

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 15 September 2025 at 19:00



- FC25:72 Present from the Council:** Cllr I French (Chair) Cllr Day Cllr Jenkinson
Cllr Chenery Cllr Dempsey-Gray Cllr Noble (ESC)
Cllr Cooke Cllr S French A Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Creasey Cllr Horsnell
- FC25:73 Present from the Public:** None
- FC25:74 Open Public Forum session** (3 minutes per person): None
- FC25:75 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Nicoll (SCC)
- FC25:76 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** None
- FC25:77 Proposal to approve the draft minutes** of the Parish Council meeting on 21 July 2025. **All Agreed**
- FC25:78 Receive Minutes.** There were no questions
- 78.1** Finance & General Purpose Committee 1 September 2025 *Published*
- 78.2** Planning Committee: 28 July, 12 August, 26 August and 1 September 2025 *Published*
- 78.3** Environment and Leisure Working Group 11 August 2025 *Published*
- FC25:79 Suffolk County Councillor's Report (SCC):** None Received
- FC25:80 East Suffolk Councillor's Report (ESC):** *Published* Cllr Noble added the following comments:
- Following a question on local government reorganisation and Suffolk County council's proposal for one council providing savings with headquarters costs, Councillor Noble said that East Suffolk Council don't believe that one unitary council would work but three would and all five districts and boroughs in Suffolk agree with this.
 - Regarding Pettistree solar farm, there are no dates for the planning committee meeting yet.
 - There is concern over a significant amount of developments which may have detrimental effect to Wickham Market regarding traffic. There is a particular concern regarding Westerfield quarry.
 - Councillor Noble asked about the position of Wickham Market emergency plan which is in draft form awaiting training on how to use the village hall as a rest centre. She noted that ESC training is available and that Z cards are also available within the district.
 - Councillor Noble also noted that the first 4 rivers citizen science workshop invitations were being distributed at the moment for a meeting on 26th of September.
 - She also noted the arson attack at Wickham Market public toilets which the police are investigating.
- FC25:81 Chair's Report:** *Published*. The following was noted:
Abnormal loads reported to the police for transit on the A12 of 88. These are not necessarily all SZC transports.
In addition, there have been recent reports of ASB relating to straw bales and an assault on a child
- FC25:82 Clerk's Report:** *Published* The Clerk confirmed that the correspondence was from six different people.
- FC25:83 Finance Report July 2024**
- 83.1** Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule: *Published* There were no questions
- 83.2** Review Bank Reconciliation: *Published*
There was some discussion regarding the CCLA investment which provide a much better return than Barclays. This investment is also considered ethical and it was suggested that the Council could increase the value. The next F&GP meeting will assess the risks and make a recommendation.
- 83.3** Review Summary Financial Statement: *Published*
- FC25:84 Proposal to Review and adopt** clarification to the public participation at meetings
- 84.1** It was proposed that the time given for public speaking should be 3 minutes. **All Agreed** **Clerk**
Clerk to update Standing Orders, Public participation and all agendas going forward

- 84.2 It was proposed that The Public Participation at Council Meetings should allow for written reports to be submitted up to 2 working days before the meeting. **All Agreed** Clerk to update Public participation at Council Meetings policy **Clerk**
- FC25:85 Explore ways of managing and disposing** of footpath clearance debris
The Clerk outlined the issue of path clearing debris left in situ as raised by a member of the public. A number of options were discussed and it was concluded that the most environmentally friendly option would be to ask Simon to build a modest “dead hedge” enclosure in the north west corner of the pightle to contain cut branches while they decompose. The added benefit would be to create a habitat area. **All Agreed.** Clerk request Simon to do this. **Clerk**
- FC25:86 Proposal to support** the Sizewell C community fund grant application from the friends of Wickham Market Library. The proposal was explained and **All Agreed.** Chair to write to Friends of Wickham Market Library. **Chair**
- FC25:87 Deputy Clerk’s Report:** Includes Markets, allotments and Cemetery. *Published* There were no questions
- 87.1 Proposal to pay Leanne** extra hours for her work at the Harvest Market rather than Time Off in Lieu. **All Agreed.** Clerk to action **Clerk**
- FC25:88 Village Hall Modernisation Report** *Published.* It was noted that the decision on the Sizewell C grant application is pending
- FC25:89 Allotments Report** *Published* It was noted that 3 plots on Glebe are very overgrown and that the Clerk has applied to the Probation Service for community payback people to clear them before letting to new plot holders.
- FC25:90 Footpaths Report** *Published* It was noted that the idea of a Walking for Health group was thought to be an excellent idea.
- FC25:91 Climate Action Working Group minutes** *Published*
There was considerable discussion regarding how the Climate Action group should be named and presented. It was agreed that it would be good to see a plan of activities for the year and minutes of regular meetings published. **Clerk**
It was also noted that proposals for projects presented to the Council should include a section to consider the environmental impact of the proposal. Clerk to amend WMPC Essentials No6 – Meeting reports and proposals
- FC25:92 Proposal to replace the box hedge round the memorial Garden** *Published*
It was noted that the presented costs were not final and therefore could not be agreed. However, **it was agreed in principle** that the dead Box hedge be replaced with another hedge. The E&L Working Group will do more work to refine the costs and seek external funding. **E&L WG**
- At this point the meeting had run for 2 hours.** It was proposed that standing order 3) x. be suspended to allow further business to be transacted. **All Agreed**
- FC25:93 Review and approval of three-year plan** updates to support the 2026-27 budget process *Published*
There was considerable discussion regarding the presentation and content of this plan. **Clerk**
It was proposed that an extra column be added to categorise projects into priority 1,2 & 3. **All Agreed**
The condition of the children’s play area was highlighted and it was suggested this could be a project for a Task and Finish working group. However, the conversation moved on and nobody took an action to lead on this.
It was proposed that Councillors feed ideas and text into the Clerk within the next couple of weeks to be included in a new draft plan. This plan can be circulated for further comment over email and then reviewed and agreed at the November meeting. **All Agreed** **All Cllrs**
- FC25:94 Proposal to get quotes to cut back overhanging hedges** *Published* **All Agreed.** Clerk to arrange quotes **Clerk**
- FC25:95 Reporting items for the next meeting**
- Border Cot Lane Traffic Regulation Order
 - Three Year Plan
 - Children’s Play Area repairs and renovation
- FC25:96 Date of next meeting:** 17 November 2025

Meeting Closed at 21:35

Signed.

Cllr Ivor French, Chair. Date.

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