

Deputy Clerk's Report for Full Council Meeting

8th September 2025

Markets

Saturday Market

We continue to have Newbourne Farm and Fisherman's Catch with us every week. The Olive Man, Old Felixstowe Brewery, and The Quince Tree make monthly appearances (although not all on the same Saturday, as they accommodate us around their larger commitments). Pinewood Catering came on Saturday, 30th August, and TabbouleTal was also here in August.

Leanne visits the stallholders most Saturdays to say hello, takes photos, and makes some social media posts.

Wednesday Market

DPC Fish is on The Hill twice a month; he isn't happy that there are so few other traders. Street Jesus came weekly during the summer months, as does Etheridge Nurseries and occasionally, Daron's Fashions.

Invoicing

Invoicing is done every month, and traders are paid promptly.

Seasonal Markets – Spring, Summer, Harvest and Christmas

The Harvest Market was held on 6th September. 24 different businesses and organisations were on The Hill, some for the first time. To celebrate the Tour of Britain, Re-Cycle Bike Repairs (funded from an ES grant) provided free bike safety checks and repairs to 22 bikes. Virtue Electric Bikes of Woodbridge attended with an array of their bikes and spent time discussing the advantages with many market visitors.

Footfall to the Harvest Market was acceptable, not as busy as the Summer Market. We didn't spend any money on Facebook advertising this time around; this was the only marketing difference from the previous seasonal market.

The Christmas Market will be held on 29th November 2025, 30 stalls out of a possible 40 have been booked so far. An email was sent on Sunday, 7th September, to all Harvest Market stall holders, encouraging them to book the Christmas Market if they hadn't already. Booking forms for all four 2026 seasonal markets were sent to them, too.

As the 2026 seasonal market dates have been confirmed, an email to the WMPC market database will be sent later in September once the Harvest Market stallholders have had an opportunity to book.

All stallholders' PLI insurance is up to date.

Fenton's Removals has been appointed to work with the WMPC team to help transport and set up at all four seasonal annual markets per annum, starting with the Christmas Market 2025.

Grants

WMPC obtained a grant from East Suffolk Council to purchase 820 jute shopping bags (Visit Wickham Market branded) to help reduce the amount of single-use plastic used by stallholders in the form of plastic bags at the seasonal markets. The bags promote the new Visit Wickham Market website which will go live later in September. The bags will be handed out to shoppers on 29th November at the Christmas Market and the 2026 seasonal markets.

WMPC has also obtained a grant of almost £1000 (which hasn't been released by East Suffolk Council yet) to pay for the purchase and erection of cycle racks for the village and to cover the cost of £200 for Re-Cycle Bike Repairs to check and repair bikes at the Harvest Market 2025 (customers only had to pay for the parts).

Going forward, grants will be applied for fingerposts (metal, heritage signage) and three information/networking/training events for small businesses based in and around the Wickham Market area.

Allotments

October is the month when allotment fees become due. The Deputy Clerk will email and send letters to all allotment tenants on the 10th and 11th of September with details of the increased fees for 2025 – 2026 and how the tenants can pay them.

Cemetery

From 10th July to 8th September 2025, there has been:

1 Burial Interment

2 Ashes Interments

Planning

From 14th May to 8th September 2025 there have been 19 planning applications for which the Deputy Clerk has written minutes and uploaded to the WMPC website.

Parish Magazine

Articles continue to be written for publication in the Parish Magazine.

WMPC Socials

Posts continue to be made on a very regular basis. Once the new Visit Wickham Market website is 'live', social media posts will be linked to it.

