

Wakes Colne Parish Council

I would like to introduce myself as Wakes Colne Parish Council's new Chairman. I feel privileged to now hold this position and, having lived in the village just shy of 30 years I am, hopefully, equipped to serve Wakes Colne residents in this role. A big thank you for the work of Monica Taylor and to the other Councillors who chose not to stand for re-election in May. We have big boots to fill.

That of course brings me on to our extraordinary Parish Council. We work together as a great team, serving Wakes Colne with the resident's interests at heart. However, there are but four of us.

We have three **Council Vacancies** and would dearly love to have some new Councillors join us. If you are interested, please contact Diane Jacob, our Parish Clerk parishclerk@wakescolne.org for further information or come along to one of our meetings (see dates below) and meet us in person.

Some welcome news on the **VAS system** positioned close to the Village Hall on the A1124. A software update in July has resolved the early teething problems and it now works as intended. In fact, we are now able to provide the Speed Watch Team with various statistics that help clarify traffic trends and will assist in planning Speed Watch sessions. As always, we thank Patrick and the Speed watch team for all they do for us.

Whilst the **VAS system on Station Road** is operating, it is getting rather old now and is not working as it should. This has been reported to Councillor Lewis Barber who is fighting our corner for it to be repaired/replaced.

The booklet '**Walks In and Around Wakes Colne & Chappel**', an initiative started by Monica Taylor and completed by the Wakes Colne walks booklet team is now available, free of charge to residents of Chappel and Wakes Colne. Please see the separate article in this edition of the Village Reporter for further information how to pick one up.

Unfortunately, the **WW1 Commemorative Tree** planted by Wakes Colne Parish Council in 2018 has sadly not survived. The good news is that we have now, with the help of the Millennium Green Trust, replaced it with a new Tulip Tree. This variety of tree is part of the magnolia family, good for insects & bees and is known for its large flowers superficially resembling a tulip. It is positioned on the Millennium Green, opposite the orchard along with the original plaque.

Our **Footpaths Working Group** were hard at work in July, clearing Whistle Walk so that walkers may safely enjoy the path. Further dates for footpath clearance sessions are being planned for September, so watch out on the notice boards and social media for details if you would like to join in and help.

Potholes. Don't forget to report any major road surface, pavement or pothole issues to Essex County Council online www.essexhighways.org/tell-us
You will then receive a reference number which you need to e mail to cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk who will monitor progress.

Parish Council Meetings

Our meetings are held in The Village Hall at 7.15pm. The next dates are:
Wednesday 6th September 2023
Wednesday 4th October 2023
Wednesday 1st November 2023
Wednesday 6th December 2023

If you have any concerns or suggestions that the village and residents might benefit from, please do not hesitate to contact Diane,
parishclerk@wakescolne.org in the first instance.

Denise Stocker
Chairman, Wakes Colne Parish Council
Chairman@wakescolne.org