



Wakes Colne Parish Council

www.wakescolne.org

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

Chairman's Report 2015/2016

2015/16 has been another busy year for the parish council. There is never a lack of varied content for monthly agendas. Matters that arise are reviewed and dealt with effectively. Items that appear frequently include reviewing numerous planning applications, complaints about potholes and excess water on roads, and requests for limiting the speed of traffic through the village. Annually, we set the Precept (which was raised by just over 1%); review and renew contracts (i.e.: grass cutting, liability insurance, advisory contracts and affiliations to various organisations); and review grant requests from local organisations.

Projects are much the same as last year, though they do, of course, require updating. Much personal time is spent by Councillors who are members of working parties, attending meetings, planning, liaising with outside contacts, and carrying out tasks. All of these are carried out with enthusiasm. The Parish Council owe special thanks to our volunteers for giving their time to help with projects.

Public Footpaths within Wakes Colne. Councillors Monica Taylor, Kathy Brown, Maggie Bowden and Stephen Scrase and a member of the public, David Green, continue to give their time willingly in order that the public footpaths within the parish are in good order. The working party work tirelessly to review footpaths and either repair problems themselves or liaise with the Public Rights of Way Officer at Essex County Council to undertake the work. Wakes Colne Book Exchange. Councillor Stephen Scrase continues to keep the book exchange in order with a good/new supply of books to borrow/exchange. This has been a successful venture with ongoing use by residents of both parishes. Many thanks to Stephen for the time and effort spent during the last year.

Local Highway Panel. The LHP working party, Councillors Stella Hounslow, Monica Taylor and Allan Hannington, and a member of the public, Aaron Dixey, are continuing consultations with the LHP for a footway and traffic calming along Station Road. Progress can only be classed as very, very slow. We feel that our proposal has been put on the back burner by the LHP, possibly due to its cost and complexity. The Parish Council have decided that, as the proposal is now well into the 4th year, we are going to make an even more concerted effort to try to bring it to a successful conclusion to increase safety for all who use the road.

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 - Allan Hannington, Stella Hounslow, Monica Taylor and 1 member of the public Aaron Dixey.

Planning and Liaison

Member – Allan Hannington.

Superfast Broadband Working Group

Members – Kathy Brown, Allan Hannington and Stephen Scrase.

Personnel Committee

Members – Maggie Bowden, Allan Hannington and Stella Hounslow.

Village Hall Representative: Stephen Scrase.

Millennium Green Representative: Monica Taylor.

I would like to thank Councillors for their support and commitment in the last year, and for the hours spent in undertaking these many projects, which have required expertise and much energy, and for giving generously of their time.

Diane Jacob, our Clerk, has also been busy. She has succeeded in attaining The Local Council Award Scheme Foundation. Wakes Colne was one of the first parish councils in Essex to successfully complete the Foundation Level in the National Pilot 2014. We are very proud to have achieved this award. Many thanks to Diane who worked hard for Wakes Colne and thanks to the input by Councillors. A certificate of attainment was awarded to Wakes Colne Parish Council by Joy Darby, CEO of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC), at our April meeting.

In the last couple of months our accounts for 2015/16 were audited (a yearly occurrence) and glowing remarks were made on Diane's work by the Auditor "This year working with your clerk has been a joy and there is nothing of significance that I would like to (let alone need to) bring to your attention. The Council's record keeping and compliance with Financial Regulations and good practice are exemplary." I would like to thank Diane, on behalf of the Parish Council, for the commitment to improve and maintain the required compliances and records for the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will continue to work for Wakes Colne parish to the best of its ability. The Parish Council's website contains much information, ranging from profiles of Councillors to council documents and policies, planning applications, minutes of meetings and agendas, and more. Information can be accessed via www.wakescolne.org

Cllr. Stella Hounslow, Chairman

Wakes Colne Parish Council