

Deputy Clerk's Report for Full Council Meeting

30th October 2025

Markets

Saturday Market

We continue to have Newbourne Farm and Fisherman's Catch (when fishing weather allows) with us every week. The Olive Man, Old Felixstowe Brewery, and The Quince Tree make monthly appearances (although not all on the same Saturday, as they accommodate us around their larger markets). Pinewood Catering, Beat the Demon Coffee, and TabbouleTal also visited in October.

Leanne visits the stallholders most Saturdays to say hello, take photos, and make some social media posts.

Wednesday Market

DPC Fish visits The Hill twice a month; Dave Coote isn't happy that he is the only stallholder present. Fisherman's Catch has made an enquiry about being on The Hill on the Wednesdays when DPC Fish don't visit. Leanne has responded positively to the enquiry and is waiting to hear more.

Invoicing

Invoicing is done every month, and traders pay promptly.

Seasonal Markets – Spring, Summer, Harvest and Christmas

The Christmas Market is scheduled to take place on Saturday 29th November. All 40 pitches are reserved. Potsford Farm is making a welcome return with their hot food trailer. Entertainment has been arranged, including the Community Choir, the School Choir, Kelly Booth, and hopefully the Church handbell ringers. The school PTA is organising Santa's Grotto. WMPC are sharing their gazebo with Kelly Booth, so there will be little room to display material.

In view of the vandalised public toilets, Portaloo's are being hired for the day.

Fenton's Removals has been appointed to work with the WMPC team to help transport and set up at all four seasonal markets each year, beginning with the Christmas Market 2025.

WMPC secured a grant from East Suffolk Council to purchase 820 jute shopping bags branded with the Visit Wickham Market logo. With the bags, WMPC aims to reduce stallholders' use of single-use plastic bags at seasonal markets. They will begin distribution at the Christmas Market.

Grants

WMPC secured a grant to fund the purchase and installation of cycle racks for the village, with the ordering and work currently underway. The grant also covered the £200 cost of Re-Cycle Bike Repairs for checking and repairing bikes at the Harvest Market 2025, with customers only paying for the parts.

WMPC will apply for a grant to cover the costs of three business events in 2026. The Deputy Clerk is attending the business group at The George (organised by High House Nursery), which meets on the last Friday evening of each month.

Allotments

Allotment fees have been collected for 2025-2026. There are a handful of overdue payments, and action is being taken to 'evict' and reallocate the allotments.

Cemetery

From 8th September to 30th October 2025, there has been:

1 Burial Interment

0 Ashes Interments

Planning

From 8th September to 30th October 2025 there have been three planning applications for which the Deputy Clerk has written minutes and uploaded to the WMPC website.

Parish Magazine

To reflect the new Visit Wickham Market website, the Parish Magazine has been refreshed. The November/December issue will be distributed in November, and articles for the January/February edition are now being sought.

Social Media

Posts continue to be made to the WMPC social media accounts. Posts from the Wickham Market (e.g. Visit Wickham Market) Facebook account will resume in early November.

Visit Wickham Market Website

Events are being listed on the website, and amendments to the material (which was transferred over from the original Visit Wickham Market website) continue to be made.