

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 17 November 2025 at 19:00



FC25: 105 Present from the Council: Cllr I French (Chair) Cllr Dempsey-Gray (19:20) Cllr Noble (ESC)
Cllr Chenery Cllr S French A Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Cooke Cllr Horsnell
Cllr Day (19:15) Cllr Jenkinson

FC25: 106 Present from the Public: 1

FC25: 107 Open Public Forum session (3 minutes per person): The member of the public said he was here to observe and see what was happening in the village

FC25: 108 Apologies for Absence: None

FC25: 109 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None

FC25: 110 Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15 September 2025 and Extra Ordinary meeting of 16 October 2025. **All Agreed**

FC25: 111 Receive Committee and Working Group Minutes

111.1 Finance & General Purpose Committee 3 November 2025 *Published* There were no questions

111.2 Planning Committee: 9 October and 30 October 2025 *Published* It was noted that final decisions had not yet been made

111.3 Environment and Leisure Working Group 13 October 2025 *Published* Tree safety, cemetery and Simons Cross Pill Box were discussed at the meeting

111.4 Climate Action Working Group 30 September 2025 *Published* There was a presentation from Greener Fram

111.5 Village Hall Modernisation Committee 28 October 2025 *Published* There was a question regarding the SZC grant application. All information on this is published in minutes and chair's reports.

FC25: 112 Suffolk County Councillor's Report (SCC): None Received

FC25: 113 East Suffolk Councillor's Report (ESC): *Published* Cllr Noble added the following comments:

- There is a challenge to Sizewell C regarding sea defences.
- The southern transport forum meets in early December, pre submitted questions are requested.
- There has been an emergency planning workshop, planning for the winter.
- Local government reorganisation decision will be made in March 2026.
- Fraud Awareness Week.
- Better recycling is coming in June 2026. This is a central government initiative that must be followed. East Suffolk council are developing an app regarding the bins. There will be a new bin for paper and cardboard I only. The target is to reach 60% recycling rate.
- There is government funding for Lowestoft central and Felixstowe West to improve these areas.
- Loudham solar park planning committee meeting postponed to December.
- SALC have funded a coordinator to support town and parish councils regarding Sizewell C issues and NSIPS issues.

FC25: 114 Chair's Report: *Published*. There were no questions

FC25: 115 Clerk's Report: *Published* There were no questions

FC25: 116 Finance Report November 2025

116.1 Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule: *Published* There were no questions

116.2 Review Bank Reconciliation: *Published* There were no questions

116.3 Review Summary Financial Statement: *Published* There were no questions

116.4 Review latest forecast for 2025-26 outturn: *Published* There was a question regarding the inclusion of costs for the memorial garden hedge. This is included

116.1 Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule: *Published* There was a question on Legal and Professional costs. The Clerk explained that this was an accounting heading and most costs here were for professional work on the village hall.

FC25: 117 Review, prioritise and approve draft three-year plan updates to support the 2026-27 budget process *Published*

There was a detailed discussion regarding the content and prioritisation of the 3 year plan. The plan has now been updated as draft and published. It will be reviewed for final approval in January.

FC25: 118 Consider which land or assets WMPC would like to transfer in from the soon to change County and District Councils

There was considerable discussion regarding the potential for transferring assets. The end results provisionally agreed are:

- SX Playing Field from SCC: Agreed
- The Hill car park area from ESC. To be considered
- Percy Mason but not toilets; to be considered.
- Chapel Lane CP: no

It will be reviewed for final approval in January.

FC25: 119 Review and approve the first draft budget costs 2026-27 *Published* Salaries should include additional costs for website operation and more litter picking.

FC25: 120 Review and approve the expected precept requirement 2026-27. It was proposed that the precept should initially be increased by inflation and then reviewed against cost priorities. **All Agreed**

FC25: 121 Deputy Clerk's Report: Includes Markets, allotments and Cemetery. *Published* The Council want to minute their thanks for all the hard work Leanne has put in for the village.

FC25: 122 Village Hall Modernisation Report *Published* There were no questions

FC25: 123 Footpaths Report *Published* There were no questions

FC25: 124 Proposal to approve the Wayfinding project. *Published* The proposal was reviewed and approved. Clerk to finalise costs and finger board content based on input from Councillors by 25 November. **All Agreed** *All*

FC25: 125 Proposal to obtain a tree safety quote from Treescape for WMPC remaining land: Cemetery, Simons Cross Playing Field and Village Hall playing field. **All Agreed.** *Clerk & Cllr Jenkinson*
Cllr Jenkinson to obtain tree numbering information and any existing scale maps

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: 126 Cemetery Management

The Clerk outlined the brief he was given to make the cemetery cost neutral and highlighted the actions taken, the opposition to these actions and continuing issues which hinder efficient and cost-effective maintenance. It was agreed that the ambition to make the cemetery cost neutral still applies. It was also agreed that the Clerk remains responsible for the cemetery overall including safety, internment operations and maintenance.

The Clerk will bring a proposal to the January meeting regarding the future of cemetery management.

Cllr Chenery will reinforce responsibilities with the cemetery working group

FC25: 127 Consider moving to monthly Parish Council meetings. This was discussed and on balance it was agreed to be a sensible way forward. It was suggested that reports and committee/working group minutes be received every other month. Clerk to bring proposal to the January meeting *Clerk*

FC25: 128 Reporting items for the next meeting: No further items

FC25: 129 Date of next meeting: 19 January 2026