

Wakes Colne Parish Council

www.wakescolne.org

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Clerks Report April 2009

Things Ongoing in April

April has started off a little less hectic than the previous two months and currently it is all quiet on the Vernon Road front (16th April), however I am expecting it all to take off next week as the extended date 20th April is on Monday. How right I was!!

So here goes with all the monthly updates and matters arising from last months meeting.

Rural Speed Restriction & the "Welcome to Wakes Colne" Sign at the top of Station Road:

I contacted Greene King following the meeting with the comments that had been made. I wrote the following:

Hi Judy

Sorry for the delay in replying to your e-mail. At our monthly meeting on the 1st April the Road Sign for Station Road was an Agenda item and it was discussed at some length. The agreed outcome was the Council asked for me to write to you to reconsider your decision to charge an annual £5 fee. The opinion was that this fee would cost more to administer than is being collected. Since the meeting I have consulted with the Highways Authority and they have advised that they have not come across this situation before.

Wakes Colne Parish Council have requested this sign to replace the existing 30 mile per hour sign to make the entrance into the village more attractive. In your own words Judy you state "to us it does not look like it will be too disruptive or land encroaching" therefore we would ask you to re-evaluate your decision.

Greene King's reply was as follows:

Afternoon Valerie

I understand what you are saying, therefore how about you give us and one off payment of £50.00. This will equate to 10 years fee at £5.00 per year.

Thereafter the rent will be pepper-corn.

How does that sound.

Regards – Judy

This issue is on the Agenda- item 09/67 No: 1- for discussion and hopefully a decision will be made as to whether we pay the money or we re-look at a smaller sign so we do not have to 'encroach on Greene Kings land'. If you could all have a think about what we would like to do it would be helpful as it is going to be a busy meeting!!

Bank Accounts with a Higher Interest Rate

Unfortunately this item has not received much attention again this month due to other more pressing business (Annual Parish Assembly), perhaps it would be helpful if everybody could have a look at High Interest Accounts and then report back for the June meeting.

Wakes Colne Parish Council Notice of the Annual Audit for the Year ending 31st March 2008

I have had yet another letter from the Audit Commission asking for further clarification of some of the figures for 2006/07, again they gave us 28 days to complete. During the month Mark Fogg-Elliot and I had a meeting to look into the queries and we have supplied further information to the Audit Commission in respect of the letter we received. Hopefully once this information has been sourced they will draw a line and sign off 2007/08 and we can start again with 2008/09. Mark is already working on this years audit as it will have to be signed of at the June meeting as the deadline is the 30th June to be received by the Audit Commission.

Annual Parish Meeting 2009

For everyone who sent their apologies they missed a great meeting!! We had a very good turn out from all the local organisations that were invited, we had a couple of apologies and two that didn't turn up but said they would. The proposed date for the 2010 Annual Assembly was 28th April and it was agreed that we would start to organise earlier so to avoid the confusion of date! Further information will be provided at the meeting as it is an Agenda Item.

Chappel & Wakes Colne Emergency Plan – Update

I have received the updated information but as yet have not processed it and sent it back to Colchester Borough Council. From having a very quick read it would seem that we need a lot more information before we can complete it – if anybody would like to volunteer to collate the information and e-mail it to me then I can process it through the correct channels.

Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall Committee Meeting

I have sent you via e-mail or hand delivered the Agenda for the AGM for the Village Hall. In the absence of Hilda I have put this item on the Agenda to ask for a volunteer to attend as the Parish Council Rep. If you could all have a think about it because we could all go if we wanted to, however we will need one volunteer to attend and then report back at the June meeting.

Planning Applications

We have had 4 planning application received this month, so it would be helpful if we could arrive early for the meeting so we could have a look and familiarise ourselves with the plans. I will have them set out on separate tables for you to have a look at. We have the AGM first at 7.15 with the normal monthly meeting starting at 7.30pm, so anything we can do to cut down on the meeting time would be helpful.

Application for New Councillor

I have had an application for the vacant councillor post. The enquiry came via Hilda before she went in to hospital, so I have contacted the applicant and ask her to write, providing us with her details. Below are the details I have received:

Dear Valerie,

My name is Emma Wilkin.

I m 37 years old and have 4 children.

I am a sales negotiator for a property part exchange company, previous to this I have been in estate agency. (I am currently on maternity leave as I have a 6 month old baby)

I live with my partner Martin Clements at Loveney's Farmhouse, Upper Green, and Wakes Colne.CO6 2BJ.

I am very interested in joining the Parish Council, however I am slightly concerned that my family is too young.

I will be happy for you to decide whether or not I am suitable -I am interested in local issues and the environment and enjoy bike riding and running in any spare time

I may have!

I will look forward to hearing the outcome,

Again if you could have a read before the meeting as it is on the Agenda –item 09/68 No: 4 and then we can make a quick informed decision next Wednesday.

Vernons Road and the Caravans

Following last months meeting I was tasked with finding out if a private meeting with Vincent Pearce would be legal. After several phone calls to the EALC, SLCC and Democratic Services (CBC) it would appear that yes it is perfectly ok to have a private meeting with the planning authority at Colchester. As the deadline date drew nearer and we had heard nothing about the planning application for the Vernons Road site, I telephoned Vincent Pearce to find out what was happening. I have been advised that in the first instance Vincent would like to meet with the Chair & Clerk from both councils to discuss the planning application. Items for discussion would be any Parish Council concerns and any concerns that have been raised by the parishioners. I was advised to wait until the hard copy of the application has been received by both Councils (as of 30th April I have not yet received anything) before we arrange a meeting. I have been forwarded an e-mail that Sue Chamley has received from Mark Russell (Planning CBC) advising that an application has been received and we have 21day's to reply (from date of receipt of letter) During my conversation with Vincent Pearce on the 21st April I was assured that Wakes Colne Parish Council would also be sent the plans for us to comment on, at the moment this would appear not to have happened. As we have not received anything I have e-mailed Vincent Pearce and failing a reply before this report is circulated I will bring an update to the meeting. If the hard copy of the application does not arrive before the 6th May I will download and print the on-line version of the application. Watch this space!! Following a conversation with Jo Dolman (Forum – Protecting Rural Chappel and Wakes Colne) she is suggesting that they meet with their solicitor on the 12th May – attend Chappels meeting on the 13th and provide Vincent Pearce with information after that, maybe via us when we have our meeting with Vincent Pearce or they may go direct. In terms of numbers at our meeting it might be very low but I think we will need to attend Chappels meeting on the 13th May to be sure we get the correct information to take with us to the meeting. Volunteers please!!

Clerks Training

Agenda & Minutes Course (Re-scheduled from February when it was cancelled due to the bad weather) I attended this training on Wednesday 29th April and the course was very well attended. Due to the number of attendees the course over ran due to lots of questions. Legislation is constantly changing, as is the world of Parish Councils and it appears that we need to make a couple of changes to the way we produce the Agenda and the Minutes. I will report very briefly (as it is going to be a long night) on the course and the benefits to the council. On the training note I have included in this report a list of training courses (see below) that are available to us at the EALC – please advise if any of you would like further training. I would like to attend the freedom of information and data protection course and also the planning course in June if that is ok – more information will be available a the meeting. under Clerks Report.

EALC Training Calendar

6 May	New Clerks Day	EALC
13 May	Council Finance	ETP
22 May	Health & Safety	ETP
2 June	Councillor Training Day 1	EALC
10 June	Employment Issues (incorporating Councillor Training Day 3)	EALC
16 June	Freedom of Information / Data Protection	ETP
25 June	Planning (incorporating Advanced Councillor Training Day 4)	EALC
7 July	Councillor Training Day 2	EALC

17 July	Budget & Precept	ETP
August	Intensive CiLCA Date to be Confirmed	ETP
9 Sept	Chairmans Day 1	EALC
15 Sept	Burials Surgery	EALC
23 Sept	AGM	EALC
7 Oct	Chairmans Day 2	EALC
15 Oct	Budget & Precept	ETP
20 Oct	Law & Procedures	ETP
6 Nov	Health & Safety	ETP
12 Nov	Roles & Responsibilities	ETP
1 Dec	Risk Management	ET

Salt Bins in the Parish

It was agreed at the last meeting that I would try and source further information about the Grit / Salt Bins and how they work. I contact Alan Blyth and he has responded as follows:

Dear Valerie

Thank you for your email dated 16 April 2009.

I thought the easiest way to explain the Winter Service Policy regarding salt bins is to enclose a copy of the Guide to Salt Bin Sponsorship.

The location of the existing salt boxes are not exactly set in stone – perhaps over time they may have been moved slightly so I do not have any objection to consider moving them slightly if a more sensible location can be found.

The bins are left out all year and will be topped up / damaged bins replaced at around October/November.

The salt boxes are only topped up when we are informed that they are empty. A call to 01206 838600 will get a message to me and I can arrange for refilling.

Hope this information is of help – please call if you need further help.

Regards

Also he sent me a copy of the winter service policy in respect of Salt/Grit bins so I have copied the information and I will bring it with me to meeting for you all.

Dedicated Warden Scheme

If you remember at the last meeting Cllr Chillingworth advised of the dedicated Warden Scheme, since then I have had some information sent through and it is as follows:

Community Street Wardens

Colchester Borough Council and Colchester Borough Homes operate a team of Community Street Wardens. The team comprises of a supervisor and 10 wardens who, by car, bicycle, or on foot cover Castle, New Town, Harbour, St Anne's, St Andrew's, Berechurch and Highwoods. In addition we have a Roving Warden team that covers the remainder of the borough.

Although the wardens have no police powers, they have been accredited by Essex Police to issue fixed penalty notices (FPN's) for cycling on footpaths and have access to the police national computer (PNC). They are also empowered to remove alcohol and cigarettes from young people and to issue FPN's under by-laws for dog fouling and littering. The warden's all wear a distinctive uniform, which while being intentionally 'casual'

also serves the purpose of being both functional and visible. Radios and mobile phones enable not only a quick transfer and sharing of information but also ensure contact with each other is maintained.

The warden's main objective is: -

“To improve the quality of life for residents and those working or visiting the schemes area's, and to reduce the incidence and fear of crime and disorder.”

The wardens intend to achieve this by: -

- Reducing incidents of crime and disorder.
- Developing community cohesion.
- Improving the immediate environment.

The wardens are achieving this through: -

- Having a visible profile in areas with a high incidence of crime.
- Making good use of feedback from the community and criminal intelligence.
- Developing links with local neighbourhood-watch schemes.
- Attending community forums and residents associations.
- Distributing crime reduction advice.
- Being a point of contact for access to services for vulnerable people.
- Monitoring and/or removing graffiti.
- Attending to abandoned vehicles and issuing notices for car tax evasion to DVLA.
- Enforcing by-laws concerning fouling by dogs and littering.
- Monitoring and feeding back on environmental concerns.
- Monitoring and routine checking of vacant properties.
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for cycling on footpaths.
- Under police accreditation, removing cigarettes and alcohol from young people.

In addition to their 'official' role the wardens are also involved with the communities' youth and older peoples groups. Assistance with sport and leisure activities such as football/ sports-days and community Fete's, is combined with organising shopping trips to places like Bury St. Edmunds and 'away-days' to Beth Chatto's garden, Colchester Zoo and Clacton-on-Sea/Walton etc. For the gardening enthusiasts the wardens have a selection of gardening equipment; items such as 'strimmers', lawn mowers and hedge trimmers that can be loaned out as required.

You can contact the street wardens by telephone, on **01206 282119** or **cassandra.fallows@colchester.gov.uk** . Alternatively, the warden's cars are very distinctive with large lettering emblazoned on the sides saying 'Colchester Community Wardens' with 'Community Safety Scheme Accredited' symbols.

This information is also in the Correspondence File.

NAP Meeting Date & Further Information.

I am not sure if you are aware but Kirsten Chamley has left CBC (see below) and a new lady is looking after our NAP. Below are the details for the next meeting and I will bring the Agenda with me to our meeting, if someone would like to volunteer to attend that would be good:

Morning all

This is just a quick reminder that the next Rural West NAP meeting is being held next Thursday 7th May at 6.00pm, Gt Tey Village Hall.

I attach the current action plan for your information.

Due to Kirsten Chamley leaving CBC recently, we are in the process of recruiting a new Community Safety Officer (who will take over the coordination of Rural West NAP); in the interim period I will be attending the NAP so therefore please direct any enquiries to me.

Many thanks

Kind Regards

Loanda Quested

**CDRP Admin Assistant
Community Safety Team
Colchester Police Station
10 Southway
Colchester
Essex, CO3 3BU – Tel 01206 717819**

Also following last months training at the Town Hall and this months Clerks Forum I have included some information on the Farm Watch which the local police are trying to get up and running in our area

Farm Watch

Farm Watch is a partnership between the farming community and the police. It encourages vigilance and communication, not only between individual farmers but also with the police.

The aims of Farm Watch

- Reduce opportunities for crime to occur
- Strengthen community spirit so that everyone works together to protect their property
- Improve communication between the farming community and the police
- Report suspicious incidents as they occur

How Farm Watch works

A meeting will be arranged with the interested farmers and the police. The Essex Watch Administrator, Crime Reduction Officer and officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team will be present, to enable the structure of the Farm Watch and Crime Reduction to be discussed. The Essex Watch Administrator will compile a list of members in each watch and provide each member with the list of telephone numbers of the farms in their watch. You will also be given the numbers to ring to report crimes and incidents and the number for the Crime Reduction Officer who can offer advice to the community on matters related to security.

The telephone cascade system is a good method for passing messages within a scheme. Each farm should inform the next farm on the list. The last recipient should call the originator back to repeat the message. This ensures that the message has not been altered as it has been passed on and also acts as a check that the message has been successfully circulated.

The Essex Watch Administrator communicates crime information between the various watch schemes (Neighbourhood Watch, Horse Watch, Marine Watch, School Watch etc.) and the neighbourhood policing teams.

Essex Watch or the Neighbourhood Policing Team will contact you when there is information of interest to your watch or to all Farm Watches.

Barbara Knott

Essex Watch Administrator

Essex Police

Eastern Division / Colchester

0300 3334444

Ext 10619

Mobile 07814672340

Barbara.Knott@essex.pnn.police.uk

www.essex.police.uk/essexwatch

To find out what is happening in your neighbourhood and all about your local neighbourhood policing team visit www.essex.police.uk/yourarea and enter your postcode

Lastly but by no means least Crepping Hall Road will be closed from the 5th May for Five days and Spring Gardens Road will be closed from the 18th May also for 5 days.