

Wickham Market Parish Council. Clerk's Report 20 July 2026.

1. Correspondence from residents:

- 1.1. Report of damage to the Spring Road sign and the dog waste bin near the bridge
- 1.2. A resident complained to Councillor Noble about the nettles and brambles on FP9
- 1.3. A resident exercised her public rights to inspect 2025-26 financial information.
- 1.4. A request to clear the footpath from Churchill Crescent to the High Street. Our volunteer footpath warden has resolved this issue.
- 1.5. A resident expressed concern over a van parking in a layby outside their house. As this is part of the highway and there are no parking restrictions, they were advised that WMPC has no power to do anything about this.
- 1.6. We received thanks from the WI for lending some gazebos for their garden party.

2. Maintenance

- 2.1. The repair of the village hall carpark potholes has been arranged
- 2.2. The repair of the broken bus shelter glass has been arranged and completed.
- 2.3. The management of Little Lane and FP9 to remove stray brambles and nettles has been arranged and completed
- 2.4. The repair of the Spring Lane sign and the dog waste bin has been arranged and completed.

3. Play area

- 3.1. An initial design and cost is being worked on. In principle the large climbing frame and canted roundabout will go and be replaced with an eye-catching play building with slides, walkways, tunnels and bars (not the pub type!) and a sunken roundabout. Most of the rest of the equipment will stay. All equipment will have individual ground surrounds of bonded rubber chips. We are working up a proposal at the moment. I am working with parents of young children.

4. Public Rights of inspection

- 4.1. A number of documents relating to the engagement of professionals to modernise the village hall have been provided to a resident.

5. Wickham Market News

- 5.1. The July issue suffered a potential setback when the delivery van taking the print to Royal Mail was involved in a road traffic crash. The print was delivered late but Royal Mail agreed to process it immediately so that the distribution was not delayed.
- 5.2. We get occasional requests for paid advertising. We currently do not take paid advertising to keep it as a news and information magazine. The business directory is a free service from WMPC for businesses located in the village as it is the parish precept that funds the publication.

6. Litter and broken glass

- 6.1. Jennie is on holiday this week and I got a report of broken glass on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
- 6.2. This was not just a broken bottle, it was Corona and Budweiser bottles deliberately thrown onto the surface to smash into thousands of shards. This also happened on the skate park. I have swept up as best I can but some shards are tiny but still dangerous. I had to stop my Clerk admin to go home and get my garden vacuum to clear it properly.
- 6.3. This is the reason for item FC26-88 proposing CCTV

7. Annual Leave

- 7.1. The Clerk will be on leave from 13 – 28 August inclusive