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Wakes Colne Parish Council

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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

After a very nice summer and a small break in August the Parish Council resumed the monthly council meetings in September. The meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. Notification of meetings is on the parish notice board at least 3 working days in advance. If there is anything you would like to ask the Parish Council you are very welcome to attend or you can telephone or email the Clerk.

WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME The Parish Council have again taken delivery of winter salt bags. If anybody would like to volunteer to take responsibility for salt bags (to be used only on public footpaths and highways) in the event of bad weather, please contact Diane our parish clerk if you require any.

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL LHP (safety for pedestrians using for Station Road) The Parish Council continue to ask the LHP (the Chair person Cllr Anne Brown) at what stage the safety of pedestrians on Station Road is currently at. In July/ August two points in Station Road had traffic counters put across the highway, one at the top of Station Road/Bures Road and one at about 100m from the jct of the A1124. The clerk has emailed the LHP asking what was being counted i.e. speed and/or vehicle numbers, and what the result was. At the time of writing this (mid October) there has not been a reply. It is now coming up to 2 YEARS since a suggestion on what the parishioners would like to see regarding safety was devised and submitted to the LHP. Perhaps the next question is why is it taking so long to make a decision on pedestrian safety?

Proposed Public Footpath: Station Approach to Spring Gardens Rd. The Parish Council are on the verge of purchasing a strip of land from the East Anglian Railway Museum (EARM) with the aim of creating a new public footpath from Station Approach to Spring Gardens Road. This will enable us to eventually dedicate the route and secure the public footpath officially with ECC Public Rights of Way (PROW). We have been able to secure a grant from Essex County Council for the land purchase, by showing that this would be beneficial for all pedestrians in securing safe access to and from Spring Gardens/Station Rd by avoiding the very dangerous Station Rd/Bures Rd.

It has been a long negotiation with the EARM. At the time of writing this report (mid October) we are waiting for the EARM to trim back some of the hedgerow so that final

agreement and “pegging out” the route can take place. As soon as this is completed we will be able to instruct solicitors to proceed.

Public footpaths In Wakes Colne Parish During September the Footpath Working Party (Maggie Bowden, Kathy Brown, David Green, Stephen Scrase and Monica Taylor (Chair)) surveyed our local footpaths and compiled a list of maintenance tasks. On the bright sunny morning of 16th October, David and Monica, together with four female volunteers from University of Essex, cleared vegetation to improve access on 5 footpaths and erected 4 waymarker posts on 2 footpaths. What could be better, walking our footpaths and enabling access to our peaceful landscape! We should like some more local volunteers for a few hours twice a year. Please contact the parish clerk if you can help or if you spot a footpath problem needing attention. We are also trying to get materials resourced from ECC to improve access, by means of steps and handrails, on two well used footpaths (11 from Bures Rd to the railway line) and 12 (down from Station Cottages) and hope to be working with Fritch Way Volunteers on these projects during the winter months.

Commemorating WW1 The parish Council have pondered for several months on how to commemorate WW1 whilst remembering the parishioners from our villages who gave their lives and those who fought in the Great War. One good suggestion was that through education, our young people would also remember them and give thanks to them in the years ahead. We finally agreed to donate £250 to Chappel School so that pupils could have an organised visit of a WW1 Experience, this comprises looking at and finding out about artifacts from the trenches. The children then use their knowledge to create a short film about life in the trenches and World War One. We look forward to viewing the video when it is completed and will ask permission from the school to eventually put a link on our website for parishioners to view it.

Stella Hounslow
Chairperson

17/10/2014