

# WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Cllr DAVID CHENERY



**MINUTES** of the meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council Finance & General Purpose Committee held on Monday 5 January 2026 at 19:00

- FGP25: 42 **Present from the Council** Cllr Chenery (Chair) Cllr Creasey  
Cllr Cooke A. Besly (Clerk)
- FGP25: 43 **Present from the Public** None
- FGP25: 44 **Open Public Forum session** None
- FGP25: 45 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr I French Cllr Dempsey-Gray
- FGP25: 46 **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** None
- FGP25: 47 **Proposal to approve the draft minutes** of the F&GP Meeting of 3 November 2025 **All Agreed**
- FGP25: 48 **Chair's Report:** Cllr Chenery is investigating the possibility of a lockable grill for the old Pill Box at the Simons Cross playing field
- FGP25: 49 **Finance Reporting:**
- 49.1 **Finance report and Payments Schedule:** **Published** There were no questions
- 49.2 **Bank Reconciliation and Reserves Summary:** **Published** The bank reconciliation was reviewed against statements from CCLA and Barclays, approved and signed.
- 49.3 **Summary Financial Statement:** **Published**  
There were two questions:
- Why is Maintenance so far below budget? This is because most of the annual maintenance invoiced are received in March.
  - Why are water charges for the allotments so high? This is driven by the hot dry spring and summer . With so little rainfall, water butts harvested minimal rainwater.
- 49.4 **Review of 2025-26 forecast to year end:** **Published** There were no questions so it was proposed to present this to Full Council. **All Agreed**
- 49.5 **Review of updated budget for 2026-27:** **Circulated**  
There were some questions and observations:
- What is the £8k under Legal and Professional for? This is a budget to instal a new accounting system to replace the Excel model custom built by the Clerk. A full proposal will be brought to the Council before anything is committed.
  - Why is Miscellaneous so high? This is where most of the overlays to support the 3 year plan have been entered. Again, there will be no commitment to spend without a proposal to the full Council.
  - It was noted that cemetery costs are lower following active management during 2025.
  - What is the budget for the Village Hall Playing Field boundary for? This represents the cost of an item in the 3 year plan to tidy and manage the boundary to improve both public utility and create more secure wildlife corridors. Again, there will be no commitment to spend without a proposal to the full Council.
- 49.6 **Review and recommend Precept required to support the budget**  
The options for precept were discussed and in order to create a balanced budget covering all the activities that the Council aspire to manage during 2026-27, a precept of £120k was recommended. The Clerk confirmed that £120k represents a charge for a Band D property of £128.45 per year - an increase of £1.63 per month from 2025-26.
- FGP25: 50 **Review and recommend 3 year plan.** The 3 year plan was reviewed in some detail and some minor textual clarifications were made. It was proposed that the latest plan be presented to the next full Council meeting for approval. **All Agreed**
- FGP25: 51 **Reporting items for the next meeting:**
- FGP25: 52 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 2 March 2026

Meeting Closed 22:09

Signed.

Cllr David Chenery, Chair.

Date.