

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Cllr DAVID CHENERY



MINUTES of the meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council Finance & General Purpose Committee held on Monday 3 November 2025 at 19:00

- FGP25: 26 **Present from the Council** Cllr Chenery (Chair) Cllr Dempsey-Gray
Cllr Cooke A. Besly (Clerk)
- FGP25: 27 **Present from the Public** None
- FGP25: 28 **Open Public Forum session** None
- FGP25: 29 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr French
- FGP25: 30 **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** None
- FGP25: 31 **Proposal to approve the draft minutes** of the F&GP Meeting of 1 September 2025 **All Agreed**
- FGP25: 32 **Chair's Report:** Nothing to report
- FGP25: 33 **Finance Reporting:**
- 33.1 **Finance report and Payments Schedule:** [Published](#) There were no questions
 - 33.2 **Bank Reconciliation and Reserves Summary:** [Published](#) There were no questions.
 - 33.3 **Summary Financial Statement:** [Published](#) There were no questions
 - 33.4 **Review of 2025-26 forecast to year end:** [To be circulated](#) It was noted that the forecast had omitted subscriptions. Once this is added it was proposed this should be published as draft ahead of the full Council meeting. **All Agreed**
 - 33.5 **Review of suggested budget for 2026-27:** [To be circulated](#) It was noted that the budget had the following omissions: Subscriptions, Website, Legal and professional. Once these are added it was proposed this should be published as draft without the proposed precept ahead of the full Council meeting. **All Agreed**
 - 33.6 **Proposal to increase the funds invested with CCLA.** After some discussion and analysis of reserves and timing of annual maintenance costs it was proposed that a further £50k should be added to the CCLA account. Some of these funds will be withdrawn in March to fund Q4 costs. It is anticipated that these funds should generate about £180 additional income per month from a more environmentally friendly investment. **All Agreed.**
Clerk to make arrangements
- FGP25: 34 **Proposal to pay remaining balance for website £3,437.5** (within F&GP delegated authority of £5k). **All Agreed**
- FGP25: 34 **Review and recommend 3 year plan** priorities for full council to consider
There was considerable discussion regarding priorities and resource which was noted in red on the draft 3 year plan document. This exercise was not completed due to time constraints so committee members agreed to send their views to the Clerk this week for consolidation and presentation to the full council.
- 35.1 Agree a proposal for the Parish Council regarding asset transfer. This was not properly considered due to time constraints beyond agreeing that the Simons Cross playing field should be requested for transfer.
- FGP25: 36 **Proposal to approve wayfinding project** using ESC Economic Development funds. [To be published](#). The proposal was reviewed and it was agreed that WMPC should move this project forwards with an estimated cost of £8k most of which will be funded by ESC Visitor Economy Support Scheme (VESS) **All Agreed**. As this cost is above the F&GP delegated authority the proposal will be recommended to the next full Council.
- FGP25: 37 **Proposal to temporarily increase** Leanne hours to manage website launch and training. It is recognised that Leanne is going to need to spend additional time to learn the website operation and fine tune the content. It was proposed that she should be temporarily offered an additional 20 hours per month from October to December when any ongoing increase can be considered by the Staffing and Personnel Committee. **All Agreed**
- FGP25: 38 **Proposal to engage contractor to cut back hedges.** [To be published](#) It was recognised that only one quote has been received, however, compared to 2024 costs this quote is significantly less. This is now noted on the proposal. It was therefore agreed to accept the quote received

and schedule the work. The houses with gardens adjoining FP009 will be notified of works. **All Agreed**

FGP25: **39 Consider the grant request from Wickham Market Primary School.** The grant request was considered and it was proposed that the full request of £800 should be made. **All Agreed.**
Clerk to organise

FGP25: **40 Reporting items for the next meeting:**

FGP25: **41 Date of next meeting:** Monday 5 January 2026

Meeting Closed 22:09

Signed.

Cllr David Chenery, Chair.

Date.

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