

# WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

## Environment and Leisure Working Group

### MINUTES

#### ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 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 13<sup>th</sup> October 25 were accepted as a true record.

4. **Tree work update:**

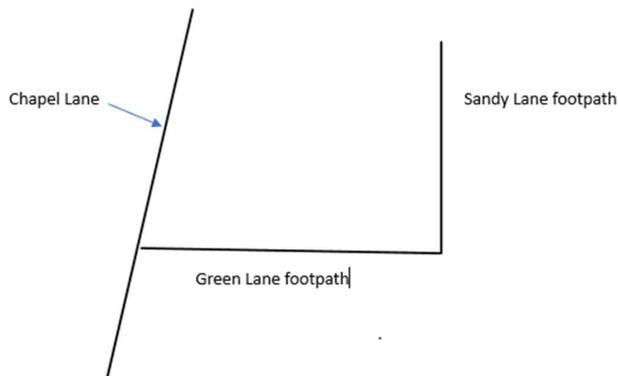
The WG were happy with the findings of the Pightle tree safety inspection whilst noting that some trees are overhanging from private land. It asked if it could get to see and comment on the remaining inspections and offered to be involved in decisions on any necessary tree works, specification, quotes from contractors. The tree wardens would be happy to assist as per previous tree works carried out.

EA hosted a drop-in event on 28 November about tree planting in the River Deben catchment. This coincided with National Tree Week. AW assisted on the Suffolk Tree Warden Network stall and with various advice notes, trees and five native black poplar trees passed to suitable locations.

AW suggested new trees could perhaps be planted at the low part of Sandy Lane to absorb some of the water run-off from Chapel Lane across the field. She will contact Hayward Farms, the landowner, to discuss, along with the possibility of removing more plastic from the Green Lane hedge. She'll also contact Community Payback to see if they will remove all the plastic rubbish along Green Lane. The Green Lane trees planted and spinney trees will be cared for with more added this season continuing from the GG session on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

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AW asked whether there was still a desire to add a tree line along the restricted byway (19) bridleway alongside Hayward Farms field. This was an idea raised by Cllr Horsnell in the recent past.

The young roadside trees along the B1438 from WM to Pettistree will need some attention in 2026.

The WG noted that the Allotment Association have planted an orchard on an allotment plot and wondered how the produce will be distributed.

AW asked whether the need for “trees” (planting, management, promotion) would be included in Climate Change agendas in future.

### 5. Cemetery Management matters:

AW advised:

- The Working Party had installed sticks around some trees to deter deer
- It was estimated that the cemetery meadow has between 10- and 20-years space left based on the current rate of burials. Data on capacity was sent to Government in 2020. The WG discussed options for longer term capacity and whether the Towns Land Trust would ever consider allocating their land adjacent to the cemetery. Hayward Farms currently rents the field. We liked the idea of it becoming a green burial site. R Theobald is the Chair of the Trustees and could be contacted. DC to contact unless JH or AW see RT prior to this.

DC advised we had received one quote so far for the replacement of the box hedge and await 2 more quotes. AW would acquire the replacement plants from Botanica via the ESC Nature First Grant held by WM Partnership.

### 6. Simons Cross Sports Field:

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. Their ecologist

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may offer advice on encouraging a bat habitat inside the pill box. DC to action and aim for a report to the January 19<sup>th</sup> 26 full council meeting.

### **7. AOB**

AW pointed out that the Percy Mason's car park landscaping was very unkempt especially in the main access area and near the WC block.

DC to query with ESC.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

9 February 2026