

Wakes Colne Parish Council

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Minutes of the monthly Wakes Colne Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 1st April at 7.15pm in the Wakes Colne Village Hall,
Colchester Road, Wakes Colne.

2nd April 2009

09/43 RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Cllr H Cresswell, Vice Chairperson Cllr K Martin, Cllr S Stratford, Cllr D Dwyer, Cllr S Hounslow & Cllr J Taylor & Cllr P Chillingworth & Five members of the public

09/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None

09/45 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr K Martin 09/46 – 6 EARM Hardstanding & Planning Permission Personal

09/46 CO-OPT MR DEAN DWYER AS COUNCILLOR

Mr Dean Dwyer was co-opted onto the Council, Cllr Cresswell proposed the co-option, it was seconded by Cllr Stratford and all were in favour. Cllr Dean Dwyer thanked everyone for their warm welcome.

09/47 PUBLIC FORUM.

Jo Dolman spoke in respect of Agenda Item 09/54 – 6 Vernons Road, the caravans & extension of the planning application. It was noted that a forum call Protecting Rural Chappel & Wakes Colne had been set up and a solicitor called Steve Hopkins had been appointed to act on their behalf. It was also noted that a meeting had taken place earlier that day and it had been very positive and constructive. In addition, it was noted that from the information presented to him he thought we had a very good case against the gypsy site. A question of funding was raised and it was advised that a few individuals had already contributed. The forum had set up a bank account but they were not expecting huge costs although they would be looking for further voluntary contribution to pay the solicitors fees. They also advised that they were setting up a website/blog so people had a point of communication.

09/48 Ex-AGENDA Cllr Chillingworth's Report

Cllr Chillingworth stated that a lot of what he was in his report was covered in the Clerks Report. In respect of Agenda item 09/54 – 6 Vernons Road, the caravans & extension of the planning application, Cllr Chillingworth stated that indeed the application date had been extended to the 20th April. It was explained that CBC & Vincent Pearce had felt that a valid application would be better

received within the extended date, rather than an incomplete application within the original date. Had an incomplete application been received it would have caused more problems and in the Council's opinion would have caused a lengthy delay and further appeals. The Council have to be seen to be treating the gypsies fairly otherwise it may compromise their position later in the planning process. Cllr Chillingworth mentioned that a complaint had been received by Kelly Vanderson at CBC about the amount of rubbish that had been on site and it was now confirmed that the rubbish was now being collected on a weekly basis. A question was raised about whether they were actually paying Council Tax to allow for this service but Cllr Chillingworth did not answer the question. Also the strength of feeling amongst the Council was that they were unhappy with the fact that Vincent Pearce and or someone from the Planning Department would now not come out and attend a Public Meeting with Chappel & Wakes Colne residents. It was minuted last month that this would be beneficial and now Cllr Chillingworth had said that this will not happen. Instead a handful of representatives from each Council would be invited to a private meeting with Vincent Pearce in Colchester. At this point the Clerk was asked to confirm if the Parish Council could have a private meeting with CBC or whether it had to be an open meeting inviting the public. It was suggested that a handful of representatives could not successfully convey the views of the whole two villages and therefore we would be at a disadvantage. Cllr Chillingworth advised that if Wakes Colne did not attend the meeting with Vincent Pearce it may upset the 'Apple Cart', he went on to say that we must take the advice of the professionals as they were experienced in these matters and they could guide us through more successfully than if we did it on our own. At this point it was agreed to move on with the meeting as this agenda item would be covered again later in the meeting.

Cllr Chillingworth continued with his report. He advised that he had spoken to George Ward Re: road signs at the junction of Vernons Road and Crepping Hall Road and it had been agreed and the work would be completed within the month.

The community street warden scheme from the Town Centre had now been extended to the rural areas and some information would be given to the Clerk after the meeting.

And finally it was noted that the Village Hall was very difficult to find especially in the dark and he asked if we could approach the Village Hall Committee and ask them to address the problem.

09/49 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th March 2009 were approved and signed by Cllr Cresswell as a true record.

09/50 MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

- ❖ **Clerks Report**:- The clerks report was circulated prior to the meeting and all Councillors had read it. The Clerk asked if anybody needed any further information. The Clerk advised that she obtained a lot of updates since the Clerks Report had been circulated and they were as follows:
- ❖ **Ditches, drainage & flooding** – Letter received from N Percival – the letter asked for specific areas that flooding was an issue, it was agreed that the Clerk could write back detailing the areas that were a problem.
- ❖ **Sign for Station Road**:- The Clerk had received an e-mail from Greene King advising that the sign could be sited partially on their land however a £5 per annum admin charge would be applicable. The Council thought this extremely inappropriate and asked the clerk to write back and inform them of this decision and report back at the next meeting.
- ❖ **Annual Parish Meeting 30th April** – The Clerk had sent out all the invitation for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 30th April – however on getting the details for the last organisation (1st Response Unit) it came to light that the village Hall was booked out to the 1st Response Unit on the same night and they were unable to change the night as they had several speakers booked that could not make any other evening. The Clerk suggested that we move the meeting to the day before the Wednesday (29th April) The Clerk has provisionally booked the date and has e-mailed Sue Chamley for a reply upon her return. The Clerk also agreed to e-mail Peter Neubauer the Vice Chairman from Chappel so it could be discussed at their

meeting next Wednesday. As soon as the final date had been agreed the Clerk would contact all the Councillors with the date as well as the organisations.

09/51 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE

- 1) Cheques/BACS payments were all approved for payment and signed.
- 2) Financial Summary for March 2009: This was signed as a true record
- 3) Higher paying interest accounts for Parish Councils. The Clerk had run out of time to get anymore information on this item. Cllr Stratford said that she would let the Clerk have some information after the meeting.

09/52 PLANNING APPLICATIONS & RESULTS

None

09/53 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- 1) **Grit Bin information.** Following last months discussions on the Grit Bins in the Village the clerk found out how many grit bins Wakes Colne has – Approx 5 it was agreed over the summer the Clerk could investigate if any restrictions apply to the grit bins e.g. moving them. As we had a lot of complaints over the winter period about the road and the pavements it was suggested that we have another grit bin in the Lower Green area. The Clerk agreed to contact Alan Blyth about the issue and report back in the Clerks Report.
- 2) **Hazard Signs for Station Road** – Following last months meeting the Clerk agreed to chase George Ward about the hazard signs for the top of Station Road. The present situation is that a sign has been agreed to in fiscal year 09 /10 and subject to a suitable site being found.

09/54 NEW AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) **Vernons Road – Caravans – Extension of time on the Application.** Although this item had been discussed at length in the Public Forum and Cllr Chillingworth's report it had been agreed earlier in the meeting to discuss it further when we reached the appropriate item. The general opinion was that we should confirm with the EALC that we can attend a closed meeting as far as the public are concerned. Once that is established and assuming we can then we should send representatives from Wakes Colne to establish where we go from here and what options are available to the parishioners. The feeling amongst the Councillors was one of representing the local community to the best of our ability and one that would not prejudice the situation. Finally it was agreed that following the decision from the EALC, Wakes Colne would attend a meeting with Vincent Pearce and ask for a meeting in the Village with a senior planner to attend.
- 2) **River Colne Countryside Project** – Cllr Stratford confirmed that CBC will not fund the project in the new financial year. In real terms as far as the budget was concerned for CBC £20,000 was relatively small amount however some smaller organisations were being asked to contribute to keep the project on-going. The meeting was close to allow Cllr Chillingworth to speak, it was noted that officers from CBC and Braintree were looking at a trust mechanism. Once it was taken out of the political arena the project could be looked at and certain actions could be set up.

The meeting was re-opened

- 3) **EARM Railway** – This item was asked to be taken off the agenda until further notice.
- 4) **Community Speed Watch** –Cllr Taylor had requested this item was on the agenda and advised that he was keen to get the Community Speed Watch Programme up and running again. The proposed dates that Cllr Taylor could make were Tuesday 14th April in the Afternoon 4pm – 6pm on the A1124 and Thursday 16th April in the morning 8am – 10am on Station Road. Cllr Taylor requested people contact him with their availability.
- 5) **Dog Bins** – It had been requested that a dog bin be provided at Top Green on the way to Gt Loveney Hall. The meeting was closed and Cllr Chillingworth advised that some time ago

Parish Councils were offered new bins and only one was asked for. As this offer had now expired it was unlikely that any request would happen as the service was very costly.

- 6) **EARM – Hardstanding & Planning Permission.**- This issue had been raised by a parishioner who was concerned about the number of lorries that had been seen driving along Spring Garden Road. It was advised that any work which was been undertaken by the EARM at the present time was not in conjunction with any current planning applications. It was agreed that the parishioner who had contacted the Parish Council should contact Chappel Parish Council as it was actually in their parish.

09/55 REPORTS.

Cllr S Stratford NAP meeting on the 12th March at Mount Bures – This was a very disappointing meeting as nothing in the way of crime was discussed. Cllr Stratford advised that the Clerk had attended a training meeting and that she had more information

Clerk – Valerie Burrows –Training Report. I attended a meeting in Colchester on the launch of the NAP Toolkit (information is in the Correspondence File) which was very interesting. I also attended two other training meetings in April which were very beneficial.

09/56 NEXT AGENDA ITEMS.

- Vernons Road
- New Vacancy
- Lights for the Village Hall
- Number 2 Lower Green – Shed the width of the back garden
- Declarations of interest

09/57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is on the 6th May 2009 at 7.30pm in Wakes Colne Village Hall, Wakes Colne. Our Chairperson Cllr Cresswell thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed.....
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date.....