

Deputy Clerk's Report for Full Council Meeting

13 October 2026

Markets

Christmas Market 28 November 2026

All pitches have been booked. Entertainment has been arranged. Please note that the deputy clerk won't be available from 10 am on the day due to a longstanding family commitment. The Clerk will require support throughout the day from WMPC Councillors, including first aid cover and photography (should the new marketing and events person not be in post).

Only The Hill Carpark will be suspended on the day, market traders will be asked near the football club.

Saturday Market

Nothing to report other than Newbourne Farm is here every week.

Wednesday Market

DPC Fish usually visits The Hill on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

2027 Seasonal Markets

The 2027 dates have been finalised, and we have started promoting them. Some bookings have come in already. The dates are

20th March

19th June

11th September

27th November

Christmas Trees

We ordered 23 4-foot trees and one 15-foot tree from Stephenson. Fentrans Removals will be erecting the trees on 21 November as we want to ensure they are in situ before this year's Christmas Market which we didn't manage in 2025.

Business Training Event

This training event on Friday 25th September attracted 23 paying delegates to the boardroom at Rolands, Wickham Market. Nic Pandolfi led the workshop, which covered Google for Business, Instagram, Threads, and AI for Business. Subsidised by East

Suffolk Council, tickets were £15, including refreshments. Delegates shared plenty of interaction, thoughts, and reflections, and feedback was very positive, with most wanting further course options and a quarterly morning networking event. All this information has been fed back to East Suffolk Council, and the full feedback will be shared with the incoming Marketing and Events person once they are appointed.

Allotments

The annual renewal letters and invoices have been sent out and payments are coming in, mostly by bank transfer.

Cemetery

The deputy clerk continues to keep the registers up to date and liaises with funeral directors, family members, and the stonemasons and grave diggers. The paperwork has been streamlined, and additional information is maintained, e.g., details of the grave diggers and their PLIs.

From 16 September to 13 October there has been:

0 Burial Interments

2 Ashes Interment

Planning Applications

From 16 September to 13 October 2026, 8 planning applications were received, and 1 meeting was held.

Parish Magazine

The Wickham Market November/December parish magazine is being designed and will be with the printers on 21 October.

Social Media

The VWM Instagram now has 209 followers (up from 187), and the VWM Facebook has 219 (up from 208). Posts are also published on the WMPC Instagram and Facebook accounts, and on NextDoor.

Visit Wickham Market Website

New events continue to be added to the Visit Wickham Market website's events listing page. More businesses have been contacted to inform them that their details can be listed on the website's business pages. News stories have also been included, and links to various pages (e.g., Walks and News) have been incorporated into some social media posts.

Emails and Enquiries

The deputy clerk receives email and face-to-face requests and enquiries and deals with them promptly.