

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr Ivor French



5th February 2026

MINUTES

- PL25: 80 **Present from the Council:** Ivor French (Chair), Sue French, Gloria Creasey, John Day, John Horsnell
- PL25: 81 **Present from the Public:** Three
- PL25: 82 **Open Public Forum session** (3 minutes per person): Asked if they will be hearing about the village hall and the proposed refurbishment.
- PL25: 83 **Apologies for Absence:** Dick Jenkinson
- PL25: 84 **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** John Horsnell from the village hall modernisation committee. Ivor French from the village hall modernisation committee, Sue French on village hall committee and modernisation, John Day and Gloria Creasey are both councillors
- PL25: 85 **Proposal to approve the draft minutes** of the Wickham Market Parish Council Planning Committee of 20 January 2026 – all present accepted the minutes. Signed by Ivor French in Dick Jenkinson's absence.
- PL25: 86 **Review and agree comments for DC/25/4839/FUL** Renovation and modernisation of Hall, including the demolition of the existing east extension, provision of ASHP Plant and installation of Solar Panels in the roof. Site address: Wickham Market Village Hall, High Street, Wickham Market Suffolk IP13 0HE. Expiry Date: 9 February 2026.
- It was asked whether any additional information had been received from East Suffolk. The determination date with ES is 5 March 2026. This is the planning application; detailed construction drawings have not yet been produced, and modifications may be required at a later date. It was suggested that, if the planning application is accepted, we inform the public that the plans are an outline, not final. If the plans are approved, grants can be applied for. The VH committee will meet with Sizewell C in March to provide an update. Sizewell won't discuss funding until the plan has been approved. There was money set aside by the previous working group (about £100,000), and some of those funds have been used to bring the proposed plans to their current stage. No further expenditure will occur until planning permission has been granted. A question was asked whether Sizewell C would provide funding. Until full plans have been priced and put out to tender, there is no final figure for the work, only estimations. CIL funds can be used for the village hall, and if there is a shortfall, additional bids will be made to raise additional funds.
- The improvement of energy efficiency after modernisation was also discussed. It was explained that the village hall's current plans would increase the building's natural light. Three meeting rooms are proposed, which will generate additional revenue when the main hall is let simultaneously. The support piers on the west side will be reduced in size. It was questioned why the kitchen size had been reduced in the plans. It was noted that the space would work well with the bar, as there is no wall between them. Advice will be sought from the hall's catering team on their thoughts when the main drawings/plans are prepared. The planning application is solely for the hall, not for the carpark or drainage; there is insufficient funding to cover improving these. The current plans are for phase 1 of the hall footprint. Phase 2 will cover car parking and drainage. The proposed plans will be put in the village hall foyer so that all visitors can see them. All the committee members supported the application, no objections or abstentions.

PL25: **87** **Date of next meeting:** To be arranged as required.

