

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 15 June 2026 at 19:00



- FC26-32** Present from Wickham Market Parish Council (WMPC).
Councillors I French, Chenery, S French, Horsnell, Jenkinson, with A Besly (Clerk)
- FC26-33** Present from the Public.
5 including Councillor Stephen Molyneux, Suffolk County Council (SCC)
- FC26-34** Open Public Forum session. Members of the public are invited to speak on matters on the agenda.
- One member of the public read out a pre prepared statement. There were no questions in the statement asking for a response and the topic was not on the agenda. The statement is published at Annex 1.
 - Another member of the public feels strongly about traffic speed and asked about a visual presentation from Sizewell C in a public meeting.
 - The Chair commented that there has recently been a speed check on the lower high street with the maximum speed recorded being 27mph. He will find out when and where this took place.
- FC26-35** Neighbourhood Watch Presentation. Nick King.
Nick highlighted the following key points of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- New signage to demonstrate the scheme is active.
 - Funding for signage and stickers.
 - Police say that crime is reduced by 20% compared to an area with no Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Residents can sign up so that the Police have their email for communications.
 - A map of the areas covered in the village can be created.
 - Residents who sign up to the scheme can register domestic CCTV such as door bell cameras.
 - The scheme will require an online coordinator. This lead coordinator role is a passive role as the scheme is online based.
 - There needs to be an active scheme in order to benefit from free signage.
- FC26-36** Proposal to authorise Apologies for Absence. Chair.
It was proposed that apologies from WMPC Councillors Cooke, Creasey, Day and Dempsey-Gray, be approved. All Agreed. Apologies were also received from Councillor Noble (ESC).
- FC26-37** Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda. None
- FC26-38** Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 18 May 2026. **All Agreed.**
- FC26-39** Receive minutes from Committees and Working Groups.
1. Sizewell C Committee 2 June 2026.
 2. Village Hall Modernisation Working Group. Not yet published – **Action the Clerk to do this**
- FC26-40** Suffolk County Councillor's Report. (SCC).
Councillor Molyneux (SCC) introduced himself. He offered to provide a written report going forward. For this meeting he commented on the following.
- There is a move to have a Judicial Review of Local Government Reorganisation.
 - There are plans for SCC to rescind their Climate Emergency statement.
 - SCC plan to remove their Ukrainian flags.
- FC26-41** East Suffolk Councillor's Report. (ESC). *Published*. There were no questions.
- FC26-42** Chair's Report. *To be published*. This has been circulated. Clerk to publish. There were no questions.
- FC26-43** Clerk's Report. *Published*. The Clerk added that the skirting (removal of soil) from the footway between Rogues Lane and Featherbroom Gardens has been agreed and ESC will engage a contractor to do the work. The operational reports not received were noted.
- FC26-44** Deputy Clerk's Report. *Published*. There were no questions. It was noted that Leanne's email account had been full in the previous week. This has now been resolved.
- FC26-45** Village Hall Modernisation Report. It was noted that the hall closure for works to begin has been delayed.
1. Proposal to review and approve decisions brought forward by the VHM WG
 2. Proposal to approve the Village Hall Working Group Draft Terms of Reference. *Published*.
There were two proposed amendments.
At 2.2 "The Chair can be a non-councillor"
At 6.6 "Notes of meetings will be published"
Following these two amendments the terms of reference were approved. **All Agreed.**
- FC26-46** Footpaths Report. *Published*. These useful comments were noted

- FC26-47** Consider the benefits of First Aid Training for Councillors, staff or volunteers.
The benefit of having a qualified first aider for volunteer working parties was considered and it was proposed that such an activity does not require this level of first aid training particularly as risk assessments are published. It would be useful for the lead volunteer to carry a basic first aid kit. **All Agreed.**
However, events such as the market should have a first aider present. So if there is to be any investment in this training it should be to support the market. **All Agreed.**
- FC26-48** Proposal to agree who will maintain the new hedge at the Cemetery garden of remembrance. It was proposed that this hedge maintenance should be added to the grounds maintenance contract from 2027. **All agreed.**
- FC26-49** Proposal to agree responsibility for organising tree inspections.
There was considerable discussion on this point. It was considered that the Tree Wardens probably do not have the capacity to provide a brief report with three quotes for this work. It was also noted that comments and definitions for a tree safety report probably reflected a “gold standard” which may not be necessary. It was therefore proposed that the Clerk organise three quotes using contractors recommended by the local Clerk’s network. It was recognised that this report is to be used for identifying safety issues, so the mapping needs to be clear enough to achieve this. As the contractors are professionals, they will be asked how they intend to achieve this. **All Agreed.**
- FC26-50** Consider a Welcome Pack for people moving into the village including what it should contain and who will lead on it.
Wickham Market Partnership stopped providing a welcome pack as the information was available on the “visitwickhammarket.co.uk” website. It was proposed that an article in the news magazine describing what can be found on the website would be beneficial. Also a QR code in the magazine connecting to the community pages on the website. **All Agreed. Clerk to organise.**
- FC26-51** Proposal to join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It was agreed that Wickham Market should join the Neighbourhood Watch Association. An article can be put in the next newsletter to find a coordinator. **All Agreed. Clerk to organise article.**
- FC26-52** Review Internal Audit and approve recommendations. *Published.* The recommendations were minor and were approved. **All Agreed.**
- FC26-53** Review External Audit and approve recommendations. Held over – not yet received.
- FC26-54** Review of barriers to deter car parking on the grass at the village hall and proposal on the most appropriate option. *Published.* The report recommendation “Unless the problem of non bona fide users of the car park can be resolved then no barrier should be installed.” Was approved. **All Agreed.**
- 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**
- FC26-55** Proposal to consider repairs to potholes in the village hall carpark and access road. While it was suggested that the lease to the Village Hall CIO probably makes them responsible, it was proposed that the Parish Council organise repairs. It was further proposed that the contractor previously used should be engaged to do the work as a value for money exercise has previously been completed. **All Agreed. Clerk to organise the repairs with R&A Driveways.**
- FC26-56** Update on Changing Places. None received.
- FC26-57** Update on actions from last Sizewell C committee meeting.
Councillor Chenery referred to the updated Traffic Regulation Order process that is now being handled by SCC Highways.
Regarding the public information event he has asked for information boards and is awaiting confirmation that it can go ahead.
- FC26-58** Reporting Items for the next meeting.
Community Energy Projects – Climate Change Working Group
Progress on Emergency Plan
- FC26-59** Date of next meeting. Monday 20 July 2026.

Meeting Closed at 21:15

Signed.

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Cllr Ivor French, Chair.

Date.

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Lack of ambition for 20mph limit for Wickham Market

I would like to make some comments on the 20mph limit proposed for Wickham Market.

Firstly some background to the impact of 20mph limits. Data following the 20mph limit in Wales shows that there has been a reduction in accidents, injuries and deaths on the roads of Wales. SCC changed its policy to a more favourable one for 20mph limits last year. Other counties have also adopted 20mph policies. Oxfordshire has a policy similar to Wales and all villages benefit from 20mph limits, most with nothing more than 20mph signs. Norwich City Council have for many years promoted a 20s plenty scheme and many key arterial roads in/out and around the centre are also restricted to 20mph.

At the meeting on 16 October Alexander Nicoll (then our SCC councilor) persuaded the PC to add the phrase to aspire to a 20mph limit for Wickham. He also pointed out that the only way that Wickham could get funding for a 20mph limit was from Sizewell C.

Given these points I find it a dereliction of duty that the PC is showing no ambition to have a comprehensive 20mph limit.

In discussions concerning the mitigation scheme it was noted that the retention of parking may have resulted in lower pedestrian safety. It is obvious that lower speeds would in some way address this and increase pedestrian safety.

A 20mph limit would set an objective to drivers for an expected speed through the village.

The current 20mph zone from the Post Office to Yew Tree Rise does not address the issue of speed in the rest of the High Street going North. Indeed it is possible that it could make things worse as it will indicate to drivers that an increase in speed is acceptable.

At the Sizewell C Committee on Tuesday 2nd June David Chenery stated that Sizewell C would look at the impact of the scheme in 2 years and see if modifications were required. To me this appears to be Sizewell kicking the issue down the road, a tactic we have seen very often with Sizewell C. Before accepting this proposal (which appears not to be set down in writing), we need written assurances from SZC and their criteria that will be used to judge the impact. Otherwise this proposal is meaningless.

In conclusion if the PC do not show more ambition for a 20mph limit in the village they will be betraying the residents who have over many years increasingly expressed their frustrations and concerns. This is a once in a generation opportunity and cannot be ignored.