

Wickham Market Parish Council. Clerk's Report 16 February 2026.

1. **Wickham Market News.** The March/April issue is in production. Leanne is now managing all aspects of production and delivery.
2. **Reports for the council meeting.**
 - 2.1. There was no general request for reports for this meeting as most contributors provided reports on their activities in January.
 - 2.2. In order to ease the requirement for additional reporting and keep agendas focussed on decision making, reports will be requested for alternate meetings. This does not prevent reports being added for any meeting as required.
 - Finance reports will be provided at alternate monthly meetings following the bimonthly Finance meeting starting in March 2026.
 - Other operational reports will be requested for alternate meetings starting in April 2026.
3. **Correspondence from residents:**
 - 3.1. There was a question regarding the footpath repair at George Lane and the potholes opposite Revetts. Both of these have now been resolved.
4. **Tree Safety**
 - 4.1. I have still not received location data for the trees on WMPC land from our Tree Warden via Cllr Jenkinson. As a result, tree safety inspections have not yet been arranged.
5. **Fly Tipping**
 - 5.1. Jennie, our dedicated litter picker, has reported two instances of fly tipping at Simons Cross car park and by pill box. She has reference numbers and ESC say they will sort this out ASAP.
6. **Briefings for agenda proposals:**
 - 6.1. Item 177.1 **Proposal to authorise ongoing maintenance** of FP9 and Little Lane for 2026. This was debated and approved for 2025 because these two routes to school quickly get overgrown with nettles and brambles. SCC will only cut twice per year, so WMPC have chosen to proactively manage these two routes. Included in this is the management of the northern village gateway at Ashe Road.
 - 6.2. Item 177.3 **Proposal to pre authorise payment to ESSL** for 2025-26 maintenance activity up to a maximum of £15k. This is expected to be £14,616 once everything is completed. The ESSL bill usually arrives in late March which can leave insufficient time for the Council to approve payment. The broad breakdown of costs is:

• Cemetery	6,239
• Cemetery Box Hedge	1,044
• Pightle and Playing Fields mowing	3,779
• Footpath Maintenance	2,366
• Play Area Hedge	250
• Winter face and top FP9 and VH entrance	938
• Total	14,616
 - 6.3. Item 179 **Proposal to agree the process** for the publication of a review of the year. Using the news magazine as a distribution medium, there is a suggestion that a review of the last year can be published showcasing the work of the Parish Council and other organisations. This is a significant piece of work so the Parish Council should agree what aspects or services go into it and how it should look. As a suggestion it could include a running narrative with pictures to support individual aspects or paragraphs/headings.
 - 6.4. Item 180 **Proposal to approve the format of the** Annual Parish Meeting. The format used over the last two years invites parish groups to have a table display at the hall. The official meeting is fairly concise and once this is closed refreshments are offered including wine and beer. Attendees can then circulate and interact with the parish groups.
 - 6.5. Item 181 **Proposal to approve** Real Thai Food Hadleigh to trade from the village hall carpark on a bimonthly basis on a Saturday evening. Currently the Thai Van trades periodically at Riverside Industrial Estate. They were given temporary permission to use the Village Hall Car park for 7 February. This proposal seeks to make this a permanent location for their bimonthly visits.
 - 6.6. Item 182 **Proposal to approve** Community Payback activity. The Community Payback team have successfully cleared several unusable and abandoned allotment plots at Glebe. Their labour is free and the Clerk meets them on site for a briefing. The probation service provides supervisors for the team, tools and a welfare van.