

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From Annual General Meeting and the May 2025 Meeting

The Parish Council Annual General Meeting was held on 7th May 2025

To confirm Members of Cold Norton Parish Council are:

Cllr Tim Dixon
Cllr Mrs Marion Gunn
Cllr Brian Haydon
Cllr Phil Jacklin
Cllr Mrs Joanne Luck
Cllr David Myers

At the AGM officers were elected as follows:

Chairman: Cllr Haydon

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Gunn

Playing Field Representative: deferred to the June meeting

Nature Conservation Area Representative: Cllr Mrs Gunn & Cllr Dixon

Village Hall Representatives: Cllr Mrs Gunn & Cllr Mrs Luck

Public Rights of Way (Footpaths) Representative: deferred to the June meeting

Transport Representative: Cllrs Mrs Gunn & Mrs Luck

Police/NAP Representative: Cllr Dixon

Stow Maries Aerodrome Representative: Cllr Haydon

Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils Representative: Cllr Mrs Luck

The Internal Auditor was confirmed as John P Watson & Co.

The External Auditor appointed by the Audit Commission is PKF Littlejohn.

Cllrs Haydon remains as a signatory; Cllr Mrs Gunn and Cllr Mrs Luck are being added as signatories to replace Cllrs who have stepped down from the PC.

The AGM was followed by the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council

Planning Applications: There were three planning applications received from Maldon District Council for the Members to consider this month, namely:

25/00164/HOUSE P-13771908 The Spinney, Fambridge Road: Single storey side and rear extension. Alterations to fenestration including the relocation of the entrance door. Erection of detached double garage/store and stable to the rear. The Members recommended refusal of this application for the following reasons:

1. It is outside the development boundary (S8 – Settlement Boundaries & the Countryside)
2. Previous planning conditions have not been adhered to in regards to retention of vegetation (trees and scrubs) contrary to the aims of the Coastal Protection Zone.
3. Is this a change of use from residential to business?
4. Over development of site (D1 Design Quality & Built Environment & H4 Effective Use of Land)
5. It would appear that the ditches have been compromised within the site as flooding issues have been reported

25/00393/WTPR PP-13933118 26 Station Crescent: TPO 07/00 T36 Oak tree: crown reduction by 4m. T22 Oak tree: crown reduction by 3m. T28, T29 Ash trees: reduce height by 3m. The Members had no objections to these works providing they are in line with MDC's Tree Officer's recommendations.

25/00388/FUL Great Canney Court, Hackmans Lane: addition of new building containing two dwellings to existing building containing flats and associated works. The Members had no objections to this application but added the following comment: *"Whilst this is outside the development boundary, in principle the Members do not object to this application, however, they have noted that none of the previous reasons for refusing this addition to the site seem to have been addressed".*

Planning Decisions: there were two decisions received from MDC for the period from w/e 4th April w/e 2nd May 2025, both related to tree works, namely:
25/00158/WTPO 9 Henney Close: T1, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T10, T11, T12, T13 T14, T16 - Maple Trees - Crown reduction by 3.5m, T2, T3, T15 - Ash Trees - Crown reduction by 3.5m, T9 - Poplar Tree – Remove.
25/00178/WTPO 14 St Stephens Road: (TPO 15/96) T49 - Ash Tree- Reduce the crown by 2m and remove deadwood. MDC approved both these applications (the members of Cold Norton Parish Council had not objected to the proposed works).

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 Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Wiffen was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a report advising Members that:

In December 2024 the Government set out plans to move power out of Westminster and back to Local Communities. Local Leaders from Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea have expressed interest in taking this forward creating a Mayoral Combined County Authority, with the election for a Mayor taking place in May 2026. MDC met on 03 April and have commented that the proposed voting members of the Mayoral Combined County Authority, must be balanced fairly across the county as District Councils need to have a voice in stating where funding and investment is required. MDC supports the inception of a Locality Board which would ensure the needs of the district are prioritised.

MDC in partnership with ECC and four local councils are launching a 2 month campaign to encourage residents to pass on unwanted furniture instead of disposing of it. Donated items are to be given a new lease of life and benefit those in need. The Make Space Not Waste campaign is just in time for your spring clean and a directory is available on the Love Essex website. This makes it easy to find those organisations accepting items and, in some cases, free collections are available.

MDC has had its Essex Police Community Safety accreditation successfully renewed. The teams have worked hard to meet the standards set by Essex Police, thus allowing a positive impact in the community.

The U-fest festival has been arranged for Friday, 15th August in the promenade park. Activities will run from 1am to 4pm and provides an opportunity for residents to find support with cost of living, family and personal support.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was in attendance and advised that due to 'Devolution' and 'Local Government Reform' it has been 'quiet' at ECC HQ; there is a draft plan for Devolution. Grants under the 'Love your Bus' scheme have been awarded to Burnham, Mayland and Woodham Walter – more grant monies will be released. The Locality Fund for County Cllrs will be open again for applications in June.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In March six offenders were recorded during six patrols over a period of three hours. During these sessions, a speed of 50 mph was recorded in a 40mph zone.

Offenders will either receive three points on their licence and a £100 fine or be offered a speed awareness course at a cost of c£100.

Solar Panels at the Village Hall: a FIT payment of £352.74 was received for the period 20th December 2024 to 22nd March 2025.

Village Hall: the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) is responsible for running the Village Hall including maintenance and fund raising. If you would like to be involved in organising a fund-raising event or would like to join the team to assist with managing the hall – please call Mrs Chris Edwards on 01621 828475 or email: chrisedwards7@hotmail.co.uk

Village Hall: if you have a celebration coming up – birthday, anniversary, wedding, christening, the village hall is available to hire – variety of rooms available, a fully equipped kitchen and plenty of parking. For details phone 01621 828475 or email: chrisedwards7@hotmail.co.uk

Cold Norton Neighbourhood Watch Group: Mrs Jackie Ralph the co-ordinator for Cold Norton's Neighbourhood Watch (NhW). If you would like information about Neighbourhood Watch or want to join the Cold Norton NhW, please contact Mrs Ralph via email: coldnorton.nhw@gmail.com There is also a NhW WhatsApp Group – again please contact Mrs Ralph for details.

Football in the Village: please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in playing football on the playing fields – children or adults.

Streetlights: If you spot an issue with any of the streetlights on Latchingdon Road, please report to the Parish Clerk.

Dogs are not permitted on the Playing Field: there is a Byelaw in place to enforce this. (All play sites fall under a Maldon District wide Public Space Protection Order [PSPO]. This means dogs aren't allowed in play sites). This area is used by children and adults for recreation and sporting activities. If you witness dog(s) in this area, please inform the Parish Council (all details please, including car number plates etc if applicable). Unfortunately, there are some people who are ignoring this Byelaw and when reminded are being rude to the residents who have pointed out the signage. The Community Police have been advised.

Village Foodbank Drop Off Point: for those in the village who are able to help others, there is a foodbank box at St Stephens Church to support people less well off in this district. All non-perishable goods required.

Pink Recycling Bags: during Pre School operational hours there will be a box outside the village hall door with these bags available for residents to collect – please only take one of each at a time. Many thanks to Pre School Staff for facilitating this service. The village shop, Londis, is also a stockist for these, or please follow this link for details of other places in the district where recycling bags are available: https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20043/recycling/9266/recycling_sack_stockists
Please note that Maldon District Council no longer provide green food waste bags.

Change to Recycling of Plastic Bags & Wrapping: 25th March 2025 Maldon District Council advised: *"Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the trial. The*

trial has proven to be extremely successful and importantly will help shape the nationwide rollout of the collection of plastic bags and wrapping.

The funding for the existing trial has come to an end but we are pleased to be able to continue to collect plastic bags & wrappings from those households that were taking part in the trial.

It is no longer necessary to separate your plastic bags and wrappings, you can now place them in your pink sack with the rest of your recycling. If you have a supply of purple sacks you can continue to use them, but they will be collected in the same vehicle as your pink sacks and they will no longer be provided.

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept pet food, baby food or other pouches which include a thick aluminium layer. You can continue to include crisp packets and sweet wrappers. The results from the trial highlighted that there are limited UK options to recycle the pouches, however, we will continuously review this and notify you should this change.”

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: <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/problem-check>

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, please contact the Clerk. Copies of the map are also available from The Norton Public House. Or the map is available to view on the Parish Council website by following this link: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/C139237.pdf>

Party in the Park 2025: will be held on Saturday 28th June. If you would like to be part of the team organising this, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Parish Council Meetings in 2025

Wednesdays: 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December.

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: clerk@cold-norton.org.uk (NB new email address) or phone 01621 829566. Please note the Clerk works part time and will respond as soon as possible.

Parish Council website: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk>