

Wakes Colne Parish Council

www.wakescolne.org

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Clerks Report October 2009

Things ongoing in October

Autumn has set in, it's Halloween, bonfire night is just around the corner and it is still not very cold but hey we are on the downward trail to Christmas. I can hear you all saying "that is not what we wanted to hear". So down to business, following a discussion with Jim it was suggested that a lot of long standing items could come off the Agenda but continue to be included in the Clerks Report with regular updates. If this could happen until such times as more information is available or a decision and resolution need to be agreed and voted on at a meeting it would cut down on the length of time the meetings takes. So here goes the October Clerks Report.

Agenda Item	Subject	Action	Status
09/1	Planning & Enforcement One Planning Application to Consider	This month we have 1 planning application to consider which is a demolition and erection of a new building. Perhaps once we have had our training on Monday 2 nd November we will be better placed to make more informed comments.	Decision
FYI	Station Road Sign & Greene King	Currently I am waiting for Greene King to send information through the post (not a good idea during a postal strike) as to the peppercorn rent and how we go about sorting it out. I have opted to take it off the Agenda until it is either installed as per the agreed design from George Ward or we have to sign the forms and send the money. Hopefully I will have an update for the meeting as at the time of writing this report I have had no further contact with Greene King	information
FYI	Replacement light fittings. Update	This month the money has been received from Making the Links and A & J Lighting are currently in the process of installing the new lights. Has anybody got any comments on the lights as they have now all been fitted.	Information

Agenda Item	Subject	Action	Status
FYI	Adopt the basic Standing Orders	I am currently in the process of creating Wakes Colne's Standing Orders and this has not been as easy as it may sound. The item does not appear on the Agenda for November as I am still working on it and can't finish it until we have agreed the Clerks Contract & Job Description. Once that is agreed I can continue working on the document and you should all have a copy by December.	Information
09/178	Planning Training	This has been set for the 2 nd November 2009 and at present it is being attended by Wakes Colne & Chappel Parish Councils. For anybody unable to attend the Clerk or Chairman will deliver a report on the night of the meeting which will then be minuted and circulated. Hopefully this kind of training will make us more knowledgeable when important planning applications are put before the council.	Information
	Vernons Road, LDF & Committee Hearing	It was hoped that the month of October would be very much quieter on the Vernons Road front, sadly this has not been the case. Following last months meeting and the realisation that 3 Pitches at Vernons Road had been allocated within CBC'S Local Development Framework Policy, it was agreed that Wakes Colne needed to comment on this issue during the consultation period which ended on the 30 th October. Following the meeting I spent a brief couple of hours reading the Site Allocations Submission Document and Cllr Stratford read the Development Policies Submission Document. Once we had gathered our questions we attended Chappel Parish Council monthly meeting on the 14 th October to listen and ask questions of a lady called Laura Chase from CBC. She is a principle planning officer and had had a lot of input into the documents in question. Cutting a long story short, Laura Chase would not be drawn into any discussion about the allocation of the 3 pitches in terms of timing issues, printing of the documents, the unanimous refusal on the 17 th September, correspondence between Mark Russell & Dave Cookson, legality of the application, however she did say that all comments submitted would be taken into consideration and that Parish Councils as well as individuals were welcome to comment. We need to object on the grounds that the documents are not sound as the area of Vernons Road is not suitable for a traveller site whether it is 3 pitches or the amount asked for on the application i.e. 6. It seemed from listening to Laura Chase speak that ,if CBC do not work within the agreed proposals laid down in the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) single issue review on Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation i.e. 30 pitches by 2011 then they will not get the agreed amount of money from central government. A question that is on every body's lips I'm sure is how much information contained in these documents is actually true or just appearing to make up the numbers!!. Following Chappel's meeting and a further meeting to discuss comments to be submitted by both Parish Councils and PRC&WC, comments have now been submitted. It would seem that the 3 Pitches appearing in the LDF documents may	Information

have come about due to correspondence that had taken place between Mark Russell and Dave Cookson. This correspondence has never appeared on the planning website under application no 090891 and so it seemed logical to ask Mark Russell for a copy if this correspondence – here was the reply:

Hello all, I will look for this in my archive of deleted messages, I believe it was an email that I sent as opposed to a letter. I am afraid that it is quite a task to ensure that every email is posted onto the website, but we do all that we can to ensure that they are.

In a nutshell (and from memory) the email informed the agent that I felt too much was being asked of the site (for reasons explained in my Committee report), and I asked whether a temporary or reduced pitch solution was possible.

The 3 pitches at Chappel, as with the numbers of pitches on any of the other sites on the LDF, was a figure for consultation suggested by Policy.

The 6 pitches was the application - these are two different things.

The figure did not need to have been in the public domain to have been included in the LDF proposals. I had advised policy that 6 pitches was too much, and if the site was being put forward it should be on the basis of a reduced pitch offering, but I did not settle on whether this should be 2 or 3 pitches. This may have been the reason why they chose 3 pitches.

I hope that this assists.

It seems worrying that on an application as important as Vernons Road correspondence has been 'deleted'. Moving on from that situation we then had an e-mail to confirm that Vernons Road would actually not make it to the Committee Hearing on the 5th November explaining the options for the reasons set out below. This was Mark's e-mail sent on the 27th October confirming that CBC hadn't made the deadline

Dear Parishes,

I am writing to you to inform you that the item (which explains our options to Members) for Vernons Road, Chappel will not be going to the Committee of 5th November.

It has not been possible to finalise the options to present to Members because of a key piece of information which I am seeking to establish, and also because our Enforcement team has been stretched to its limits and has not been able to complete its report (in particular we are seeking a legal view on one point).

Once these points are dealt with then we will be able to go to Committee. Hopefully this will be on 19th November, but you will be advised in any event.

I am sorry for this delay, but without the correct information it could be counter-productive to move early on this.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

		As it stands at the moment we are waiting to hear if the hearing will now be the 19 th November and as I get updates and more information I will put it in my report.	
FYI	Notice board at Middle Green	Cllr Taylor is still waiting for quotes, so this has now come off the Agenda until such time as the quotes come in or we decide what to do with the notice board.	
Agenda Item	Subject	Action	Status
FYI	Footpath update	<p>Cllr Martin asked for the footpath update to be incorporated in the Clerks Report.</p> <p>Footpath Report: Following our last meeting I contacted the ECC Public Rights of Way Officer to get an answer to a question raised by Sue Stratford regarding the reinstatement of footpaths across fields which have been ploughed. The response is -</p> <p><i>With regard to cross-field paths, you are right; the farmer does have a duty to maintain the footpath. However, the farmer also has a right to work the land. Without going into the legalities of it – in a nutshell, from the day he disturbs the land and footpath over it, he then has fourteen days to restore the path. Please see the attached leaflet. We distribute this to landowners/occupiers to help remind them of their responsibilities. If you could ask the person who brought the footpath to your attention to keep an eye on it and if after a week or two if nothing has been done then I can arrange for our liaison and enforcement officer to have a word.</i></p> <p>So it's up to Sue to report back!</p> <p>I also reported FP 20 where it meets with FP21, the attached photos hopefully show the damage caused by horse riders, this has resulted in the footpath being impassable following wet weather - grid reference TL907298.</p> <p>The response is -</p> <p><i>I was not aware of the problems at the junction of FP20 and FP21 and can see from your photos that it is not particularly Westie friendly although the dog may disagree! First of all I will check to confirm this is a bridleway. Assuming it is then to some degree we have to accept this is the nature of rural footpaths at certain times of the year. If a decision to try and improve the situation was made we might look at drainage issues or perhaps resurfacing. However, this often turns out to be expensive, labour intensive and ultimately a temporary measure as the weather has a habit of getting its own way. However, I will forward your photos over to the district officer, Mary Moir and find out what are her thoughts.</i></p> <p>Another response a few days later -</p> <p><i>I am looking into the junction of FP20/21. So far I have established that these rights of way are only footpaths and have no bridleway status. Therefore, unless riders have the direct permission of the landowner then horses should not be ridden here. I have spoken with our district office and we have a few questions:</i></p> <p><i>Do you know who the landowner is?</i></p> <p><i>Do you know if any riders have been given private rights by the landowner/occupier to ride over the footpaths?</i></p> <p><i>Do you know if these paths are part of the East Anglian Farm Rides (EAFR) scheme?</i></p> <p><i>If the landowner has agreed to riders using these paths or has received payment e.g. via</i></p>	Information

		<i>EAFR then damage to the surface, which stops legitimate walkers using the footpaths, is then their responsibility and we can ask them to repair and make safe. So if anyone at the meeting can supply information to who the landowners are I would be very grateful. Finally, the realigned FP13 is completed & is a great improvement. That's all Keith</i>	
09/176	BT Phone at Middle Green	I think BT is hoping this issue will go away!! I have contacted them 1 st via the telephone to which I got a good response after that and 6 e-mails later I am still waiting to get any information through, however in the in trim I have received details about 'adopting a telephone box' and cllr Taylor requested this be put on the Agenda for discussion	Discussion
FYI	Emergency Planning Meeting	I've had an e-mail from Paul Walker at CBC who deals with the Emergency Planning update evening. This year they are hoping to hold it in Marks Tey's Parish Hall and the proposed dates are as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fri 8 Jan 2010 ❖ Fri 15 Jan 2010 ❖ Fri 22 Jan 2010 ❖ Fri 29 Jan 2010 If anybody would like to attend please let me know your preferred date and I'll e-mail to confirm. It may possibly help when we come to doing the joint Emergency Plan with Chappel	Information

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd Nov 2009 Planning Training Wakes Colne Village Hall
Wednesday 25th Nov 2009 Meeting with White Colne, Chappel, Mount Bures - Clustering

Clerks Forum Meeting Dates

Friday 6th November 12 – 3pm Rowan House, Colchester
Thursday 15th December 12 – 3pm Grand Jury Room, Town Hall

Colchester Association Local Councils Meeting Dates

14th December 2009 Assembly Rooms in Dedham @ 7.30pm

Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting Dates

Thursday 12th November 6pm-8pm Gt Tey Village Hal

Acronym	Full name of the Organisation	Brief Description of the Organisation or Web Address	Subscription Yes /No
EALC	Essex Association of Local Councils	Essexinfo.net	Yes
CALC	Colchester Association of Local Councils		Yes
CBC	Colchester Borough Council	www.colchester.gov.uk	N/A
SLCC	Society Of Local Council Clerks	Support for professional parish and town councils clerks including training and advice. www.slcc.co.uk	Yes
ODPM	Office of Deputy Prime Minister	Guidance on public participation in planning and comprehensive performance assessment and best value. www.odpm.gov.uk	No
NALC	National Association of Local Councils	www.nalc.gov.uk	No
SBE	Standards Board for England	Guidance on Framework for ethical behaviour in local government. www.standardsboard.co.uk	No
ECC	Essex County Council	Essex.gov.uk	No
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Defra.gov.uk	NO
EPFA	Essex Playing Fields Association	www.essexplayingfields.org.uk	No
RCCE	Rural Community Council of Essex	www.essex.rcce.org.uk	No
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England	www.cpre.org.uk	No
CSCA	Colne Stour Countryside Association	www.colnestour.org	Yes
landreg	Land Registry	www.landreg.gov.uk	No
	Essex police	www.essex.police.uk	No

Meeting dates for 2010

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Parish Calendar 2010/ 2009

Month	Parish Council meeting	Agenda deadline (5pm)	Notice board deadline	Annual Parish Meeting (AGM)	Annual Parish Council Meeting
January 2010	6 th Jan	22 nd Dec	30 th Dec		
February 2010	3 rd Feb	26 th Jan	28 th Jan		
March 2010	3 rd Mar	23 rd Feb	25 th Feb		
April 2010	7 th April	26 th March	30 th March		
May 2010	5 th May	26 th April	28 th April	5 th May	28 th April Joint with Chappel
June 2010	2 nd June	25 th May	27 th May		
July 2010	7 th July	29 th June	1 st July		
August 2010	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting		
September 2010	1 st Sept	23 rd Aug	25 th Aug		
October 2010	6 th Oct	28 th Sept	30 th Sept		
November 2010	3 rd Nov	26 th Oct	28 th Oct		
December 2010	1 st Dec	23 rd Nov	25 th Nov		
January 2011	5 th Jan	21 st Dec	29 th Dec		

