

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From Annual General Meeting and from the May 2026 Meeting

The Parish Council Annual General Meeting was held on 6th May 2026

To confirm Members of Cold Norton Parish Council are:

Cllr Tim Dixon
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Mrs Marion Gunn
Cllr Phil Jacklin
Cllr Mrs Joanne Luck
Cllr David Myers

At the AGM officers were elected as follows:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs Luck

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Gunn

Playing Field Representative: Cllr Jacklin

Nature Conservation Area Representative: Cllr Dixon & Cllr Mrs Gunn

Village Hall Representatives: Cllr Mrs Gunn & Cllr Mrs Luck

Public Rights of Way (Footpaths) Representative: Cllr Myers

Transport Representative: Cllrs Mrs Gunn & Mrs Luck

Police/NAP Representative: Cllr Dixon

Stow Maries Aerodrome Representative: deferred to next meeting

Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils Representative: Cllrs Luck & Evans

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

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

Cllr Mrs Gunn and Cllr Mrs Luck remain as signatories.

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

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. This application has been amended by submission of revised plans/information documents.

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 following new comment/observation to be considered in addition to those above submitted in January 2026.

NB in relation to item 1 the Parish Council was contacted by phone by the developer to point out that the Lower Burnham Road would not be used but that the route was in fact via Fambridge Road turning left at Pale Pit roundabout and would be going through Latchingdon village – it was pointed out to the developer that this was not at all suitable as both Fambridge Road and the road to and through Latchingdon are both single lane roads and lorries coming along Fambridge Road in the opposite direction have to use passing places, plus there are already traffic issues through Latchingdon with ‘normal’ traffic.

- 3. HGV Traffic – figures quoted by the developer are very disingenuous (only 1.4% increase of total traffic), by comparing the lesser number of lorries to the greater number of cars going through the villages as 1 lorry is more or less equivalent to 10 cars – one lorry does not equate to one car. In addition, old properties along the route to the wind farm site will be adversely affected by the increased number of heavy vehicles.*

26/27.12.1.2 26/00254/WTPO PP-14854480 26 Station Crescent: (TPO 07/00) T19 & T20 Ash – Fell to ground level. T3, T6, T8, T10, T25 Ash – Crown reduction by 3.5m. The Members had no objections to these works but added the following comment: “The Parish Council raises no objections to these works providing they are in line with MDC’s Tree Officer’s recommendations”.

Planning Decisions: there was just one planning decision advised by MDC relating to properties in the Cold Norton Parish Council area for the period of w/e 3rd April and w/e 1st May 2026, namely: 26/00064/FUL Three Rivers Golf & Country Club: Erection of nine replacement driving range bays and ball machine canopy. MDC approved these works. (the Members had not objected).

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 in attendance at the meeting gave her report for April, which highlighted the launch of the new government funded ‘Crisis & Resilience Fund’, which provides support for families and individuals in financial hardship, including help relating to the increase on heating oil prices, so that they are able to access heating and hot water. Apply online: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/extra-financial-help/crisis-resilience-fund/4> or telephone the dedicated phone line 0300 790 0124; whilst this is being run by Southend City Council it is for anyone in the Essex County area. Cllr Wiffen also talked about MDC leading Essex in Recycling Rates and is among the top 6% of councils nationally for recycling rates. The report also includes details of the visit of the Leader of Maldon District Council, Cllr Richard Siddall, and Chief Executive, Doug Wilkinson, recently to Northey Island to meet with the National Trust. During the visit, the National Trust team outlined the latest phase in 10 years of Coastal Adaptation work across the site, which is to create a brand-new island just off the shore of Northey Island, designed specifically to provide a safe breeding habitat for some of the UK’s most vulnerable coastal bird species. The Blackwater Estuary is internationally recognised for its rich wildlife, and projects like this play a vital role in strengthening the long-term health of

the local ecosystem. By separating nesting areas from predators and rising tidal pressures, the new island aims to boost populations of species that depend on undisturbed saltmarsh and shoreline environments. This work forms part of wider efforts to protect coastal habitats, increase biodiversity and build resilience to the effects of climate change along the Essex coast. Cllr Wiffen finished her report by reminding everyone present that the following day, 7th May, is election day for County Cllrs

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was not in attendance, but had supplied a County Council report for April, which covered various topics including the fact the Essex will have five unitary authorities to replace the existing county, unitary, city, district and borough councils in Greater Essex. But in the short term nothing will change. Council services will continue to be provided by the existing councils as normal – the new authorities are not expected to come into effect until April 2028. Also included in the report were details of the 'We Rise' Mentoring Programme for young people aged 16 to 25 years. The mentors are local employers across a range of industries to help build confidence, improve CVs, prepare for interviews, explore career options and share their valuable industry knowledge. For more information visit: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2025/mentoring-scheme-connects-young-essex-residents-top-employers> In the Maldon District the ECC 'Love Your Bus' grant programme was successful in extending six daily route 99 journeys (Maldon to/from South Woodham Ferrers) with two continuing to Broomfield Hospital, which is a real benefit Cold Norton residents.

Cllr Fleming's report can be viewed in full on the Parish Council web site.

Parking in Victoria Road: inconsiderate parking is becoming a concern in this road causing issues for residents generally and obstructing sight lines when trying to exit onto Latchingdon Road; delivery vans have also had issues trying to manoeuvre past vehicles. Residents are also concerned there could be a problem if any of the emergency services needed access.

Solar Panels at Village Hall: for the period 28th December 2025 to 31st March 2026 a FIT payment of £315.18 was received.

New Residents: if you have a new neighbour, do please let the Parish Clerk know, so they can be given a footpath map and a copy of the latest Village Appraisal.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In March two offenders were recorded with a speed of 38mph recorded in a 30mph zone and 46mph recorded in a 40mph zone. In April seven offenders were recorded with a speed of 37mph recorded in a 30mph zone and 64mph 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.

Village Hall: the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) is responsible for running the Village Hall including maintenance and fund raising. The members of the current committee are now all standing down at the end of July after many, many years – grateful thanks to Alex Romang, Chris Edwards and Sue Garnham for all their hard work. The five roles to be filled are: Chairman, Treasurer, Booking Clerk, Secretary and 100 Club Organiser (some of the roles can be combined as at present,

but this is very flexible). For more information, initially please contact the Parish Clerk, details at end.

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: 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 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>