

**WE MEET AT
THE VILLAGE HALL,
COLCHESTER ROAD,
WAKES COLNE**

AT 7.15PM

ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Agenda for Meetings

are available on the Notice Board
situated near the Post Office on the A1124 and on
the Notice Board sited on Middle Green at the
junction of Inworth Lane

and our

Website - www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne

Please click on our Website
www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne
for up-to-date information

Contacts

The Councillors serving during the municipal year
2019/2020 were:

Chairman: Cllr. Stephen Scrase
Vice Chairman: Cllr. Kathy Brown

Cllr. M. Bowden
and Cllr M.Taylor

Contact can be made with any
Parish Councillor through the Parish Clerk.

Clerk to Wakes Colne Parish Council
Mrs Diane Jacob
5 Crocklands
Greenstead Green
Halstead
Essex
Tel: 07508787869

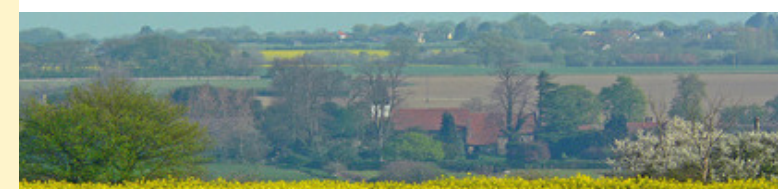
E-mail: parishclerk@wakescolne.org



WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council
Working for Your Parish

ANNUAL REPORT



Municipal Year
2019 - 2020



WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

April 2019 to May 2020

The period has been rather a roller coaster of a ride for the Council as for most of this time we operated with only four Councillors to undertake the work of seven. This meant that, in order to comply legally, we had to juggle the timing of meetings to ensure we had a quorum of Councillors. We each tried to recruit people to the Council, and I wrote to several parishioners requesting they apply, but my persuasive powers were to no avail. To try to right the ongoing shortfall in our numbers we decided to take a more assertive attitude to gaining additional Councillors. A bright and fresh-looking recruitment leaflet was produced which was delivered to Wakes Colne households.

Happily, the leaflet did its job and, as a result, we have welcomed June Fisher, Tatiana Harvey-Stotz, Angela Scrase and Helen Wastenev, who have been co-opted onto the Council. However, long-standing Councillor Maggie Bowen resigned, as she had previously intended. I thank her for her cooperation and her input during eight years as a member. She has certainly been a stoical and incisive character.

Whilst paying tribute, I also wish to honour our Parish Clerk, Diane Jacob, who carries out her role in a most professional manner and helps to advise the Council on a range of varied subjects. The Council holds the Quality Gold Award, the top benchmark for local Councils, and our Parish Clerk continues to ensure we abide by the ethos of the award as we go forward as one of a very few small Councils to achieve this distinction.

The Council has tried to run a tight ship in relation to budget control and in recent years has managed to make savings on a number of items, including on LED street lighting, auditor's fees and insurance. We have also frozen any increase in the Parish Precept for this year, which must be welcome news.

At the commencement of 2020 we were faced with a controversial planning application for a twenty berth Travellers site. Sixty-eight residents attended our January meeting to voice their opinions. Our Ward Councillor, Peter Chillingworth, was on hand to deal with the numerous questions. I thank him for his loyal support of Wakes Colne Council. I understand that the application has now been withdrawn and an amicable solution has been reached.

Once the Coronavirus Lock Down measures took hold we were obliged to cease monthly meetings at the Village Hall, but we still deal with urgent matters and planning issues to ensure the Parish is well served. I trust that, by the time you read this Annual Report, the restrictions will have eased off to some degree.

At the outset of the pandemic we were quick off the mark and delivered a leaflet to households offering a service to help house-bound residents. Several volunteers immediately came forward and we were able to help the few people who sought our help. Thank you to those volunteers!

I am confident that with a reinvigorated membership of the Council we can now proceed forward to improve life within the village for the benefit of parishioners. If you want to make a constructive comment on any Council matters then please contact us via our website: www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne

Other responsibilities are:

Public Footpaths Working Group

Members - Kathy Brown, Maggie Bowden, Stephen Scrase, Monica Taylor and 1 member of the public, David Green.

The LHP Working Group

Members - Monica Taylor and 1 member of the public, Aaron Dixey.

Planning and Liaison

Member - Stephen Scrase

Superfast Broadband Working Group

Members - Kathy Brown, one member of the public, Wakes Colne Broadband Champion, Howard Walkden.

Wakes Colne Community Award for 2019

We are pleased to announce that Marion Cordingley and Jim Taylor are the joint winners of the Wakes Colne Community Award for 2019. The scheme was implemented by Wakes Colne Parish Council to recognise local people for the work or service they undertake for the Parish. A presentation will now take place at the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2021.

Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2020

Wakes Colne Parish Council

Financial Year ending 31 March 2020

Prepared by Diane Jacob Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Opening Bank Balances as at 1st April 2019	
Current	£9,911.27
Deposit at Barclays	£15,817.31
	£25,728.58
Petty cash float (if applicable)	N/A
Add total Receipts during year	£14,908.75
Less total Payments during year	£12,781.74
Closing Balances as at 31st March 2019	£27,855.59
Represented by:	
Current Account	£12,148.19
Plus prepayments/ late cash receipts	-
LESS un-presented cheques	
Handyking 101189	£60.00
D. Jacob 101195	£2.64
HM Revenue & Customs 101196	£5.20
Essex Pension Fund 101197	£4.31
D. Jacob 101198	£43.25
Colchester Borough Council 101199	£23.74
	£139.14
Net balance of current account	£12,009.05
Deposit A/c at Barclays	£15,846.54
TOTAL NET FUNDS HELD at 31st March 2020	£27,855.59