

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the January 2026 Meeting

Planning Applications: There were two planning applications received from Maldon District Council (MDC) this month for the Members to consider, namely: 25/01022/FULM PP-14350416 Land East of Bridge Wick Lane, Dengie: The construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of an onshore wind electricity generating facility and associated infrastructure, comprising up to 15 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), onsite substation, access tracks, underground cabling, temporary construction compounds, temporary concrete batching plant, and landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement. The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

1. *Traffic Impact During Build: concerns particularly re Lower Burnham Road with size and number of HGV that will be involved. (Given site of development can materials not be brought in by water?) Contrary to policy T2 (Accessibility) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*
2. *Environment Impact: on the Coastal Footpath, Salt Marsh. Oyster Beds and boundary of a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), plus effect on wildlife. Contrary to policies N1 & N2 (National Environment & Green Infrastructure), D2 (Environmental Impact of New Development) and D3 (Conservation & Heritage Assets) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The second application considered was: 25/00993/FUL PP-14412890 Three Rivers Golf & Country Club: erection of steel posts to support raised safety netting along pre-existing fence line forming driving range boundary. The Members did not object to these works, but added the following comments:

Whilst the Members have no objections there are concerns: would not like to see any further development/commercialisation undertaken which would have a negative effect on the environment/wildlife i.e. impact from floodlights, increased traffic and noise pollution

Planning Decisions: there was just one planning decision relating to Cold Norton received from MDC for the period w/e 5th December to 19th December 2025, namely 25/00774/FUL Ancillary Annexe at Wild Farm Lower Burnham Road: Single storey infill extensions. Fenestration alterations including the relocation of the front door and addition of rooflight. MDC approved these works (Members has not objected to this application)

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

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was in attendance at the meeting and reminded the Members to take part in the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) consultation which was closing on 11th January 2026 and talked briefly about the postponed Mayoral and Councillor Elections. There was then an update/discussion re Cold Norton applying for a 'Love Your Bus' Grant to extend certain services; the Members were all in agreement to apply for the grant if the proposed extensions are feasible, which would also involve/benefit Purleigh and Stow Maries residents (awaiting confirmation from the Bus Operator).

Precept 2026-2027: The Councillors having initially considered budget figures at the December meeting reviewed the revised figures presented at this meeting. It was agreed to set the Precept at £49,499 - an increase of £2,468 (5.25%) over last year's precept. For a Band D property, the portion of the Council Tax for Cold Norton for the year 2026/27 will be £97.02 as opposed to £92.22 the previous year (an extra 40p per month per home).

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

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: 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>