

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the December 2025 Meeting

Planning Applications: There was just one planning application received from Maldon District Council (MDC) this month for the Members to consider, namely: 25/00941/FUL PP-14391552 The Spinney, Fambridge Road: stable, fodder store and ancillary shed for electrical supply and equipment storage. The Members had no objections and made no comments.

Planning Decisions: there was just one planning decision relating to Cold Norton received from MDC for the period w/e 7th November to 28th November 2025: 25/00782/LDP Dunromin, Fambridge Road: claim for lawful development certificate (LDP) for a proposed excavation of a section of a site to allow for the construction of an outbuilding housing a swimming pool within the curtilage of a residential dwelling. MDC refused this LDP application as this would be considered an engineering operation and is not permitted by Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

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 Ms Wiffen was unable to attend this meeting but had supplied a written report for November which highlighted the Heritage Winter Talks, which focus on an aspect of local heritage or history – full details of the talks which are all free can be found on the Parish Council website within the ‘latest news’ pages: 13th January: *Bradwell and the Blackwater Estuary in the Early Middle Ages*; 6th February: *Dr Salter of Tolleshunt D’Arcy - A Larger than Life Character* and 3rd March: *Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Essex*. Cllr Wiffen’s report also included an appeal to businesses to complete a new form to ensure that changes are correct when Government changes are introduced in relation to the way Business Rates are calculated. The report also included details of Phase 2 of the project to overhaul and modernise the ‘Secret Garden’ in Promenade Park and completion of the major upgrade to the play area at West Maldon Community Centre, which will be called ‘Flo’s Place Play Area’ in memory of District Cllr Flo Shaughnessy.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was unable to attend this meeting but had supplied a written report for November advising Members that there is Apprenticeship Funding available for small and medium sized businesses <https://www.essex.gov.uk/jobs-and-apprenticeships/apprenticeships> and there is an Apprenticeship Hub to support 2026 school leavers in Essex <https://www.essexopportunities.co.uk/apprenticeship-hub/>. The report also gave details of the Chelmsford North East Bypass which is now becoming visible. Final construction of the bypass is expected by the end of summer 2026. Cllr Fleming’s report also covered the Local Government Reorganisation - Residents are encouraged to have their say on the options being put forward to the Government; for information and a link to the consultation which closed on 11th January 2026 visit: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex/local-government-reorganisation-lgr>. Cllr Fleming’s report also included details on Free Skills Bootcamps, a bursary for new childminders, flood risk awareness, an appeal

for Riverwatch Volunteers and an appeal for businesses/residents to donate unused TEC – Digital Essex will repurpose devices to pass onto children across Essex. Cllr Fleming's full report is available to view on the Parish Council website: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk/latest-news/ecc-november-update/>

New Parish Councillor: Prior to taking his place at the December Parish Council meeting Cllr Evans signed some necessary paperwork and also signed, although not a legal requirement, but in Cold Norton the Parish Council has kept going an old 'Members Declaration of Acceptance of Office' book that goes back to 1909!!!

Police Matters & Antisocial Behaviour: Members were advised that an attempted break-in and the discovery of gas canisters/boxes had been reported to the Police, who will now be undertaking more patrols in the village.

Cold Norton Neighbourhood Watch Group: as reported Cold Norton no longer has a dedicated co-ordinator for Cold Norton's Neighbourhood Watch (NhW). And that temporarily the NhW co-ordinator for Purleigh has very kindly offered to also act as the NhW co-ordinator for Cold Norton. It would be preferable if Cold Norton had its own village-based co-ordinator, especially in view of the above reported incidents. If you could take on this role, please contact the Clerk.

Speed Watch: Likewise, there is no longer a co-ordinator for the Cold Norton Speed Watch Team. Can you help with this very important role? Contact the Clerk in the first instance.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In November five offenders were recorded with a speed of 51mph recorded in a 40mph zone and 38mph in a 30mph 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.

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 Availability: 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. The main hall and the two other rooms are also available for clubs, classes, indoor sports, lessons – the options are endless. During school term time the main hall is available Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday; during school holidays the main hall is also available during the day and most evenings. The St Stephens Room is available during the day/evening Monday to Friday and weekends, and The Les Barclay Room is available daytime on Fridays and day/evening at weekends. For full details phone 01621 828475 or email: chrisedwards7@hotmail.co.uk

Football Goal Post: a new goal post has now been installed at the playing field.

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.

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>

Parish Council Meetings in 2026

Wednesdays: 7th January, 4th February, 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd 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>