



Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2023
Wakes Colne Parish Council

Financial Year ending 31 March 2023

Prepared by Diane Jacob Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Opening Bank Balances as at 1st April 2022			
Current (net of un-presented cheques)	7,164.86		
Deposit at Barclays	15,855.38		
			23,020.24
Petty cash float (if applicable)		N/A	
Add total Receipts during year		22,037.58	
Less total Payments during year		24,982.72	
Closing Balances as at 31st March 2023			20,075.10
Represented by:			
Current Account	4,249.27		
Plus prepayments/ late cash receipts	-		
LESS un-presented cheques	64.17		
Net balance of current account		4,185.10	
Deposit A/c at Barclays		15,890.00	
TOTAL NET FUNDS HELD at 31st March 2023			20,075.10
Audited			

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:
 Mrs Diane Jacob, 5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Essex.
 Tel. 07508787869. Email: parishclerk@wakescolne.org

Councillors serving May 2022 – April 2023

Chairwoman: Monica Taylor

Vice-Chair: Francis Mead

Councillors: Emma Coney, June Fisher, Samantha Latarche, Helen Wastenev and, since February 2023, Frances Hounslow

Working Groups and Areas of Responsibility 2022-23

Broadband: one member of the public, Howard Walkden

Colchester Association of Local Councils Representative: Emma Coney

Climate Change: one member of the public, Jill Bruce

Defibrillator: June Fisher and Helen Wastenev

Facebook: Samantha Latarche

Flood Defence Scheme: Francis Mead, Monica Taylor and members of the public, the Flood Barrier Team

Footpaths: June Fisher, Monica Taylor, Helen Wastenev and three members of the public, Kathy Brown, David Green and Richard Pride

Memories of Living in Wakes Colne & Chappel: Monica Taylor and four members of the public, Kath Beck, Kathy Brown, Maggie Bowden and Val Sayer

Millennium Green Representative: Helen Wastenev

Personnel: June Fisher, Sam Latarche and Helen Wastenev

Planning: Francis Mead

Planters and Plant and Seed Swap: Monica Taylor and one member of the public, Kath Beck

Telephone Book Exchanges: Helen Wastenev and Sam Latarche

Village Hall Committee Representative: Monica Taylor



WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council Working for Your Parish

ANNUAL REPORT



Municipal Year 2022-2023



WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

April 2022 – May 2023

In this busy year we have finally fulfilled some long-standing projects. First, and most noticeably for all residents and those who pass through our village, is the Vehicle Activated System recently installed near the Village Hall, mostly funded by WCPC with support from County Councillor Barber's Community Fund. This is designed to assist with speed reduction by vehicles entering the village centre and travelling east towards Chappel Corner by making drivers more aware of their speed. Let's hope it will encourage everyone to keep within the speed limit of 30mph and complement the activities of the local Speed Watch group.

Secondly, we are publishing a revised, updated and extended booklet featuring four walks of varying lengths, *Walks In and Around Wakes Colne and Chappel*. This is to commemorate the addition of a new walk of about 4mils based around the right of way alongside Tyburn Hill, kindly made possible by Nicholas Percival as a S106 community contribution upon completion of the development of Wakes Colne Park. This footpath ensures the safety of pedestrians and walkers from the boundary at Cammacks, on the inside of the hedge at Tyburn Hill, to where the footway commences at the Wakes Colne sign. This new footpath was celebrated by a walk organised by WCPC last autumn and is being enjoyed by local walking groups as it joins up our footpath network and takes in many of the sights of the village, often from new perspectives. Do try it when you get a copy of the booklet, which has been supported and promoted by the Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership and local volunteers and is to be made freely available to all residents from local sources.

Another S106 contribution, made by Peter Chillingworth in association with the development of the barn at Oak Farm, made it possible for the acquisition of four large planters located adjacent to our two bus shelters on the A1124, maintained by volunteers, and two smaller planters, maintained by the Station Adopter team, located at the new listening bench at the front of the old Chappel and Wakes Colne station building. They are brightening our environment.

In the autumn we held a successful meeting to inaugurate an oral history project, *Memories of Living in Wakes Colne and Chappel*, which was enjoyed by over 35 residents who reminisced, often amusingly, over refreshments. A

small team of volunteers is now recording memories, stretching from the end of WW2 to the present and reflections on changes in life here, of those born and bred here in the village, long-term residents, members of community organisations and groups, and those running local businesses. We are grateful for the support of a grant from Ward Councillor Sunnucks' Locality Fund. As part of the Colchester Recalled project, which has kindly loaned the recording devices, the voice recordings will be lodged with the Essex Record Office and the materials donations will be located at the University of Essex, and we hope to produce a project booklet in due course.

During the year we have continued daily with our statutory responsibilities, which are reviewed and discussed at our regular monthly meetings, and which all residents are welcome to attend in order to bring their concerns to our notice or to represent their interests. We have enjoyed presentations by speakers on climate change, station adopting and encouraging liaison about cultural and leisure facilities with Colchester City Council (CCC), and have recently supported a public meeting, together with three contiguous parishes, on consideration of a community-based solar project. There have been several major and some challenging planning applications on which we are consulted by CCC, who make the decisions. We manage the maintenance of grass mowing, footpaths, lighting, the bus shelters, defibrillator, salt provision, the telephone book exchanges and gave the usual grant to Chappel Parish Council (CPC) for the village play area and to Station Adopters for a noticeboard. We have kept within budget and maintained the annual precept at the same rate for 2023-2024, through using some funds in hand and obtaining grants, in contrast to CCC and ECC. We have reviewed our policies and revised our complaints procedure.

The greatest ongoing frustration occurs in connection with ECC Highways matters, and an ongoing reported list of around 20 defects (potholes, bank collapses and signage defects) which, with the exceptions of installed HGV restriction on Lane Rd and agreed flood signage for Wakes Colne Post Office, fail to get attention. In the current economic climate, the state of our roads is unlikely to improve until they become emergency hazards. In particular, in spite of our continuous and well documented concerns and complaints about vehicle speed and lack of pedestrian and driver safety over 20 years in Station Rd and at Chappel Corner, to my great regret our suggestions for 20mph and traffic calming have not yet resulted in any concrete proposals by ECC Highways,

despite many statements that matters were being progressed. Public safety is too important to be neglected because it is in a rural location where the situation is perceived to be too challenging or expensive to resolve. The campaign for Station Rd traffic calming will go on!

The Wakes Colne Award for 2022 is being presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2023 to Peter Chillingworth for his very many contributions to the life of Wakes Colne and Chappel, especially as a previous Chairman of WCPC, as our Ward Councillor for 20 years, and as a CBC Borough Councillor, Mayor, and, from November 2022, an Alderman.



Thanks are due to all Councillors, especially the Vice-Chair, Francis Mead, and to the Parish Clerk, Diane Jacob, for their support, and all the volunteers and friends of WCPC who, in addition to those listed in this report, undertake various activities including speed watch, litter picking, contributing to the plant and seed swap, walks booklet production and other community endeavours. We appreciate the efforts of County Councillor Barber and Ward Councillor Sunnucks for their interest in our community and offering financial support for our projects. This is my final annual report as Chairwoman as I am not seeking re-election in May 2023. It has been a privilege to serve on WCPC for the past 12 years and, since October 2020, as Chairwoman. During this time, we have developed an effective team with clear lines of responsibility and can point to many activities and achievements. I very much hope that, although not all currently serving Councillors will continue, those who remain will offer leadership and other residents will step forward to serve our community through the remit and important work of this Council.