

# Wickham Market Parish Council – Clerk's Report 15 July 2024

Following a very busy few months leading up to our May meeting I have taken some time off so this report is a little shorter this time.

1. **Wickham Market News:** Deadline for August Issue was 10 July I can still accept articles over the next few days.
2. **Deputy Clerk**
  - 2.1. Leanne Castle has accepted the role of Deputy Clerk and started on 10 July 2024.
  - 2.2. Leanne unfortunately can't come to this meeting to introduce herself because of a prior commitment. She will however write a short bio for the Wickham Market News to introduce herself. She has a strong background in communication and is keen to use the website news pages and WMPC social media accounts to promote the Council and the Parish.
3. **Website**
  - 3.1. Please note that the website address is <https://wickhammarketpc.com/> This is a secure website. It is still available from the old address through a redirection, but this route is not secure.
  - 3.2. Meeting with digital audit provider for East Suffolk Council. The recommendation is to rewrite the website to include the most effective search engine tags, triggers and content to improve layout and site visibility. It is planned that this could be part funded by East Suffolk Council. This is planned for later in 2024
  - 3.3. The Accessibility Audit and statement is still required and would be part of this project.
  - 3.4. There is a strong recommendation from NALC that councils should adopt a ".gov.uk" website domain. There is a small amount of funding to support this (only c£200). This has been reviewed by the F&GP committee and is at agenda item 61 for Council Approval
4. **Allotments**
  - 4.1. Huge thanks to Andy Baker and Mick Miller for tracing and resolving the water leak in the pipe supplying Simons Cross Allotments.
  - 4.2. Agenda item 60.1 is a proposal to increase rents in line with inflation
5. **Village Hall**
  - 5.1. There has been significant progress on the village hall modernisation which has a separate report.
  - 5.2. The car park survey and consultation has been completed. Generally the proposals are understood but concerns from some users need to be addressed. I will summarise feedback to councillors shortly.
6. **Children's play area**
  - 6.1. Repair and maintenance quotes being requested.
7. **Footpath from Wickham gate**
  - 7.1. Hopkins Homes appear to have engaged highways contractors to create the required footpath from Wickham Gate to join with the existing one and provide a crossing.
8. **Markets**
  - 8.1. Roadside advertising for the summer market is with the printers. This advertising will be reusable by simply changing the date for future events.
  - 8.2. Planning is almost complete for the Summer Market 10 August, thanks to Alison's continued hard work. We have 31 stalls so far and possibly have room to squeeze another couple in if requested.
  - 8.3. Alison will shortly be asking for volunteers to set up and take down. Please come and help if you are able, it is a lot of hard work when there only a few helpers.