Fleming, Essex County Councillor
Cllr Ms S White, Maldon District Councillor
Mrs. M. Dyer (Parish Clerk) and 12 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

There were no apologies for absence.

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 20th APRIL 2022.

Cllr Mrs Gunn proposed that these be approved; Cllr Romang seconded the proposal. These were then duly signed as a correct record by Cllr Haydon.

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

A full copy of the Chairman's report was distributed to attendees. Cllr Haydon invited residents to read this at their leisure, but at the meeting just picked out salient points relating to the following topics: elections, finance, planning, Village Hall Management Committee, Playground and Car Park Project (PCP), village appraisal, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome and other matters.

The full report is reproduced below:

Local Elections 2023

Local Elections, including those for the Parish Councils in the District, took place in May this year and I am delighted to report that your entire Council of seven members put forward their

names for re-election. There were no further candidates proposed so our full Council was re-elected unopposed.

Welcome to our Parish Councillors

Brian Haydon	Chairman & Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Representative
Marion Gunn	Vice Chairman & Nature Conservation Area Representative
Alex Romang	Parish Council Representative on Village Hall Management Committee
Joanne Luck	Parish Councillor Representative for Social Welfare Matters
Jem Richardson	Parish Councillor Representative for Playing Fields and Playground
Tim Dixon	Parish Council Representative for Police/NAP
Phil Jacklin	Parish Council Rights of Way Representative

Finance

- The Parish Council budget for the year from 1st April 2023 has been set at £41,600 including on-going support for the Playground, Car Park and Village Hall.
- This represents an increase of £2,851 over the previous year which has been held below current inflation and equates to £0.49 per month per household.
- The Council continues to benefit from income derived from the solar panels on the Village Hall roof amounting this year to £2,014.
- 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. The PC does not have decision making authority.
- During the year our councillors have participated in meetings with MDC Planning experts and a seminar run by CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) to further their understanding of the current Planning process and how it is administered.
- This year from April 2021 to March 2022 the Cold Norton Parish Council provided input on 19 applications. 1 application was subsequently withdrawn. Of the remaining 18 applications CNPC recommended approval for 1 application whilst 15 were not objected to. 2 applications were recommended for refusal.
- Maldon District Council agreed with the opinion of CNPC for 11 of the applications, did not agree with 6 and a decision is still awaited for 1 application.
- The Parish Council increased participation in consultations for the South Woodham Ferrers North Development Masterplan adopted by the Chelmsford City Council. In conjunction with the other Dengie Parish Councils, established as 'The United Dengie Councils' we have lobbied for road improvements to accommodate increased traffic volumes due to this development and other new housing in Maldon and the Dengie.
- The UDC initiative has supported WIG (Woodham Infrastructure Group) in lobbying for a Northern Bypass to ease the congestion.
- Despite gaining MP Sir John Whittingdale's support to have the decision 'called in' to the Secretary of State, the decision to allow the development to proceed was left to Chelmsford City Council determination and approved.
- UDC and WIG will continue to closely monitor the development and compliance with conditions designed to mitigate any increase in traffic.

Highways & Road Safety

- Speeding continues to be an issue along Latchingdon Road and St Stephens Road. Speed traps provided by the Trucam team from Maldon District Council are implemented regularly.
- The Council is currently exploring an initiative in conjunction with our District Councillor to introduce a 20 mph zone around the school.

- 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. Roads and pavements, Essex County Council (essexhighways.org)
- 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.

Village Hall

- Activities in the Hall have progressed during the year, and it continues to be used by Pre-School.
- The Village Hall Management Committee has worked hard to maintain the building and conserve funds considering the continued reduction in income.
- Although limited financial support has been available, any relevant grants have been applied for including support for replacement kitchen equipment.
- Grateful thanks are due to the Management Committee for their support and hard work.

Playground and Car Park Project

- Following the opening of the new Children's Playground, the PCP Project has been continued through the year by the Working Group led by Jeremy Richardson.
- The next stages of the project to construct the extension Car Park, resurface the original Car Park and surface Cherry Blossom Lane have now been completed.
- Jem will make a presentation featuring next steps later in the meeting.
- Thanks again to Jem and the working group for the work and time devoted to this exciting enterprise.

2023 Village Appraisal

- The Parish Council has historically undertaken Village Appraisals over previous years and is conducting a new survey to help understand how the village should develop in the future.
- Every household was provided with a 51 point questionnaire resulting in an excellent feedback from 202 households including 427 individual respondents of all age groups.
- This vast amount of data is currently being recorded and analysed in preparation for publishing in a booklet later in the year.
- Preliminary conclusions show that a higher proportion of responses were made by members of the older age groups and indicate little significant change to the views gathered from previous surveys in 2000 and 2011.
- 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.

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 made great progress over the last year to add to exhibits and improve facilities. Recently a WW1 Sopwith Pup biplane was received on loan from RAF Hendon Museum.
- You can visit their website to book upcoming events such as Propwash: Festival of Air on 23 July for a very interesting day out.
- There is also an excellent café on site operating in the Mess. Entrance is free of charge for those only visiting the Café.

Other Matters

- The Norton pub continues to serve the community thanks to hard work by Boris and George supported by the Norton Community Pub Committee and relies on 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.
- 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.

.... and Finally

- The **Queens's Platinum Jubilee** was celebrated with a series of exciting events masterminded by Phil Jacklin and his team culminating in a street party laid out on the playing field and enjoyed by all. The Town Cryer played by **Steve Evans** was superb.
- Special congratulations are due to **Jem Richardson** who having worked so hard on the Playground project was awarded Councillor of the Year in the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) Star Awards and subsequently invited to the **Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace**.
- As always, we welcome 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

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MS SUE WHITE

District Cllr Ms White started by confirming that in the recent elections she had been elected as one of the two Cllrs for the Purleigh Ward for Maldon District Council (MDC), together with Cllr Ms Lisa Wiffen and thanked all for voting for them. Cllr Ms White advised that the Conservatives no longer were in the majority at MDC.

Cllr Ms White gave a short update advising that with regards to planning there are Area Planning Committees that are made up of Cllrs and when a planning application is referred to an Area Planning Committee the Cllrs on the committee will make the decision rather than the Planning Officer.

Cllr Ms White also advised that the Maldon Heritage Centre had been awarded a sensory award and that Burnham Town Council had been successful with a grant through the Prosperity Funding Scheme.

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

Cllr Mrs Fleming advised that her full report would be available to read on the Cold Norton Parish Council Website, but highlighted the following points:

- Inflation/cost of living support is available for families.
- Free school meal vouchers to use in school holidays (50,000 children in Essex will get these)
- Locality Fund has all been spent, some for breakfast clubs; new Locality Fund opened in May 2023
- Community Initiative Fund of £350,000 now open, will close 18th August 2023
- Highways: £19million from Central Government, so will see improvements in road by August
- Local Highways Panel: three projects put forward for Cold Norton in current financial year:
 - 20mph for St Stephens Road
 - 30mph by Three Rivers
 - Footway from bridge to shop

Below is the complete report:

How time flies. This year has obviously been dominated by the cost of living crisis and the impact of inflation on budgets and the delivery of services.

In response, a **Cost of Living Summit** was held at County Hall in November last year, where ECC announced their latest plans to support families and households through the winter. The plans announced detailed how over £8.6m from the Household Support Fund would be used to support those residents who may otherwise struggle with the cost of energy, to buy food, pay for household bills or to meet other essential living costs. Funding was directed to food support groups, the extension of food vouchers for free school meals for families, help with energy costs and grants for community and voluntary organisations. Support provided included: £3.75m for the provision of food vouchers for the December 2022, February and Easter 2023 school holidays for eligible children aged 4-19 and 2-4-year-olds who are entitled to pupil premium or attract free entitlement funding supplement, £1.8m towards the **Essential Living Fund** which enables vulnerable people to pay for essential items, £135,000 to fund warmth hampers for care leavers, £1m to support households where those with disabilities use assistive equipment to maintain their health and wellbeing and that requires use of electricity, a new £400,000 grant to schools to support vulnerable families in addition to the free school meal vouchers. Support was also directed to: £280,000 to the **voluntary and community sector**, £100,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide additional capacity, £300,000 to support Essex food support groups, £300,000 to support a food education programme managed by Active Essex, £90,000 to support young carers, £100,000 to support the Winter Warmth Fund, £85,000 to support community winter resilience and hospital discharge.

Essex County Council also produced a round-up of different Cost of Living help and an online hub where information is updated as and when new support becomes available. ECC also continued to provide the **holiday free school meal vouchers** scheme it has run successfully since Christmas 2020. Free school meal vouchers were made available to around 50,000 eligible pupils across Essex during school holidays thanks to renewed funding from the Department for Work and Pensions. The funding of £1.5m was allocated by the County Council from the Household Support Fund grant. The fund aims to support those in most need this winter with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essentials. The Vouchers were sent to parents of eligible children and young people via their school, college or early years setting before the holidays started. They are worth £15 a week per child and can be used to buy food in most supermarkets. In addition, in December through the ActivAte Programme, there were 223 clubs, trips and family Christmas experiences available, offering

fun physical activity, food education and healthy meals with 48 of the clubs offering special support for SEND pupils or mental wellbeing support. These clubs were open to young people eligible for free school meals, as well as children from working families who may be struggling financially and require extra childcare support.

The **ECC Locality Fund** reopened for applications in May this year but with only £5k allocated per Division. I am pleased to say that like last year, every penny of the funding specifically allocated for the Maldon Division Locality Fund, was spent. Projects that benefitted this year were St Peter's Hospital Café work to end period poverty, North Fambridge Village Hall installation of a disabled access, The Maeldune Centre in Maldon creation of a new website, and the Woodham Walter Allotment Group. My thanks go to the councils and community groups who approached me with their projects and for the hard work put in.

The remaining Locality funding was directed to a new fund – the **Local Levelling Up Fund**. This new scheme gave all members a great opportunity to become involved in ECC's important levelling up work. Each County Councillor was attributed £5k and then asked to come together on a district basis, with fellow county councillors to discuss how to use the money together. This allowed for larger schemes across areas to be driven forward by the local members with funding. The money was directed to cohorts of people who were identified as a priority for levelling up. These were people with SEND, learning disabilities, or mental health conditions (children and adults), children on free school meals, working families on low incomes and young adults (16-25) who have not been in education, training, or employment for more than six months.

We (the ECC Division Members for the Maldon District) decided to **direct funding specifically to help schools** to purchase educational and pastoral care resources specifically to support disadvantaged and vulnerable children at Homework, Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs. The projects that I put forward in the Maldon Division were Maldon Primary School, to purchase a chest freezer required to start their partnership with The National School Breakfast Programme; All Saints, Maldon & Woodham Walter Primary, to purchase Chrome Books and pastoral resources to support their homework and afterschool club work, which will specifically concentrate on learning outcomes for disadvantaged children. Other schools that benefitted in the District were St Mary's Burnham, Southminster CofE Primary, and St Cedds in Burnham.

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

In February, Essex County Council agreed its **new Budget** for 2023/24. The Council had a stark choice in balancing its budget - of increasing taxes or facing unacceptable cuts in services. The Everyone's Essex Annual Plan and budget was approved at Full Council and the net cost of services was set at £1,176.9million (m) for 2023/24 with the net revenue budget requirement set at £1,011.2m (net cost of services less general government grants) for 2023/24 and the total council tax funding requirement set at £799.0m for 2023/24.

The Essex County Council's element of the council tax was increased by 3.5% comprising of a 1.5% increase in general council tax and 2.0% adult social care precept. This spending supports the **most vulnerable in our communities** including older people, people with learning difficulties, mental health difficulties and physical and sensory impairments. This resulted in the Essex County Council element of the council tax being £1,450.17 for a Band D property in 2023/24. At Full Council, the Cabinet Member for Highways also announced an **additional £9m for highways maintenance** and the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently announced £250m for highways maintenance budgets nationally – this will equate to £5.4m of additional funding for Essex highways.

In February, ECC announced the trial of a booking system for all vehicles at Essex **Waste Recycling Centre**. This is an extension of the pilot booking scheme that ran at the nine van friendly site for large vehicles and at the Rayleigh Recycling Centre, where all vehicle booking was piloted. The pilot is being extended to all vehicles and all locations for 9 months from March 2023. Two online booking systems will run in parallel: large vehicles with visit slots of 1 hour and small vehicles with visit slots of 15 minutes. The number of visit slots is set at location level based on current demand and safe operating practice. The booking process is being extended to all sites to help manage waiting times, reduce congestion both in and around the sites, and improve the customer experience. The trial will be monitored, and amendments can be made as necessary. Any decision to retain a booking system in the longer term will be subject to further public engagement and decision. Blue badge holders and pedestrians do not need to book a slot and bookings can be made by telephone for those who do not have access to the internet.

The plans for the **new Beaulieu Park Station** took a big step forward this year after the contract between Essex County Council and Network Rail was signed. The agreement allows Network Rail to enter into a construction contract with a delivery contractor with work on the highly anticipated station to commence early in the new year. The scheme together with the new Chelmsford North East Bypass, is progressing with £218 million funding from the Government's Housing and Infrastructure Fund and £34 million for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and developer Countryside Zest. The new station, which will be the first built on the Great Eastern Mainline in over 100 years, will help to relieve pressure on Chelmsford Station, reduce car journeys into Chelmsford and support economic growth.

The **Local Highways Panel** work continued slowly this year, with delivery of schemes impacted by resource issues at Essex Highways. Schemes I've submitted for the Maldon District in the past year include: High Street, Maldon request for a change to kerb line and height at bus stop, Fambridge Road, Maldon request for zebra crossing, Mill Road and Wantz, Maldon request for 20sPlenty, Victoria Road, Maldon request for 20sPlenty and additional directional signs, Viking Road, Maldon request for 20s Plenty, Park Drive, Maldon request for signage to football club, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, request for an extension of the 30mph, St Stephens Road, Cold Norton request for 20s Plenty, footway improvements to The Street, Woodham Walter and Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton.

Speed and weight of traffic through villages continues to be a regular feature in my inbox. I am in favour of lowering speed limits in rural areas due to the increasing vehicle numbers from the cumulative impact of housing development in the District and because 60% of road fatalities occur on rural roads. Throughout the year, I have continued to support residents with their concerns and to assist parishes with their issues requiring escalation. If you have concerns about an issue in the Division, please email me: cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk

Questions/Comments following this report:

1. The footway from bridge to shop is not fit for purpose, not wide enough and concern re possible up and coming developments Cold Norton could become a 'rat-run'.
2. Hackmans Lane/footway at bottom (Latchingdon Road/Stow Road end), this section also not fit for purpose – when will that be rectified? Cllr Fleming advised that this has not yet been reported. Visibility an issue. 40mph to 30mph at this section. Cllr Fleming requested emails from residents.
3. 40mpn Latchingdon Road before the shop, drivers always exceeding this speed limit. It was noted that there is a question in the village appraisal regarding speeding.
4. Weight limit on the bridge? There is which is because it is a single traffic bridge with traffic lights – it is regularly inspected.

Cllr Fleming requested residents to email with any concerns.

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)

New Play Area

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

Car Park Extension

- 14 extra spaces, permanently open but can be closed off for maintenance
- Plastic grid surface with grass infill
- Restricted to cars and light vans only
- Low level solar lights installed
- Cherry Blossom Trees planted around perimeter

Cherry Blossom Lane

- New kerb line installed
- Completely resurfaced with tarmac
- Speed bumps installed
- Footpath resurfaced
- Existing car park resurfaced and remarked

This work has improved access to the village hall, and new play area...
Benefits ALL users of the village hall and visitors

The PCP project has been a major investment for the Village

- New Play Area completed March 2022
- Car Park extension and Cherry Blossom Lane works completed September 2022
- Cycle stands will be installed Summer 2023
- Currently investigating EV charging point to be installed in the Car Park

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING – CLLR PHIL JACKLIN

What is Community-led Housing (CLH)?

Community-led housing is where local people and groups help to design and deliver new housing without profiting from it. They can build housing to help the local community which can often include features like gardens and shared open areas.

CLH projects include three common principles:

- Open and meaningful community participation and consent takes place throughout the process.

- The community group or organisation owns, manages or stewards the homes in whichever way they decide to.
- The housing development is of true benefit for the local community, a specific group of people (an intentional community), or both. These benefits would also be legally protected in perpetuity.

CLH could also include elements such as social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, discounted market sale and first homes.

Popular Models of Community-led Housing

- Community land trusts (a CLT is a non-profit, community-based organisation run by volunteers that develop housing or other assets at permanently affordable levels for long-term community benefit).
- Almshouses (an almshouse is a unit of residential accommodation which belongs to a charity and is provided to meet the charity's purpose such as the relief of financial need or infirmity).
- Co-housing (when a community builds a neighbourhood based on certain values, often linked to one agreed way of living).
- Co-operative Housing and Tenant Controlled (a not-for-profit housing organisation that is managed and owned by its members)
- Self-build and custom-build/ Self Finish/Self Help (many community-led projects are self builds. Self-help housing can include restoring empty houses).

How to start a Community Led Housing Project

- Form a steering group
- Decide what the purpose of the project is
- Recruit more people (skills within the community)
- Develop a business plan (funding)
- Incorporate your group

Finding like-minded people

- Anyone can begin and deliver a CLH project - you don't need to work in the housing industry.
- CLH groups are often run by dedicated volunteers with strong partnerships of professionals supporting all areas of the project

Define your community

- Whichever form of community-led housing is chosen, it is up to the members of the group to choose which group of people it will serve.
- Normally, a community relates to an area in which people live and work. It is often limited to a council boundary.

If you are interested in forming a group to further understand and develop the prospect of CLH within the Cold Norton Parish, please contact Cllr Phil Jacklin (phil.jacklin@yahoo.co.uk)

Cllr White then advised Residents that funding was available for this, but amount has been reduced, but believes it will be reinstated and that call for sites may pinpoint possible sites.

POLICE REPORT

Not available.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2023

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

Cllr Haydon announced that this year the award was being made to **Mr Jim Tizzard**. for all his work during COVID, providing lots of help to many housebound residents and for carrying on after COVID very quietly doing random acts of kindness, including putting salt on the footway along Latchingdon Road to the school during a bad spell in winter.

Unfortunately, Mr Tizzard 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 only two items raised, the first relating to the leak on Hackmans Lane, but that it had been resolved and the second an announcement that Pre School are having a fund-raising quiz on 23rd June.

Philip Wakeling expressed his thanks to the Cllrs for all their work.

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm. Cllr Haydon thanked everyone for attending and invited all present to stay for refreshments, kindly organised by Mrs Chris Hawes who was duly thanked. Residents were advised that the Councillors would all be available to talk to on an informal basis during this time.

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