

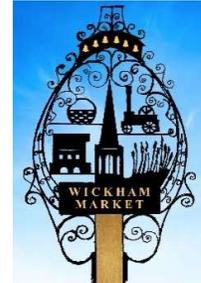
# WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: GEMMA DEMPSEY-GRAY

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: DAVID CHENERY

**MINUTES** of the meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council Finance & General Purpose Committee held on Monday 6 November 2023 at 19:00



FGP23: 54 **Present from the Council**

Cllr Chenery (Chair)  
Cllr French

Cllr Cooke  
Cllr Dempsey-Gray  
A. Besly (Clerk)

FGP23: 55 **Present from the Public**

None

FGP23: 56 **Open Public Forum session**

None

FGP23: 57 **Apologies for Absence:**

None

FGP23: 58 **Declarations of Interest:**

None

FGP23: 59 **Approve the draft minutes** of the F&GP Meeting of 4 September 2023

Draft minutes of 4 September 2023 were approved as a correct record: One abstained (not present) **All Others Agreed**

FGP23: 60 **Chair's Report:** Nothing to report beyond the agenda items

FGP23: 61 **Finance report including Bank Reconciliation:** Review of draft report to be presented to November full Council: *Published* There were no questions

FGP23: 62 **Payments Schedule:** Review of draft schedule ahead of the November Council: *Published* There were no questions

**62.1 Proposal to approve** payment of the Kompan repair invoice £3,510.96. The invoice was reviewed and £3,564 is covered by insurance. Payment was approved. **All Agreed**

FGP23: 63 **Proposal to approve** purchase of traffic management equipment totalling up to £1,300 for which funding has been agreed from the ESTI grant *Published*

The traffic management signage schedule was reviewed together with costs from 5 suppliers. It was proposed that the recommended supplier be used at a cost of £1,138 plus VAT. **All Agreed**

FGP23: 64 **Proposal to approve** purchase of a new storage shed *Published*

It was noted that the only supplier to provide a shed with interlocking logs of the size required was BillyOh. In order to maintain the quality and longevity of the shed while maximising size, it was proposed that the 14' x 8' pent roof shed be purchased with pressure treated timber currently priced at £2,522. **All Agreed**

FGP23: 65 **Review of current assets schedule** with a view to making recommendations to the full council

The Clerk presented the Asset Register which has historically displayed aggregated totals with no supporting information. The proposal is to clean it up, disaggregate summaries, provide more granularity and ensure all assets are recorded. It was proposed that this methodology was an appropriate way forward. **All Agreed**

FGP23: 66 **Consider grant application from Citizens Advice East Suffolk [CAES]**

It was noted that while the request was higher than last year, CAES still relied on other grants to provide a service in Wickham Market. It was proposed that the grant be approved and, recognising the support CAES provide to the parish, should the need arise, a supplementary application would be considered. **All agreed**

FGP23: 67 **Review latest 2023-24 Forecast and 24-25 suggested budget** to recommend to the full council

The latest forecast and budget for 24-25 were reviewed. It was noted that there was no budget for grants applied for and that Newsletter costs assumed a quarterly issue. It was agreed that the newsletter should continue bi-monthly and that there should be an expectation of grants applied for. The Clerk will update for presentation to the full council together with a narrative on highlights.

It was also noted that there were reserves available for a refresh of the children's play area.

It was noted that Royal Mail have not delivered newsletters to every household and have delivered several copies to some households. Clerk to raise a complaint.

The Clerk will also check the land registry for ownership of the piece of land behind King Edward Ave.

FGP23: 68 **Update on usage opportunities for East Suffolk Towns Initiative Fund [ESTI fund]**

There is a meeting with ESC regarding the ESTI fund on 14 November where updates will be discussed.

FGP23: 69 **Proposal to change banks to a more environmentally friendly institution**

Cllr Dempsey-Gray expressed concern that Barclays invest heavily in fossil fuel development which she believes is contrary to WMPC Climate Action Strategy. There was some discussion and disagreement so it was agreed that the Climate Action Group would provide a cost/benefit proposal for changing banks.

FGP23: 70 **Reporting items for the next meeting:** Cllr Chenery to propose dates for councillor training for Jan 2024

FGP23: 71 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 8 January 2024

Closed at 21:19

Signed.

Cllr David Chenery, Chair.

Date.

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