

Wickham Market Parish Council. Clerk's Report 21 September 2026.

1. Correspondence from residents:

- 1.1. A complaint regarding vegetation clearance on a Public Right of Way has been received. WMPC is investigating and obtaining legal advice.
- 1.2. Email from a Campsea Ashe resident regarding advertising who then sent an abusive follow up when I didn't reply within three days because I was out of the office. Case is closed.
- 1.3. Concern over the boundary wall of the Chapel Lane carpark. ESC building control have inspected it and confirm there are no immediate safety issues but will monitor the situation. However, it is on ESC maintenance list so maintenance work will take place "in due course".
- 1.4. Report of antisocial behaviour at the Wickham Gate play area. This is a private play area managed by the estate management committee. The incident has been reported to the police.
- 1.5. A challenge as to why the Parish Council regularly spend over £10k per year on the cemetery but nothing on the children's play area. It was confirmed that the Parish Council is working on a £70k refresh of the play area, hopefully this financial year depending on funding.
- 1.6. Concern over the safety of the trees on the Hill. It was confirmed that East Suffolk Council are responsible for these and ESC Councillor Sally Noble has replied.
- 1.7. Report of an abandoned motorcycle on the lower high street surrounded by cones. Currently investigating a solution. The motorcycle now has a new cover on it strongly suggesting it is not abandoned. Resident informed

2. Play area

- 2.1. Plans are being developed and quotes received for a refresh of the play area. Broadly the expectation is to replace the current large climbing frame and roundabout with a multi play structures with climbing, slides and bridges supplemented with an accessible roundabout and a nest swing with each piece of equipment surrounded by all-weather surfacing.
- 2.2. There will be a proposal brought to the full council once three initial quotes have been received.
- 2.3. Some elements of possible funding rely on match funding. To maximise the success of applications, the council should consider enhancing its own funding reserve for this project.

3. Cemetery

- 3.1. Wickham Market Parish Council have applied for corporate membership to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)
- 3.2. The paddock barbed wire and other items removed by Simon and Mike has been taken to the recycling centre.
- 3.3. The Clerk is meeting Suffolk Wildlife Trust at the cemetery for a free assessment.

4. Suffolk County Council Self Help Scheme

- 4.1. Wickham Market Parish Council have joined this scheme which allows representatives, volunteers or contractors to carry out certain tasks that would normally be the responsibility of the Highways Authority.

5. Active Travel Routes

- 5.1. Wickham Market Parish Council are engaging with East Suffolk Council and surrounding parishes regarding proposals for cycle routes connecting to Marlesford and to Wickham Market station at Campsea Ashe. Discussions are at an early stage but are positive. Funding will need to be sought.

6. Job applications

- 6.1. There are several applications for all of the three roles that are being advertised. Shortlisting is planned for late September

7. SX Playing field transfer

- 7.1. Cllr Stephen Molyneux is following up this possibility with SCC assets team.

8. Tree safety inspections

- 8.1. A number of suppliers for this work have been recommended by local town Clerks and a request to quote is ready to be sent.
- 8.2. There has been a delay in the is sending this as the definition that was suggested includes "Plans can be provided by WMPC to known scale such as 1:500 or any other as required. We will also provide the site boundaries and information relating to any designations." I have queried this as I don't know where these maps will come from or how a tree inspector is expected to use them. In the absence of a response, I plan to leave much of the detail out of the definition and allow the chosen professional to provide the required information.

9. Wayfinding Posts

- 9.1. These were funded by ESC Economic Development and have now been installed.