

**Minutes of the Wakes Colne Parish Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm  
(meeting delayed starting due to discussions taking place with Cllr Sunnucks)  
in Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall**

In the Chair: Cllr. Stocker

Present: Cllr. J. Fisher and Cllr. H. Wastenev

Parish Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob

No members of the public.

Cllr Sunnucks left after item 23/201

	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
23/198	All Members	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence.</b> The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr. S. Latache (due to holiday).
23/199	All Members	<b>Declaration of Interests.</b> A non-pecuniary declaration of interest (Para 9.1 of the Local Authority Code of Conduct) was received and accepted from Cllr. Stocker relating to agenda item number 23/206 Item 1 because she is the Wakes Colne Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.
23/200	All Members	<b>Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.</b> Not present.
23/201	All Members	<b>Ward and County Councillors to address the members if present.</b> Cllr Barber not present. Cllr Sunnucks updated the council and discussed locality funding and S106 funding also the financial position of Colchester City Council. He suggested to the Parish Council to consider sending an invite to Mark Healy Community & Partnerships Officer at Colchester City Council to attend and further discuss S106 funding at a future Parish Council meeting, Clerk to send invitation. The call for sites consultation is now open Colchester City Council are also seeking public input on the draft Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) methodology. The draft methodology can be viewed on the public consultation website comments can be submitted using the online consultation portal until Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 discussed areas for potential future planning, the strategic plan and how Colchester will be looking at sites.
23/202	All Members	<b>Minutes.</b> Confirmed that the 6 <sup>th</sup> September minutes have already been approved at the October Parish Council meeting. Confirmed receipt of the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 and it was resolved that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Stocker, seconded by Cllr. Fisher; all in favour, resolution passed.
23/203	All Members	<b>Planning Matters.</b> <b>Item 1.</b> Updates. Reference No. 231780 Loveney's Farm, Middle Green, Wakes Colne, Colchester, CO6 2BJ The decision made by Colchester City Council: Prior Approval Required (Approved) <b>Item 2.</b> No new applications.
23/204	All Members	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes.</b> <b>Item 1.</b> Station Road – acknowledgement received 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 - update from Cllr Barber sent to us on 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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Signed.....  
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

		<p>20mph scheme, unfortunately, we are not given any timeframes for the validation stage due to the number of schemes in validation. However, as I have asked for it to be a priority scheme, I am hoping for an update on it in our December meeting.</p> <p><b>Item 2.</b> Previous minute number 20/195 Item 2. Zebra Crossing – acknowledgement received reference number LCOL193018 - survey carried out, update sent from Cllr. Barber on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the movement of the bus stop was not supported by Essex Highways on safety grounds. further solutions are to be discussed.</p> <p><b>Item 3.</b> Previous minute number 21/074 Flooding near the Post Office – signage funded Cllr Barber - The cabinet has yet to approve the rollover funding for these schemes, while we fully expect them to do so, it has not yet happened. Update sent from Cllr Barber on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the chairs of the LHP had been informed of the cabinet member decision on this and I duly wrote to our chair for an update. The chair has had to go back to the cabinet member for clarity on what is being funded as they did not feel it was clear. There is now a new cabinet member though and they are waiting for a response.</p> <p><b>Item 4.</b> Vegetation overgrowth from Wakes Hall down to the Village Hall, Colchester Road A1124 reported again on 5/6/2023 Highways ref 2866323, update received from Cllr. Barber on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, he has been following this up and he is waiting for the inspection report.</p> <p><b>Item 5.</b> Cllr Barber has been approached by residents about restrictions down Crepping Hall Road, the data received confirm HGV usage was about 1% of vehicles and given access would still be maintained, suspect that this would be insufficient to justify intervention.</p>
<b>23/205</b>	All Members	<p><b>VAS Station Road.</b></p> <p>Previous minute number 23/130 VAS systems. Station Road VAS - update from Cllr Barber on current situation regarding testing and repair/replacement of the existing Essex County Council VAS.</p> <p>To consider asking Highways to carry out a speed survey in Station Road at a cost of £350 to establish what the current average speed readings are. Update received from Cllr Barber on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 he is waiting for a response from officers to follow up comments.</p>
<b>23/206</b>	All Members	<p><b>Grant Funding Applications received for consideration, items to then be budgeted for (Payment made in the next financial year 2024/2025 precept (May 2024)).</b></p> <p>To consider applications received.</p> <p><b>Item 1.</b> Chappel &amp; Wakes Colne Village Hall – Requesting £1,496.88 - for new window blinds. Grant request approved.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Fisher, seconded by Cllr. Wasteney; all in favour, resolution passed.</p> <p><b>Item 2.</b> Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters Group – Requesting £350.00 - To plant up, make a ‘garden’ on, a neglected plot at the entrance to the railway station. This is to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the opening of the viaduct, railway line, and station in 1849.</p> <p>Grant request approved, due to the nature of the request a cheque to be on the December agenda for payment (money to come from this financial year budget 2022/23 not 2024/2025).</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Stocker, seconded by Cllr. fisher; all in favour, resolution passed.</p> <p><b>Item 3.</b> Chappel Parish Council requesting £500.00 for play equipment maintenance. Grant request approved.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Stocker, seconded by Cllr. Wasteney; all in favour, resolution passed.</p>
<b>23/207</b>	All Members	<p><b>Footpaths.</b></p> <p>Cllr Fisher updated that due to the weather conditions to revisit this item in the new year.</p>
<b>23/208</b>	All Members	<p>To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, representatives on village committees and Parish Council working groups.</p> <p>The defibrillator was discussed by Cllr Stocker, Cllr Wasteney and Cllr Fisher on how often it was checked and information recorded, it was confirmed that it is checked and recorded at least once a month so no need to register with the Community heartbeat trust webnos system which would require checks to be reported every week.</p> <p>The Chairman attended a Village Hall Management Committee meeting and also confirmed that she had attended online training held by the EALC regarding understanding precepts invoice received to be on the December agenda for approval/payment.</p>

<b>23/209</b>	All Members	<p><b>Local Plan - Call for Sites.</b></p> <p>To confirm receipt of e-mail from Colchester City Council asking for call for sites.</p> <p>The Call for Sites is an opportunity for groups including local residents, landowners, developers and other stakeholders to suggest sites that they would like to be considered to inform the preparation of the Local Plan. It is important to note, the Call for Sites exercise will not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for development. All sites will need to be further assessed and the overall strategy for the Local Plan will be informed by a number of evidence base documents and feedback from consultations. The submission of a site through the Call for Sites process does not give them any planning status, nor does it determine any future planning status.</p> <p>This item was discussed and noted under item 23/201 above.</p>																														
<b>23/210</b>	All Members	<p><b>New Items for next agenda.</b></p> <p>Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item, LGA 12 10 (2) (b) states that business must be specified therefore the council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.</p> <p>To review the Wakes Colne Parish Council grant funding policy.</p> <p>Earls Colne Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan to confirm that Wakes Colne Parish Cllrs have reviewed it and to send any comments.</p>																														
<b>23/211</b>	All Members	<p><b>Clerk's Report.</b></p> <p>Received and noted.</p>																														
<b>23/212</b>	All Members	<p><b>Precept/Budget for 2024/2025.</b></p> <p>As required by section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councillors are obliged to leave discussions where they have a disclosable pecuniary Interest. To participate in the setting of a precept/budget for the Council, the councillors will require a dispensation, and for this purpose, Wakes Colne Parish Council resolves to delegate to the Clerk the power to grant a dispensation from exclusion to all Councillors for the purpose of considering and setting the precept/budget. Proposed by Cllr. Stocker, seconded by Cllr. Wastaney; all in favour, resolution passed.</p>																														
<b>23/213</b>	All Members	<p><b>Precept/Budget 2024/2025.</b></p> <p>The draft budget was discussed, the Chairman confirmed that the current precept would not cover the new budget, further consideration and discussion required so that the item can be on the December agenda to be set.</p> <p>Percept to be discussed and set at the January meeting as awaiting further information tax band rates etc from Colchester.</p>																														
<b>23/214</b>	All Members	<p><b>Financial Matters.</b></p> <p>1) Financial Statement (Items to be approved for payment and signed as per payment schedule).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>CHEQUE NO.</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chappel &amp; Wakes Colne Village Hall Inv.No. 0923 &amp; 1023</td> <td>101567</td> <td>64.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPB Landscapes Inv.No. 297</td> <td>101568</td> <td>60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HandyKing (Painting Book Exchange near the post office inside and outside, repainting the noticeboard).</td> <td>101569</td> <td>267.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EE Inv. No. V02155340707</td> <td>DD</td> <td>21.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. Jacob (Salary for November)</td> <td>SO</td> <td>650.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. Jacob (Salary adjustment for November)</td> <td>101570</td> <td>41.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essex Pension Fund (for November)</td> <td>SO</td> <td>210.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essex Pension Fund (Adjustment for November)</td> <td>101571</td> <td>5.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. Jacob (expenses for October as per receipts)</td> <td>101572</td> <td>45.33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Stocker, seconded by Cllr. Fisher; all in favour, resolution passed.</p> <p><b>Item 2. Monthly Budget Statement.</b></p> <p>Received and noted.</p>		CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL	Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall Inv.No. 0923 & 1023	101567	64.00	JPB Landscapes Inv.No. 297	101568	60.00	HandyKing (Painting Book Exchange near the post office inside and outside, repainting the noticeboard).	101569	267.50	EE Inv. No. V02155340707	DD	21.26	D. Jacob (Salary for November)	SO	650.00	D. Jacob (Salary adjustment for November)	101570	41.93	Essex Pension Fund (for November)	SO	210.00	Essex Pension Fund (Adjustment for November)	101571	5.89	D. Jacob (expenses for October as per receipts)	101572	45.33
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		<p>Chairman asked for an update regarding online banking, the Clerk confirmed that Cllrs would need to contact the bank and ask to be signed up for online banking (not something the Clerk can do as Parish Cllrs will need to be ID verified for this service).</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Chairman has seen and checked all the bank statements and documents for the Parish Council in order to produce a draft budget (when the Clerk attended the budget meeting).</p> <p>Chairman stated that funds would need to be transferred from the business reserve account into the current account, amount to be confirmed by the Chairman and the item to be on the next agenda.</p> <p>Chairman requested the Clerk to explore alternative Barclay deposit account options for more attractive interest rates.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed her personal opinions to the Clerk and left the meeting at 9.45pm.</p>
23/215	All Members	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting.</b> Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December (7.15pm)</p>

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.