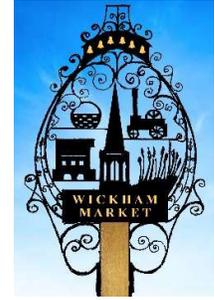


CHAIR: Gemma Dempsey-Gray

MINUTES of the Extra Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on Monday 16 October 2023 at 19:00



FC23:89 **Present from the Council:** Cllr Dempsey-Gray (Chair) Cllr French
Cllr Chenery Cllr Gray
Cllr Creasey Cllr Horsnell
Cllr Day Cllr Huggins
Cllr Fowler Cllr Jenkinson
A. Besly (Clerk)

FC23:90 **Present from the Public:** 1

FC23:91 **Open Public Forum session** (2 minutes per person): None

The member of the public expressed concern that things seemed to happen without information being available. Cllr Jenkinson explained the Neighbourhood plan process and what it does. He also explained that all meeting documents and minutes are published on the website.

FC23:92 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Cooke

FC23:93 **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** Cllr Jenkinson item 94 member of Wickham Market Partnership

FC23:94 **Review grant application from WMP** *Circulated*. Cllr Jenkinson did not take part in this discussion and abstained from the vote

It was proposed that this grant application be approved as the funds have been allocated from the East Suffolk Towns Initiative. **All Agreed**

FC23:95 **Review proposed Grounds Maintenance requirements** with a view to agreeing a final requirement to be issued for quotations. *Circulated, Existing specification also circulated for reference.*

Consider level of maintenance at the Cemetery with regard to the overall cost for this area compared to other public spaces. Minute FC23: 74.4 refers. *Brief Circulated*

The proposed grounds maintenance schedule was reviewed in detail and decisions recorded on the face of the schedule. It was proposed that once these amendments have been made this document should form the basis of an invitation to quote. **All Agreed**

The level of maintenance was considered during the review and it was proposed that options should be requested to allow an informed decision on costs. **All Agreed**

It was noted that there was a perpetual issue with artificial flowers creating litter around the cemetery, particularly when mowing machinery chops them up. The following potential solutions were suggested:

1. Recommend that the Cemetery Regulations are updated to ban artificial flowers. The benefits are twofold:
 - There would be a reduction in plastic waste
 - Any flowers that were pulled out by deer would be chopped by mowing machinery and will decompose naturally.
2. If artificial flowers remain, the time to clear them would be immediately before grass cutting, which may not be practical.
3. Flower containers should be fixed to prevent deer from throwing them around.

FC23:96 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 20 November 2023

Signed.

Cllr Gemma Dempsey-Gray, Chair.

Date.

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