

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

Environment and Leisure Working Group

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP

Monday 13th October 2025 at 6pm Village Hall Committee Room

E&L Chair: Cllr Robin Cooke

1. Agree Minute taker: Offer from Cllr Chenery accepted.
2. **Those Present:** Cllr Cooke, Cllr Chenery (DC), Cllr Horsnell, Anne Westover (AW),

Apologies: Sonya Exton

3. **Minutes** of the last meeting of Monday 11th August 25 were accepted as a true record subject to amendments in items 4, 6 and 10.

4. **Tree work update:**

AW is chasing UKPN to carry out pruning of the Holm Oak in the Pightle. Work has been identified to trees on the SX sports field. AW is keen to set up a work programme. EA are hosting a drop-in event on 28 November about tree planting in the River Deben catchment. This coincides with National Tree Week. AW has been asked to staff a STWN stall. DC will attend to ensure our flooding concerns are shared. Green Gym to hold a work party on Chapel Lane on Sunday 23 November to attend to tree planting.

5. **Tree Safety Inspections:**

AI confirmed by email that he'd commissioned an inspection of the Pightle which was carried out by Treescape on 13 October. DC to get details and AW will forward her plan and schedule of the area if this helps. This in order to help with tree refs (use existing if possible) and the base plan. Cllr Chenery confirmed the parish council had allocated £2k for inspections and £2k for any subsequent work in 25/26. DC to liaise with AW and draft a specification to seek quotes for the inspection of the cemetery, SX sports field and VH recreation ground.

6. **Cemetery Management matters:**

- AW advised that there was less input from Mike, Linda and Ian on Cemetery Working Party matters. However, work parties continue and Simon Harrington has returned to help. Next work party planned for Thursday 30 October.
- The meadow has recently been cut. There will soon be a need to set out a new tree line grave line as the cemetery fills up.
- The Bier in the Bier House – Simon and Derek seem keen to restore it. Anne has asked JH whether barn space might be available.
- AI has completed a headstone wobble test and contacted relatives of a headstone of concern which may have been actioned

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- Framlingham offer an information leaflet for their cemetery. Anne suggested that an information and family “grave trail” which could be developed, offers of help have been forthcoming from the WMAAC.
- Mention was made of a Management Plan for the cemetery. DC referred to Knutsford Town Council. David suggested that Anne could commence on contents headings as a start to a plan. Biodiversity information will need to be part of the process and plan.
- The WG also discussed whether grass cutting could be avoided around some margins to save costs and increase biodiversity. AW had offered suggestions and agreed to forward the plan which Dick, Anne and Josie had advised on Oct 2023 showing natural margin areas.

7. **Box hedge:**

September’s full council agreed to replace the hedge. AI has circulated a quote for hedge removal from Lee Wright. DC to liaise with AW to draft a specification for all the works required and then seek quotes from ESSL, Swann’s and Botanica. AW to resubmit her Nature First grant application to see if ESC will pay for the new hedge plants.

8. **Simons Cross Sports Field:**

Concern was raised about the condition of 3 poplar trees that would benefit from removal of lower branches and crown reduction/pollarding. Several school trees overhang the sports field and there is a dead elm tree by the closed off play area and an overhanging branch over the tennis court. The Working Group desire to seek quotes from Tree surgeons. Possible surgeons; Eastwood Trees, Shaun Wright, AB Trees and Pips Tree Services for the non-school tree work. DC to liaise with AW and contact the school and advise F&GP of need to set a budget aside for this work.

Regarding the pill box we noted the alleged visits by a drug dealer and therefore favoured the option of seeking an ESC grant for a metal grate door. This would probably need consent from SCC. Regarding the pond the road barriers have been removed, so the Youth football club may have done some cleaning out of the pond.

9. **Bat Survey:**

Sonya is awaiting further Cemetery bat data to share with the group.

10. **Volunteer Management and first aid training:**

The Council has now published a set of risk assessments and a Toolbox Talk Attendance Record. AI has made these available as a Word document. The extent of first aid training needs to be agreed and training providers sought. AW had provided some information earlier. DC to discuss with council.

11. **Date of next meeting**

8 December 25