

# Wickham Market Parish Council – Clerk’s Report 19 January 2026

1. **Wickham Market News:** Deadline for the March/April issue is 10 February 2026. Delivery begins 11 March
2. **Reports for the council meeting:**
  - 2.1. Written reports were requested for this council meeting to be published in advance for all residents to see. The agenda only includes reports or proposals received in time
3. **Correspondence from residents:**
  - 3.1. Report of closed step free access from the Percy Mason carpark to the village hall. A ramp has been installed following some strong communication from the Clerk to the project manager.
  - 3.2. Request for timetable for fixing the toilets. Work is expected to be complete by early February
  - 3.3. Complaint about over growth on the footpath by old school Farm. Simon Harrington has cleared this.
  - 3.4. Notice of a rubbish bin that has been dumped in a garden. This is the plastic top of a council owned bin and has been collected.
  - 3.5. Complaint about leaves on footpaths. This has now been cleared by ESC
  - 3.6. Request to advertise Full Council meetings on social media. This will be actioned for the January meeting.
4. **Children’s play area**
  - 4.1. No further action yet. It would be good to gather a user group to help move this forward
5. **Hedge Cutting update**
  - 5.1. Village hall carpark entrance and FP9 George Lane to King Edwards Ave has been put out to contract after receiving approval at the F&GP meeting. The village hall entrance has been cut back. FP9 is scheduled for later in the month.
6. **Allotments**
  - 6.1. Community Payback team have reinstated 6 overgrown plots at Glebe allotments, all of which have now been let.
  - 6.2. Further opportunities to use the community payback team are being considered including litter picking, graffiti removal and management of weeds around the village hall. If you have any other suggestions, please email [clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk)
  - 6.3. There was a significant amount of rubbish that was pulled off these neglected plots. This has now been removed at a cost to the Parish Council.
7. **Wayfinding update**
  - 7.1. The approved wayfinding proposal is now out for final quotation from the preferred supplier
8. **Martyn’s Law update**
  - 8.1. This is the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 briefing from NALC still needs to be considered.
9. **AGAR assertion 10 update**
  - 9.1. WMPC principal weakness is accessibility on WMPC old website. This appears to be a fairly straightforward fix which will be trialled shortly. An accessibility statement will also be required.
10. **Advertising Full Council Meetings**
  - 10.1. Following a request from a member of the public, Full Council meetings will be advertised on social media with a QR code to the agenda. This is in addition to the statutory advertising requirements
11. **Communications**
  - 11.1. David has suggested we set up a task and finish group to address communication strategy for the big projects we are managing. There has been no response. This could happen informally at the end of the next meeting. It doesn’t need to have councillors formally appointed.
  - 11.2. I have suggested a review of the year and circulated suggested topics to cover. I have had one response and no comments on the topic list.
12. **Spoof Emails are doing the rounds again**
  - 12.1. You may have seen an email purporting to come from Ivor or someone else you know asking if you have a few spare minutes because they are in a meeting. If you respond they will ask you to purchase gift cards.
  - 12.2. This isn’t a “hack”. No one has got into a councillor’s email account. All your names are in the public domain as councillors, so all someone has done is to set up a random email and associated a name with it, then used it to send a request to someone else in the organisation.
  - 12.3. So, if you get an email purporting to be from someone you know claiming they are unavailable and they ask you to buy gift cards for a family member’s birthday or confirm a meeting etc (it’s always the same basic story designed to generate a quick response from you):
    - Look at the sign off – is it too formal? That should raise suspicions.
    - **Check the actual email address**. It will not relate to the email of your known contact
    - Then ignore the request and delete the email. Not much point in blocking the domain as the spoofer will change it regularly