

Meetings are usually held at the Village Hall, Colchester Rd, Wakes Colne at 19.15 on the first Wednesday of each month.

Agenda for meetings are available on the Noticeboard situated near the Post Office on the A1124 and on the Noticeboard at the junction of Middle Green and Inworth Lane and are also available on our website:

www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne

Contact may be made with any Parish Councilor through the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:

Mrs Diane Jacob,
5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green,
Halstead, Essex.

Tel. 07508787869

Email: parishclerk@wakescolne.org



Bulb planting, November 2020

Councilors serving during 2020-2021

Chairman: Stephen Scrase (to October 2020)
Chairwoman: Monica Taylor (from October 2020)
Vice-Chair: Kathy Brown (to August 2020);
Monica Taylor (August - October 2020); James Parrish
(from November 2020)

Councilors: Kathy Brown (to August 2020),
Tatiana Hardy-Stotz (to February 2021), June Fisher,
Samantha Latarche (from December 2020), Francis Mead (from
December 2020), James Parrish (from October 2020), Angela
Scrase (to October 2020), Helen Wastenev

Working Groups and Areas of Responsibility 2020-2021

Broadband: two members of the public, Kathy Brown and
Howard Walkden

Colchester Association of Local Councils Representative:
James Parrish, Monica Taylor

Climate Change: one member of the public, Jill Bruce
(from January 2021)

Defibrillator: Samantha Latarche, James Parrish,
Helen Wastenev

Facebook: Samantha Latarche

Footpaths: June Fisher, Stephen Scrase, Monica Taylor and two
members of the public, Kathy Brown and David Green

Local Highways Panel: James Parrish, Francis Mead, Angela
Scrase, Monica Taylor and one member of the public,
Aaron Dixey

Millennium Green Representative: Monica Taylor,
Helen Wastenev

Personnel: June Fisher, Tatiana Hardy-Stotz, Stephen Scrase,
Monica Taylor, Helen Wastenev

Planning: Stephen Scrase, Francis Mead

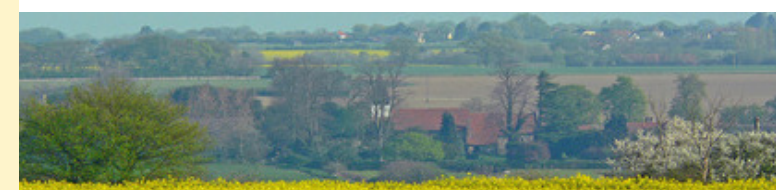
Telephone Book Exchanges: Kathy Brown, Tatiana
Hardy-Stotz, Stephen Scrase, Monica Taylor,
Helen Wastenev



WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Your Parish Council
Working for Your Parish**

ANNUAL REPORT



**Municipal Year
2020 - 2021**



WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

April 2020 to May 2021

The past year has been challenging for us all due to the pandemic. The unprecedented restrictions have also had impacts on the Council and its work. During this period it has only been possible to hold formal monthly meetings and those of working groups online. Residents will be aware of the variability of broadband connection, especially in the outlying areas of the village, and technical discontinuities led to many disruptions, the postponement of some meetings, and the resignation of my predecessor, Stephen Scrase. During the year there has been considerable movement of councilors on and off the council, due to poor broadband, and increased professional and domestic responsibilities. We hope for overdue stability in the year ahead.

My first task on becoming Chairwoman, in October 2020, has been to try to form a functional team of newly co-opted councilors, drawing on individuals' expertise and interests, with each of us taking responsibility for an area of the Council's remit. I should like to thank our Ward Councilor, Peter Chillingworth, the current Parish Councilors, the previous Councilors who have served during the year, and other volunteers who have helped with monitoring roads and footpaths, telephone book exchanges, litter picking, deliveries to housebound residents, speed watching, planting at the station, advice on climate change, for their support to our community. Thanks are, in particular, due to our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Diane Jacob, who ably and efficiently administers the Council's clerical and financial affairs on a day-to-day basis, and has sought and offered operational guidance during this year.

The Council has tried to persist with its essential roles, focusing on around twenty, sometimes complex, planning applications and local maintenance. It has been deeply frustrating that, despite our continuous reporting of potholes, signage defects, pavement restrictions and water egress, we are often unable to obtain maintenance from Essex County Council (ECC) Highways in a reasonable time frame. Indeed, we have a long list of nearly twenty issues, some without attention for at least two years. Residents are vigilant and are also urged to report highways issues on the ECC website: www.essexhighways.org/tell-us.

We have stepped up our long-running campaign for traffic calming in Station Rd, requested a zebra crossing on the A1124 and HGV restriction on Lane Rd, with applications to the Local Highways Panel. These are all needed to increase our safety. So far, they have met with refusals from the professional engineers on technical or policy grounds. The determined support of our newly elected County Councilor, Lewis Barber, and the voices of residents are needed for progress to be made on a more integrated approach.

We will not give up, as we know from our daily experience that road safety needs to catch up with road usage. The Council is also trying to gain the attention of the Environment Agency and Highways to recent flooding near the Post Office (PO), so that a system of signage and barriers may be available in advance of need.

We have more success with matters directly under our control and, in so far as has been possible during lockdowns, have begun to develop some new community-oriented projects, which should become more evident during 2021. The Council has kept the Parish Precept at the same rate and continued to make a grant to Chappel Parish Council for the children's play area in common usage. The defibrillator at the PO has been maintained and we are hoping to install another. Spring bulbs were planted and some Xmas lights and signage erected. Defective solar lights on Station Approach have been replaced. A footpath survey has been undertaken with a view to undertaking some repairs, and we are looking forward to a new footpath at Wakes Hall, which will link up our network and greatly increase public safety. This will be included in a revised walks booklet in preparation. A plant and seed swap is about to be launched at the bus shelter near the PO, and we have plans for the area to be refurbished.

Although it was not possible to hold an Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 a presentation was made to the 2019 winners of the Wakes Colne Award, Marion Cordingley and Jim Taylor, for their service to village life. The 2020 winners, the Rev. John Richardson and Christine Maskell, will shortly receive their awards. We encourage residents to interact with us via council meetings, the website (www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne) and other means, with concerns and comments so we may all continue to work together for the improvement of Wakes Colne.



Presentations to Marion Cordingley and Jim Taylor, winners of the Wakes Colne Award 2019

Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2021 Wakes Colne Parish Council Financial Year ending 31 March 2021

Prepared by Diane Jacob Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Opening Bank Balances as at 1st April 2020	
Current (net of un-presented cheques)	£12009.05
Deposit at Barclays	£15846.54
	£27,855.59
Petty cash float (if applicable)	N/A
Add total Receipts during year	£14,161.08
Less total Payments during year	£13,816.75
Closing Balances as at 31st March 2021	£28,199.92
Represented by:	
Current Account	£12,531.87
Plus prepayments/ late cash receipts	-
LESS un-presented cheques	
Graham King 101262	£20.00
MCR Carpentry 101270	£40.00
Colne-Stour Countryside Association 101277	£10.00
Colchester Borough Council 101283	£23.45
Richard Edwards Group 101284	£63.00
D. Jacob 101285	£29.28
	£185.73
Net balance of current account	£12,346.14
Deposit A/c at Barclays	£15,853.78
TOTAL NET FUNDS HELD at 31st March 2021	£28,199.92

