

WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairwoman's Report

We hope that you have enjoyed the reprinted copies of *Lost Chappel and Wakes Colne*, and our annual report in your summer reading and that you will find the list of contacts in and about Wakes Colne useful in the months ahead. Councillors delivered these documents by hand, discovering some places and boundaries new to them, and that many houses do not have accessible or obvious letter boxes!

We were pleased at last to be able to meet in person for the first time as a council in the village hall in June and July and hope to be able to continue to do so in the coming months. In person meetings make it much easier to receive information, have a discussion, make decisions and transact business efficiently. At our July meeting I was delighted to be able to present the 2020 Wakes Colne Award for community service jointly to our former Rector, Rev. John Richardson and Mrs Christine Maskell. For over 30 years each of them has made many contributions to the religious and spiritual life of church goers and residents of Wakes Colne and Chappel and to social life by liaising with the wider community and school.

Presentation of the 2020 Wakes Colne Award to Rev. John Richardson and Mrs Christine Maskell (Left to Right: Stephen Maskell, Christine Maskell, Rev. John Richardson, Mrs Jane Richardson, Cllr. Dr. Monica Taylor, Chairwoman WCPC, Cllr. Mr Peter Chillingworth).



Together with the help of our new County Councillor, Lewis Barber, and Ward Councillor, Peter Chillingworth, we have been trying to make progress with a long list of extant Highways issues but, with the exception of a few signage repairs, this is frustratingly slow, especially with regard to clearance of the now very overgrown pavement along the A1124, which requires Highways to approve temporary traffic lights to ensure safety of the work undertaken. We seem to go round in circles! We are also investigating the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign in the vicinity of the village hall, but again this also needs Highways approval. Through Cllr. Barber we did have a Zoom meeting with the new portfolio holder for Highways, County Councillor Lee Scott, and senior members of his team, concerning traffic calming and pedestrian safety on Station Rd, and he volunteered to come on a site visit, for which we currently await a date.

At Cllr. Chillingworth's instigation, and with Chappel Parish Council, we met senior regional members of the Environment Agency to discuss flooding around the area of the Post Office and shop and, following technical advice received, we are currently considering future flood prevention measures. This summer has seen a lot of work on improving broadband connectivity in our area and this has resulted in some damage to the greensward on Chappel Corner and some islands, as at Lane Rd; some areas have been reseeded and are growing back and other parts are awaiting restoration, as we had planned anyway this summer. This will include improvement to a pedestrian area at the junction of Station Rd and Station Approach. With the kind agreement of the East Anglian Railway Museum, we also hope to locate two salt bins in this vicinity and in the next newsletter should be able to inform you of availability of salt for the winter.

The Plant and Seed Swap, established in June in the bus shelter near the PO, has been moderately well patronised but could do with an ongoing supply of new plants. Thanks to all those who have donated some and to the small group who water the plants. If you would be willing to join this group in future, please contact the Parish Clerk who can give you the combination lock number for the watering can located with the water butt at the rear of the shelter. We will try to keep the Plant and Seed Swap going until mid-October as early autumn is a good time for putting plants in the garden.

In readiness for what we hope will be a launch of a new footpath and some walks in our area in the spring, a small group of councillors and volunteers have also begun some footpath clearance and tidying tasks. We are aiming to undertake work on the third Monday of each month, so please join us on 20th September. Please contact us through the Parish Clerk for the location.

Members of the Footpath Working Group clearing the overgrown steps and handrail of Footpath 13 from Spring Gardens Rd in August.



As a result of the advertisement, we placed together with Chappel Parish Council in the last Village Reporter, we received very few expressions of interest in finding out more about a Neighbourhood Plan. However, we are trying to source a speaker for a public meeting

possibly in October. So please look out for more information on noticeboards, our website: e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wakescolne.parishcouncil> and feel free to attend our monthly meetings, the next will be in the village hall on October 6th at 19.15.

Monica J. Taylor (Dr.), Chairwoman, WCPC