

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH



MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 20 January 2025 at 19:00

FC24: 123 Present from the Council: Cllr French (Chair) Cllr Creasey Cllr Jenkinson
Cllr Chenery Cllr Day A Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Cooke Cllr Horsnell Cllr Noble (East Suffolk Council [ESC])

FC24: 124 Present from the Public: None

FC24: 125 Open Public Forum session (2 minutes per person): None

FC24: 126 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Dempsey-Gray, Cllr Gray, Cllr Nicoll (Suffolk County Council) [SCC]

FC24: 127 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None

FC24: 128 It was proposed that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 25 November 2024 be approved. **All Agreed.** It was noted that at that meeting a member of the public said he would put his questions in writing. Nothing has been received.

FC24: 129 Receive the minutes of the last Committee and Working Group meetings: Key points from these minutes were noted and there were no questions.

129.1 Finance & General Purpose Committee 6 January 2025. Cllr Chenery highlighted the need to update the 3 year plan

129.2 Planning Committee: None, Cllr Jenkinson thanked the tree wardens for their advice on recent applications.

129.3 Environment and Leisure Working Group 9 December 2024. It was noted that this meeting has lots of discussion but very few proposals. Cllr Chenery asked whether this working group still had a remit.

FC24: 130 Actions carried forward from previous meetings. This has been circulated to Councillors and is intended as an aide memoire to ensure that actions and agreements do not get lost.

FC24:13.5: Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference

FC24:14: Cllrs Creasey and Dempsey-Gray to organise Electronic Access

FC24:17: It was agreed that the Clerk would attempt to source appropriate roadside quality signs and a post with vandal proof bolts once the repairs have been completed on the skate park.

*Cllr Dempsey-Gray
Cllrs Creasey &
Dempsey-Gray*

FC24: 131 Suffolk County Councillor's Report.

Councillor Nicoll was not present but had noted that SCC have voted for devolution.

FC24: 132 East Suffolk Councillor's Report. [Published](#) Cllr Noble also noted the following:

- Devolution: unclear how it will affect the district. There is a meeting with the head of ESC this week to discuss.
- Sizewell C still going ahead.
- There is a meeting in Saxmundham to better understand the combined effect of multiple Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)
- ESC have asked the Secretary of State to come to Suffolk to see the effect. He has so far declined
- Nature at Work are still looking for more sites
- Greenprint are offering nature grants
- Housing target has increased by 87%

FC24: 133 Chair's Report: [Published](#). It was noted that the Sizewell C meeting on Thursday is for councillors and committee members only. Recruitment of councillors was also discussed.

FC24: 134 Clerk's Report: [Published](#). There was a question about how social media links to the new website. The Clerk reported that this has been considered and will be addressed as part of the design. The Clerk reminded the council that reporting items have been removed from the agenda where requested reports have not been received. This includes Emergency Plan, Climate Change, Cemetery and Tree work.

FC24: 135 Finance Reports September 2024:

135.1 Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule: [Published](#) There was a question about a payment to East Anglian Schools. This is the trust that runs Wickham Market primary school and the payment was a grant towards a carpet in the quiet room. Cllr Jenkinson commented that the Wickham Market Partnership are unlikely to produce the Christmas leaflet this year. This information will be incorporated into Wickham Market Parish News.

135.2 Review Bank Reconciliation: *Published* It was noted that the earmarked reserves labelled CIL and Village Hall Carpark will both be allocated to the village hall modernisation project.

135.3 Review and approve End of year forecast 2024-25 *Published* No questions. The forecast was approved. **All Agreed.**

135.4 Proposal to approve the Budget 2025-26 *Published*. **All agreed**

135.5 Proposal to approve the precept to support the budget. The precept of £99k was approved. **All agreed.** The Clerk will apply for the Precept

Clerk

FC24: **136 Village Hall Modernisation Report:** *Published*

There was a question regarding the possible outcome of the Sizewell C grant application. This is unknown at the moment.

There was a question regarding other grants. This project does not meet the criteria for most on offer, but the team is still looking.

FC24: **137 Proposal to create a new Village Hall Modernisation Committee. All Agreed**

137.1 Proposal to approve Terms of Reference: *Published* **All Agreed**

137.2 Proposal to appoint members to the committee

Cllrs French, Chenery, Horsnell and Creasey together with S Flavell, C Edmonds, S Gunn and S French were all appointed as voting members of the committee. **All Agreed**

137.3 Proposal to appoint a Chair to the committee. It was proposed that Cllr Horsnell be appointed Chair. **All Agreed**

137.4 Proposal to agree and publish meeting dates. It was proposed that the Committee meet monthly in the village hall committee room on the following dates. **All Agreed:**

Clerk

Tuesday 04th February 2025 6pm to 8pm

Tuesday 04th March 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 08th April 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 06th May 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 03rd June 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 08th July 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 05th August 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 09th September 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 07th October 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 04th November 2025 6pm to 7pm

Tuesday 09th December 2025 6pm to 7pm

These will be published on the Parish Council website

FC24: **138 Markets Report:** *Published* There were no questions

FC24: **139 Footpaths Report:** *Published* There were no questions

At this point the Clerk apologised for the error in numbering of the agenda and it was agreed that the following items would be numbered sequentially in the minutes.

FC24: **140 Consider grant application from Wickham Market Primary School** *circulated*

This application was reviewed and it was proposed that a grant of £478.94 be approved. **All Agreed** The Clerk will request that this is acknowledged in the school article for the April newsletter.

Clerk

FC24: **141 Consider a response to** British Solar Renewables regarding Park Farm Solar Park.

Cllr Jenkinson would like the Council to write to British Solar Renewables via Alpaca Communications requesting that Wickham Market residents be given the opportunity to comment. **Cllr Jenkinson All to respond**

It was proposed that Cllr Jenkinson draft a letter and review the text over email with councillors before the Clerk sends it on behalf of the Council. **All Agreed**

FC24: **142 Reporting items for the next meeting**

1. Drawing of possible access to Simons Cross new development from the B1078. Cllr Jenkinson will circulate.

2. Review of 3 year business plan. The Clerk will make suggested updates for the F&GP committee to review ahead of the next full Council.

FC24: **143 Date of next meeting:** Monday 17 March 2025

FC24: **144 Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 Proposal to exclude the public for the following item on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information** **All Agreed**, however, there were no members of the public to exclude.

FC24: **145 Proposal to manage the Cemetery Clerk work going forward:** *circulated*

It was proposed that the Deputy Clerk manages this work going forward and that her hours are increased by 10 hours per month to cover this and the volunteer

Clerk

coordinating that she is also starting to manage. **All Agreed.** This matter is no longer confidential, so the decision remains in these minutes.

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**

FC24: 146 Proposal to consider the result of the accident at the Christmas Market

This item was discussed at length and is reported in the confidential minutes.

Meeting Closed at 21:16

Signed.

Cllr Ivor French, Chair. Date.

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