

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 25 June 2026 at 19:00



FC26-60 Present from Wickham Market Parish Council (WMPC).

Councillors I French, Chenery, Cooke, Creasey, S French, Horsnell, Jenkinson, with A Besly (Clerk)

FC26-61 Present from the Public. 2

FC26-62 Open Public Forum session. Members of the public are invited to speak on matters on the agenda.

- One member of the public expressed structural concerns over the modernisation of the village hall but then retracted this statement using derogatory adjectives to describe volunteer councillors. She then went on to challenge the validity of the meeting because the supporting documents were not published three clear days before the meeting and demanded a commitment to publish all documents within this timeframe.

It was noted that WMPC endeavour to publish supporting papers three clear days before the meeting as this is recognised best practice. However, for councils with a turnover greater than £25,000, there is no legal requirement to publish agenda papers. Whilst councils with an annual turnover exceeding £200,000 must comply with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, and councils with a turnover between £25,000 and £200,000 are encouraged to follow its principles, the Code does not require the publication of agenda papers.

- Another member commended the work that volunteer councillors do for the benefit of the village. In particular, Councillor Horsnell manages a huge volume of work in order to make the village hall modernisation project a reality, where previous attempts have not been successful. He suggested that detractors should either help or stop their criticism. Such negativity is dangerous for the community.

FC26-63 Proposal to authorise Apologies for Absence from Councillor Day. **All Agreed.**

FC26-64 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda. None.

FC26-65 Proposal to authorise Owl Architects to formally submit revised village hall planning application to ESC Planning Portal.

Councillor Horsnell introduced the changes with the reasons for them which are summarised in the supporting document. He confirmed the following elements:

- Thermal efficiency will significantly increase with the installation of insulation.
- There is both heating and air conditioning together with improved natural airflow.
- There will be electric charging points for vehicles. The exact location will be considered in the car park upgrade in phase two of the project.
- The power required will be provided principally from photovoltaic panels on the roof.

There is a working group meeting during w/c 29 June to discuss materials and the mechanical and electrical design.

At this point a member of the public requested to speak so the Chair closed the meeting to allow this.

The first member of the public expressed concern that two vehicle charging points may be insufficient and additional photovoltaic panels could support more charging points.

It was noted that the carpark design is in phase two and that more charging points could be added if required.

The Chair reopened the meeting.

It was also noted that power feedback to the national grid may be restricted in the future but the village hall design included a battery storage facility.

Proposal to authorise Owl Architects to submit revised plans as discussed. **All Agreed.**

FC26-66 Proposal to approve expenditure for removal of asbestos material up to £5k.

It was noted that asbestos removal must be managed correctly to avoid future possible litigation. Given the age of the building, it is not surprising that further areas of asbestos have been discovered since the initial survey. It is still possible that more asbestos will be identified as modernisation work takes place. The proposal was therefore approved. **All Agreed.**

FC26-67 Proposal to engage Castlevue Charitable Services to further investigate fund raising for the modernisation of the village hall. This proposal was withdrawn and will be reconsidered at a later date.

FC26-68 Date of Next Meeting. Monday 20 July 2026

Meeting Closed at 19:42

Signed.

Cllr Ivor French, Chair.

Date.

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