

# Wickham Market Parish Council – Clerk's Report 17 March 2025

1. **Wickham Market News:** Deadline for April Issue was 14 March.
2. **Website**
  - 2.1. The project for a new village website has officially started and funding of £3,500 is in place towards the £6.8k build cost. Delivery is expected in late Spring 2025
  - 2.2. PC Website moving to a new domain [wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk](http://wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk)
3. **Emails**
  - 3.1. New .gov.uk emails to go live from 18 March
    - Your emails will be transferred to a new account together with your email history.
    - Once this is done you will not have access to your old account
    - An auto forward will be put in place for two months from the date of transfer.
    - After this period incoming emails will not be accepted to your old account and it will be deleted
4. **Children's play area**
  - 4.1. Still awaiting skate park repair quotes
5. **Markets**
  - 5.1. The Spring market on 29 March is fully booked with 40 stalls which will include food and drink vendors
  - 5.2. I challenged a £150 cost to close the road. This has now been withdrawn
6. **Insurance and Volunteers**
  - 6.1. Work is ongoing to create appropriate risk assessments and records to ensure volunteers are insured while working on pre agreed council activities.
  - 6.2. The initial documents are presented for approval at item 162
7. **Bank Mandate**
  - 7.1. Electronic Access still needs to be created by Gloria and Gemma
  - 7.2. CCLA account has been opened with £60k
8. **Litter Picking and Maintenance**
  - 8.1. Jennie has started
9. **Cemetery**
  - 9.1. Work to level graves to facilitate easier cutting has been completed
10. **Leases**
  - 10.1. The original licenses to occupy for the Bowls Club and the Football Club expired in February 1998. Both organisations will be approached to agree heads of terms for a new lease. Birketts solicitors in Ipswich expect the cost to be £1,500 providing this process goes smoothly.
11. **Grass Cutting 2025**
  - 11.1. Grass cutting requirements for 2025 have been defined and a quote is awaited from ESSL
  - 11.2. 17/3 Just received. ESSL costs have increased by just under 6% in general. In brief summary:
    - Playing field grass cutting has increased by £1.2k due to increased frequency over last year
    - The Pightle and Cemetery ditch and soil compound maintenance remain similar
    - Cemetery Lime Trees has increased by £1.4k as they are due their periodic pollarding in 2025
    - Cemetery grass cutting has reduced from £5.7 to £2.2k as a direct result of the structural works which cost £1.6k. After taking into account price increases of 6% this is a saving of £3.8k per year which makes the cemetery more sustainable going forwards.
12. **Footpath Maintenance 2025**
  - 12.2. ESSL have been asked to quote for footpath maintenance for Little Lane and FP009 (George to Spring Lane) other quotes are also being sought from local providers.
13. **Sizewell C**
  - 13.1. Latest Traffic calming drawings published on the website
14. **Bullying and Harassment**
  - 14.1. A new bullying and harassment policy is currently being implemented and a draft recommendation from the Staffing and Personnel committee will be available for implementation at the May meeting