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Wakes Colne Parish Council

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th. June 2024 at 7.15pm in Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall

Present: Cllrs W. Sunnucks (Chair), P. Chillingworth, B. Walsh and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).
There were also 20 members of the public present.

090/2024 Chairman's welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a minute's silence in memory of the local resident who lost her life due to a road traffic accident. The Chairman asked for any resident to speak. Residents voiced their concerns over the traffic numbers along Station Road. The road is not wide enough for the vehicles and pedestrians using the roadway. Nothing has been done to rectify this problem. More pedestrians with children using Station Road than ever before. Many thousands of pounds have been spent on speed surveys. Numerous attempts to have a footpath and traffic calming schemes. This accident was inevitable and residents mentioned numerous times that it has taken a death to bring this to the fore again. The road needs widening or to be made one-way. A resident suggested parking residents' cars in the road to act to try and slow the traffic down. Also, having planters placed in the road as a traffic calming effect. The Clerk to ask Essex Police for their report.

Can a consensus be resurrected to have a footpath on a long-term basis to be explored? A solution in the short-term is desperately needed. Cllr W. Sunnucks informed the meeting that ECC Cllr L. Barber to attend this meeting tonight. Cllr L. Barber stated he will try and make the meeting. A resident said that a solution will not be found as traffic conditions change. Cllr W. Sunnucks asked for volunteers to organise a local group to stop the speeding.

Ask Highways if they have a solution to avoid any further accidents / fatalities.

Cllr W. Sunnucks suggested getting the local MP B. Jenkin and ECC Cllr L. Barber involved to put pressure on Essex Highways to deal with the issue in Station Road. A press interview is happening at tomorrow's residents' home. ECC Cllr T. Cunningham to be invited to the next WCPC meeting.

A further update from ECC Cllr L. Barber states that the last position of Station Road as he understands it is that we have an outstanding application for a variable 30/20mph. Most options have been explored before with a variety of reasons for not being progressed. For example, I understand the footpath did not go ahead as not all households were prepared to lose a strip of their garden for it. The chicanes I believe had objections due to reducing the width to a level that was too narrow, or would prohibit permissible traffic (along those lines, I'll dig out more information).

It is a complex site but some of the more straightforward proposals I have made ie moving the 40 mph back or 20 mph have not been so supported by Highways, which is frustrating. Once I hear from Tom C or the police commissioner I will let you know. I'm not sure whether they will be able to do site visits during the pre-election period by the way, nor before police investigations have concluded- I'm sure they'll be able to confirm when queried

091/2024 Apologies for Absence No apologies were received

092/2024 Declaration of Members interests

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda
None Declared

093/2024 To approve the minutes of the last meeting of Wakes Colne Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the WCPC Meetings held on 1st. May 2024. **All Agreed**

094/2024 Call for sites – update from Cllr W. Sunnucks. Councillors to discuss the following points

1. Clearing vegetation from the footpath along the A1124
2. Repairing potholes along the A1124 (properly)
3. Creating a footpath along station road so the shop, the station and the village hall can all be safely accessed on foot (difficult in practice, but not impossible). This was discussed at item 090/2024
4. Traffic calming measures on Station Road. This was discussed at item 090/2024
5. The village description. A description of the village has been produced. WCPC needs to communicate with Chappel to make sure that both Parish Councils to work together.
6. The possible meeting with officers. CCC will only allow 4 Councillors to attend the meeting.

095/2024 Winter salt bags for 2024/2025

Councillors decided not to participate in this years Winter Salt Bag scheme.

096/2024 Planning Applications. No applications have been submitted

097/2024 Planning Decisions made by CCC affecting Wakes Colne

240594 - Lavender Cottage, Lower Green, Wakes Colne, Essex, CO6 2AZ

Replacement porch. **Approve Conditional**

098/2024 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank balances as at 31st. May 2024

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31st. May 2024

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/2025

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/2025

- c) To approve payments for June 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial Requirements. **All Agreed**

- d) Update on Internet Banking with Unity Trust Bank

The Clerk informed the meeting that Internet Banking with Unity Trust Bank is still at the application stage. The clerk has chased UTB for an update on when the account will be opened

099/2024 Update on converting emails to .gov.uk

The new emails for Councillors and the Clerk are already to set up. The Clerk to circulate to Councillors the log in instructions and temporary passwords.

100/2024 Garden at Lower Green – Cllr P. Chillingworth

A resident at Lower Green complaining about an overhanging hedge. It is a substantial hedge which has been regularly pruned.

101/2024 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, representatives on village committees and Parish Council working groups

Cllr P. Chillingworth is undertaking to compile a list of volunteers to help around the village. When is the next CCC LHP.

CALC inform of new Clerk

Contact Essex Ambulance Service to return the defibrillator

102/2024 Items for next agenda

Volunteers for Station Road

103/2024 To confirm date and time of next meeting. THURSDAY 25th. JULY 2024 at 7.15pm

Councillors to note 2024 meeting dates 04.09.24: 02.10.24: 06.11.24: 04.12.24

104/2024 Closure of the meeting

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

WSunnucks

**Willam Sunnucks
Chairman**

25th. July 2024