

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 6 January 2025 at 19:00

- FGP24: **73 Present from the Council** Cllr Chenery (Chair) Cllr Dempsey-Gray
Cllr Cooke A. Besly (Clerk)
- FGP24: **74 Present from the Public** None
- FGP24: **75 Open Public Forum session** None
- FGP24: **76 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr French. Cllr Creasey was not present but offered no apology
- FGP24: **77 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** None
- FGP24: **78 Proposal to approve the draft minutes** of the F&GP Meeting of 4 November 2024 **All Agreed**
- FGP24: **79 Chair's Report:** Cllr Chenery noted that WPMC have a 3-5 year business plan published on the website. It was agreed that this should be reviewed and updated at the March F&GP meeting for presentation to the full council
- FGP24: **80 Finance Reporting:**
- 80.1 Finance report and Payments Schedule:** **Published** It was noted that the payments schedule requires updating. The Clerk will republish for the next full council meeting
- 80.2 Bank Reconciliation and Reserves Summary:** **Published** The reserves were reviewed and it was noted that:
- The general reserve should increase to £49.5k to be 50% of precept
 - The VH soakaway and CIL together will be dedicated to Village Hall Modernisation £9,814
- 80.3 Summary Financial Statement:** **Published** This was reviewed briefly before moving on to the 2024-25 forecast
- 80.4 Review of forecast for 2024-25 to present to full council:** The forecast was reviewed in some detail and it was agreed that it represented a fair view of WPMC end of year position. This will now be published.
- 80.5 Review draft Budget for 2025-26:** The draft budget was reviewed and it was proposed that WPMC should publish a balanced budget. **All Agreed.** In order to achieve this the following actions were proposed:
- Reduce tree safety work to £2k. This will therefore not cover general tree management but only essential safety work.
 - Reduce Legal and professional costs to £2k. There is currently £9.8k in reserves for the Village Hall Carpark and CIL which should be used for essential professional fees ahead of village hall modernisation. Any fees should be shared equally with the Village Hall Modernisation Fund.
- This will result in a small budget surplus for 2025-26
- FGP24: **81 Proposal to approve payments** above the delegated authority of the Chair/Clerk. **None**
- FGP24: **82 Review proposal for maintenance operative.** Because of risk involved in engaging a single person, the Clerk is obtaining quotes to manage Little Lane, FP009 and the triangle of verge at the northern village gateway just to the north of Rackham's bridge. ESSL have been requested to quote. Two other quotes will be sought.
- FGP24: **83 Review of current funding opportunities** to see if there is anything that can support council activities. Currently there are none identified
- FGP24: **84 Reporting items for the next meeting:** Review and update of the 3-5 year plan. Various year end governance statements.
- FGP24: **85 Date of next meeting: Monday 3 March 2025**

Meeting closed 21:00

Signed.

Cllr David Chenery, Chair.

Date.

.....

.....