

Wakes Colne Parish Council

www.wakescolne.org

Chairman: Cllr:-Hilda Cresswell
Tel No: 01787 227545
E-mail:- hildacresswell@yahoo.co.uk

Clerk: - Valerie Burrows
Tel No: 01787 221922
Email: wakescolnepc@yahoo.co.uk
23 Crossways
Colne Engaine
Essex
CO6 2JA

Minutes of the monthly Wakes Colne Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 4th March at 7.15pm in the Wakes Colne Village Hall,
Colchester Road, Wakes Colne.

5th March 2009

09/29 RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Cllr H Cresswell, Vice Chairperson Cllr K Martin, Cllr S Stratford, Cllr S Hounslow, Cllr J Glen-Martin & Cllr J Taylor & Cllr P Chillingworth
Twenty Four members of the public, Mr A Myer & Mr Scillitoe

09/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None

09/31 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None

09/32 PUBLIC FORUM.

The majority of the public that attended the meeting requested that they raised questions in respect of Agenda Item 09/39 – 5 Vernons Road and the caravans. Matt Thorn whose property is adjacent to the site spoke on behalf of most of the public. He explained that the land had been divided up into 5 plots and each plot had been fenced and hardcored for a caravan to be sited. It was the general opinion of all the Chappel residents that the properties and businesses nearby had been devalued considerably, also the countryside view had been destroyed. Also the increase in large vehicles along what was a very quite narrow country road will create problems for the local environment not to mention the nuisance factor for the local residents. The residents from Crepping Hall Farm were concerned about the security in the area with regards to local livestock and in particular horses. Drainage, litter and utilities were all concerns that were raised, as was the issue of affordable housing. This was turned down in the village as the site didn't meet the required planning criteria, a question was asked if the Vernons Road site was within the correct planning criteria? A concern was raised about the local school and in particular attendance, a question was asked as to how non attendance would be dealt with when the families went away to find work in other areas? It was suggested that they would leave the school and then when they returned would have to re-apply for a place. Overall it was quite clear that the public present at the meeting were very unhappy with the situation and wondered why Colchester Borough Council had not had the decency to talk to the local residents. Matt Thorn also explained that he had had to call the police out on one occasion because he had felt threatened, he also expressed concern about the gypsy liaison officer at CBC who he

thought was not very helpful. Matt Thorn was advised to seek further advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau with regards to his rights

At this point Cllr Chillingworth asked if he could speak so the meeting was closed and he delivered his report:

09/33 Ex-AGENDA

It was advised that the site have 28 days to apply for planning permission, if this does not happen then an enforcement order will be issued by Colchester Borough Council. Cllr Chillingworth explained a little bit about the Turkey Cock Lane traveller site, in as much, that when planning permission was sought Colchester Borough Council turned it down but due to a central government directive, the decision was over turned and now the site is up and running. It was suggested as soon as the planning application was received by both councils an extra ordinary meeting would be called in the Village Hall and a senior member of the planning department at CBC will attend to answer any questions that would like to be asked. It was also suggested that as soon as the planning application is received that local residents write with objection comments. Questions were asked about designated sites within the Colchester Borough for travellers, compulsory purchase of land and land ownership and access.

09/34 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

09/35 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. Cllr Taylor expressed concern over the winter gritting of the roads and the use of the gritting bins. The Clerk explained about the grit bins and how you can adopt a bin. The Parish Council would pay several hundred pounds for its purchase and up-keep then CBC will fill it full of grit. It was agreed that next time the Clerk was in touch with Malcolm Dade she would get some more information about the grit bins. The Clerk spoke about several issues that had come in since the clerks report had been produced.

- ❖ The Audit Commission had advised that at present nothing could be done with 2007 /2008 audit info as Lubbock Fine had not passed the file over. It was agreed the clerk should chase the item and provide an update next month.
- ❖ The clerk had been out on the roads with Malcolm on the 2nd March and had been advised of the following repair orders that are currently lodged with CBC
 - ❖ Jankes Green - Road Sweeper - Winter damage from standing water. Once the road is cleaned we may find more pot holes to be repaired.
 - ❖ A1124 near Tatems - Work order already in place
 - ❖ Lower Green - Gravel in pull in near the phone box
 - ❖ Mount Bures Road - Pot holes have appeared through winter damage. From Inworth Lane and then into Station Road down to the A1124.
 - ❖ Spring Gardens Road - Work order already in place.
 - ❖ Pond at the Junction with Spring Gardens Road & Vernons Road. Water was flooding across the road.
 - ❖ Creeping Hall Corner - Work order already in place.
 - ❖ Spring Gardens Road - Railway Bridge end.

Cllr Glen-Martin advised that some sand bags had fallen in the ditch at the end of Inworth Lane and Mount Bures road it was agreed that the Clerk would get in touch with Malcolm. It was also mentioned that the flooding was still a problem at Middle Green and Inworth Lane. It was agreed the Clerk would get in touch with Malcolm again and then report back next month

- ❖ The Clerk spoke at length about the SOS bus that is in Colchester and suggested if anybody required some more information the presentation was available in the correspondence file.
- ❖ Vandalism in Chappel. The Clerk had had an E-mail from Sue Chamley at Chappel to advise that a lot of damage had been done in and around Chappel and she asked us to be vigilant and aware. She also asked if we saw anybody to report it to the Police at Copford. The Clerk

advised that she had names of the Police at Copford and she would forward them on via e-mail.

09/36 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE

- 1) Cheques/BACS payments were all approved for payment and signed.
- 2) Financial Summary for February 2009: This was signed as a true record
- 3) Higher paying interest accounts for Parish Councils. Following the note in the Clerks report it was agreed that the Clerk would look in the Financial Times and search for the best interest accounts on 90 days notice and report back at the next meeting via the Clerks Report

09/37 PLANNING APPLICATIONS & RESULTS

- 1) **Planning Application No: 090188 Wakes Hall Farm, Colchester Road, Wakes Colne, Colchester. CO6 2DB** Steel portal framed grain store. This application was only given 14 days before a decision was required. It was agreed that if this happens again the Clerk should pass round the application to get some comments before the agreed date. The meeting was closed so the Clerk could ask Cllr Chillingworth why we had only been given 14 days and he explained it was because it was agricultural and had only 28 days before determination. Cllr Chillingworth agreed to send some information to the Clerk with regards this issue.

09/38 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- 1) **Rural Speed Restrictions & "Welcome to Wakes Colne" Sign on Station Road.** The clerk had been in touch with George Ward as per the Clerks Report but she still need clarification as to what was happening. The Clerk would chase this month and get an update.

The meeting was closed for Cllr Chillingworth to ask if the Council minded if he contacted George Ward to ask for some signs along Vernons Road for safety reasons. It was agreed that this was fine with the Council. At this point Cllr Hounslow asked if Cllr Chillingworth would ask also for signs on Station road for safety reasons. The Clerk advised that George Ward already knew about this and the Clerk agreed to chase it up and report back next month

09/39 NEW AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) **Chappel & Wakes Colne Emergency Plan – Update..** The Clerk advised that she had had an update from Sue Chamley at Chappel and that Cllr Sue Stratford would have more information. Cllr Stratford agreed to get the details to the Clerk so it could be e-mailed back to Paul Walker at Colchester Borough Council.
- 2) **Village Hall Committee.** It was discussed that we had no money in the Budget to support the Village Hall at this time, however it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to ask what the grant would be used for. It was discussed and agreed that in the letter we should ask for a list of trustee's and clarify when the representatives would be invited to meetings. Finally it was agreed to invite them to the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 30th April.
- 3) **Ditches, Drainage and Flooding in Wakes Colne – Update Malcolm Dade.** Cllr Hounslow spoke about the blocked ditches at the top of Station Road near the railway entrance. The meeting was closed so Mr Scillitoe could explain the situation, 9 mornings recently the water has frozen across the road causing very dangerous conditions. **The meeting was re-opened.** It was agreed the Clerk would write to Nicholas Percival to request that all the ditches be cleared as soon as possible. Cllr Stratford also mentioned that the land up from the Village Hall was council owned land and this caused problems when all the bad weather was happening, so it was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Malcolm about this issue.
- 4) **Installation of Level Entry Bus Stops – Update:** The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Essex County Council and also the bus companies and they have agreed to do a site survey to establish if a bus stop can indeed be placed outside the church.

- 5) **Vernons Road – Caravans:** This item had been discussed at length in the Public Forum and Cllr Chillingworth's report. Cllr Taylor asked what the Councils plan of action was. It was agreed as follows:
- ❖ The Clerk would monitor the Councils planning website for the planning application daily.
 - ❖ As soon as it arrived a joint extra ordinary meeting would be called and a Senior member of the planning department would be invited to attend and answer questions
 - ❖ Regular notices should be advertised on the Website and Notice boards with updates on the situation.
 - ❖ 7 days notice should be given for the meeting so everybody had an opportunity to attend.

09/40 REPORTS.

Cllr Martin Website Update. Everybody agreed that the website was working well. Cllr Martin updated the Council on how well it was being used. To date we had had 1414 hits although Keith thought probably he was responsible for half of those. The hits were global and Yahoo seemed to be the best search engine at the moment. One amazing fact was that the average length of time for visitors was about 19 minutes.

At this point in the meeting the Clerk read out a letter of resignation from Cllr Glen-Martin. Cllr Cresswell thanked Cllr Glen – Martin for her service to the Council over the last few years. It was then discussed that Cllr Glen-Martin would now not be attending the NAP meeting on the 19th March or the bi-monthly NAP meeting before the Mount Bures monthly meeting on the 12th March. The Clerk asked if anybody else would like to stand in. Cllr Martin said he would look at the meeting on the 19th March & Cllr Stratford would look at the 12th March. It was agreed if both these meeting could not be covered then the Clerk could attend the 19th but was not sure about the 12th.

09/41 NEXT AGENDA ITEMS.

EARM Railway
Vernons Road
Community Speed Watch
Co-opt Dean Dwyer
New Vacancy
NAP Meeting 19th March

09/42 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is on the 1st April 2009 at 7.15pm in Wakes Colne Village Hall, Wakes Colne. Our Chairperson Cllr Cresswell thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date.....