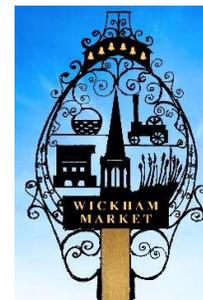


WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Gemma Dempsey-Gray



MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 15 January 2024 at 19:00

FC23: 119 **Present from the Council:** Cllr Dempsey-Gray (Chair) Cllr Day Cllr Huggins
Cllr Chenery Cllr French Cllr Jenkinson
Cllr Cooke Cllr Gray A Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Creasey Cllr Horsnell Cllr Noble (East Suffolk Council) [ESC]

FC23: 120 **Present from the Public:** 4

FC23: 121 **Open Public Forum session** (2 minutes per person):

- One member of the public commented on the village hall and wanted an update on the progress of the lease between the parish council and the village hall management committee. The chair said that the village hall management committee, village hall CIO and the parish council are working together and currently a lease is not required.
- Another member of the public advised that she was going to the East Suffolk River Trust meeting on Sunday in Framlingham regarding the flooding.
- Another member of the public highlighted the issue of flooding in Orchard Place. His concerns included a pipe that had not been repaired correctly at the tennis courts and wanted to know who had resurfaced the tennis courts. Their followed a discussion regarding the drainage from the tennis court area and alongside the Simon's cross playing fields and whether it was adequate. It was noted that the school has also had flooding problems. The chair advised that Wickham Market Parish Council will do a visual survey of the area to identify where the problem lies.

FC23: 122 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Fowler, Cllr Nicoll [SCC]

FC23: 123 **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** Cllr Horsnell 136.1 member of the Modernisation Steering Group and 135.3 plot holder at Glebe allotments

FC23: 124 **It was proposed that the draft minutes** of the Parish Council meeting on 20 November 2023 be approved. **All Agreed**

FC23: 125 **Suffolk County Council (SCC) Councillors Report:** None Received

FC23: 126 **East Suffolk Council (ESC) Councillors Report:** *Published*, there were no questions
Cllr Noble Highlighted that East Suffolk Council are finalising their budget and it is expected that there will be an Emergency Resilience Fund to enable funds to be allocated quickly in cases of emergency need.

FC23: 127 **Chair's Report:** *Published* There were no questions

FC23: 128 **Receive the minutes** of the last Committee meetings: *Now Published* There were no questions

128.1 [Environment and Leisure Committee Meeting 11 December.](#)

128.2 Planning committee meetings [23 November](#) and [4 January](#)

FC23: 129 **Clerk's Report:** *Published*

There was a question about maintenance. The Clerk confirmed that maintenance and litter picking was reduced during the winter months

FC23: 130 **Markets Report** *Published* There were no questions

FC23: 131 **Finance Report** *Published*

131.1 Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule: *Published* There were no Questions

131.2 **Proposal for a wall mounted noticeboard** outside the parish office. The clerk briefly described the location and it was proposed that up to £700 could be spent on a new notice board. **All Agreed**

131.3 Review Bank Reconciliation: *Published* There were no Questions

131.4 Review Summary Financial Statement: *Published* There were no Questions

FC23: 132 **Review 2023-24 full year forecast:** *Published*

The Clerk presented the full year Forecast for 2023-24 which had been reviewed by the F&GP Committee. He answered some questions about what was included in the forecast.

FC23: 133 **Proposal to approve 2024-25 budget** *Current draft published*

The Finance and General Purpose Committee have reviewed the budget in detail. The Clerk answered a few questions on the budget build which is explained in some detail in the notes. It was proposed that the budget be agreed as presented with Receipts of £118,235 and payments of £118,232. **All Agreed**

133.1 It was proposed to increase the precept to £79,015 to be used for professional fees associated with the village hall modernisation process. **All Agreed**

133.2 It was proposal to create an Emergency Plan budget of £2k which is likely to be sourced from either reserves or a budget reallocation. **All Agreed**

FC23: 134 Proposal to approve 2024-25 Precept request

It was proposed that the Precept charge be increased by 3% and a value of £79,015 be requested. **All Agreed**

FC23: 135 Environment and Leisure Committee

135.1 Proposal to appoint Cllr Fowler to the Environment and Leisure Committee. **All Agreed**

135.2 Proposal to appoint a chair to the Environment and Leisure Committee. As there no volunteers, Cllr Dempsey-Gray agreed to chair one more meeting in the hope of finding a volunteer before the April meeting.

135.3 Proposal to approve costs for clearing Glebe plot 39B

Cllr Horsnell presented quotes and proposed that:

The quote from Shaun Wright be accepted and that a figure of £2,000 be approved to cover contingencies. **One objection but All Others Agreed. Carried**

FC23: 136 Proposal to Confirm that the Parish Council supports the Village Hall Modernisation rather than rebuild [Report Published](#)

At this point the Chair closed the meeting to allow members of the public to contribute

- One member of the public expressed concern about the phased modernization of the village hall, he says this is not part of the original proposal.
- Another member of the public wanted assurances that the Hall will be available for the village show, if it's not the show committee needs to be advised imminently.
- Most of the benefit of a phased modernisation means that work can start sooner and funds can be applied for over the course of time. The concern is that the programme may take too long.

At this point the Chair reopened the meeting

It was proposed that the Parish Council support a modernisation programme rather than a rebuild. **All Agreed**

136.1 Proposal to approve up to £5k for immediate use for professional fees associated with the village hall modernisation process. **All Agreed**

At this point the Chair closed the meeting to allow a member of the public to contribute

A member of the public stated that the Village Hall had a small amount of funds that could be contributed for this purpose and that once plans were in place, there may be pledges from other organisations.

At this point the Chair reopened the meeting

FC23: 137 Proposal to agree the wording for communications in February Wickham Market Parish News [To be circulated – pending decision at item 136](#)

There was some discussion on the proposed wording of the communication for which a 2 page spread in the newsletter had been requested. A slightly adjusted form or words was agreed which will be published.

FC23: 138 Proposal to roll over existing grounds maintenance contract

The Clerk highlighted that there was now insufficient time to get grounds maintenance quotes for the coming year, so it was proposed that WMPC continue to use their existing supplier under the current work schedule for another year. **All Agreed**

FC23: 139 Emergency Plan Report

It was reported that the draft template link on the Suffolk Resilience Forum does not work. This is being followed up. Next meeting is 1 February 2024.

FC23: 140 Proposal to submit a detailed letter of objection to ESC Planning regarding DC215550FUL

Erection of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array: [Published](#)

Cllr Jenkinson presented the highlights of this 5 page objection.

It was highlighted that the counter argument was that there is a growing need for sustainable green electricity but most people do not want solar array "in my backyard" but they have to be somewhere.

At this point the Chair closed the meeting to allow a member of the public to contribute

A member of the public stated that this project is contrary to both local and national policies

At this point the Chair reopened the meeting

At 21:02 the meeting had run for 2 hours so the Chair proposed that standing order 3) x. be suspended to allow further business to be transacted. **All Agreed**

After further discussion it was proposed that the objection be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council. **Two abstained All Others Agreed**

FC23: 141 Confirm date for Annual Parish Meeting currently proposed for Friday 12 April. Advertise in Feb Parish News. Try a new format?

The Clerk outlined a format that has worked elsewhere whereby the parish organisations each have a table display, there is a short formal meeting which once closed, attendees can circulate around the displays and refreshments would be served. It was proposed that this should be organised, and the contributors also asked to provide a short written report for publication. **All Agreed**

FC23: 142 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 18 March 2024

Meeting Closed 21:20

Signed.

Cllr Gemma Dempsey-Gray, Chair.

Date.

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