

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 20 July 2026 at 19:00



- FC26-69** Present from Wickham Market Parish Council (WMPC).
Councillors I French, Chenery, Cooke, Creasey, Day, S French, Horsnell, Jenkinson, with A Besly (Clerk)
and Councillor Noble (East Suffolk Council [ESC])
- FC26-70** Present from the Public. 4
- FC26-71** Open Public Forum session. Members of the public are invited to speak on matters on the agenda.
One member of the public had provided questions in writing ahead of the meeting most of which had
been answered:
- **Football Club Lease arrangement.** Very briefly:
The Parish Council currently lease the whole village hall area including all the land to the Village
Hall CIO until 2030
This arrangement will need to be reviewed for the modernisation project later this year
The football Club licence to occupy was with the Village Hall CIO.
Once we sort out the new lease arrangement with the Village Hall CIO, the Parish Council will be
able to renew the Football Club license to occupy.
 - **Pot Holes.**
The Parish Council has instructed R&A Driveways to repair the access road and a couple of
holes in the carpark. Awaiting a start date.
 - **Bins.**
Have recently been put on the southern wall of the Football clubhouse and East Suffolk Services
(ESSL) have not had access to empty them due to parked cars. Councillor Noble offered to
investigate.
 - **Village Hall Modernisation**
Access to the Football Club along the western side of the hall will be maintained.
 - **Sunday Car Boot sales on the Football pitch.**
Planned for the last Sunday of the month. This request will be added to the agenda for the next
Parish Council meeting.
- FC26-72** Proposal to authorise Apologies for Absence. None
- FC26-73** Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda. None.
- FC26-74** Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15 June 2026 and Extra Ordinary
meeting on 25 June 2026. **All Agreed.**
- FC26-75** Receive minutes from Committees and Working Groups.
1. Finance & General Purpose 6 July where the July financial information was reviewed.
 2. Village Hall Modernisation Working Group. Have submitted revised planning application and are
almost ready for the tender exercise
 3. Planning Committee. Have reviewed two applications one for a Library extension and one for the
Medical Centre extension. There will be two further meetings this week.
- FC26-76** Suffolk County Councillor's Report. (SCC). This is published – there were no questions.
- FC26-77** East Suffolk Councillor's Report. (ESC). This is published. Councillor Noble added the following
comments:
- There is concern over the proposed Campsea Ashe developments as it will put further strain on
Wickham Market's services.
 - SCC are proposing to stop some activities. Councillor Noble suggested this may not be possible as
they are centrally funded.
 - Waste collection in rural areas is suffering and ESC are working with ESSL to adjust the rounds to
the appropriate size as a priority. She also cited some new technology issues.
 - Local Government Reorganisation – SCC have launched a judicial review.
- There were no further questions.
- FC26-78** Chair's Report. It was noted that Councillor Stephen Molyneux (SCC) has been shown around the village
to see some of the priorities.
- FC26-79** Clerk's Report. The Clerk and Councillor Horsnell were thanked for providing information to a member of
the public.
- FC26-80** Finance Reporting July 2026 reviewed and approved by the Finance and General Purpose Committee.
1. Finance Report. A couple of minor spelling mistakes were noted.

There was a question regarding accounting for Village Hall Modernisation. The Clerk confirmed that a separate cost centre was in use to record these transactions.

There was a question regarding probation services. The Clerk confirmed that it had been agreed to host the regional probation services event in the Village Hall and that WMPC would pay the hire charge as thanks for all the work done in the village.

2. Bank Reconciliation. No Questions.
3. Summary Financial Statement. No Questions

FC26-81 Proposal to update Standing Orders 18 a. v. to align with the correct value published in Financial Regulations 5.7. **All Agreed.** The revised text reads "... contracts with an estimated value below the latest thresholds set out in Financial Regulations 5..."

FC26-82 Deputy Clerk's Report.

It was noted that this was a very full report and Leanne was thanked for all her hard work.

Councillors were sad to learn of her retirement and wished her well. The Staffing and Personnel committee will meet on Tuesday 28 July to discuss management of the role.

FC26-83 Progress on Emergency Plan. Councillor Chenery noted the following points:

Waiting for a report from the Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU) regarding the suitability of the George or the Legion as an emergency rest centre.

The plan should consider the effect of heat as a risk.

It should identify publicly accessible buildings in the village with air conditioning.

It was noted that the Churches were opened during the last heatwave as they are several degrees cooler.

The plan should provide for vulnerable people who should also sign up to the Priority Service.

Register so that utility companies can prioritise their wellbeing.

If mobile phone service goes down, how does the Parish Council communicate?

FC26-84 Proposal to allow Potsford Farm to bring their food trailer to the Village Hall car park every other month on a Friday night. **All Agreed.**

FC26-85 Proposal to work with local villages, ESC and Sizewell C to create active travel routes linking our villages. These include but not be limited to: Wickham Market to Campsea Ashe and Wickham Market through Lower Hacheston to the Southern Park and Ride and on to Marlesford. **All Agreed.**

FC26-86 Consider a Community Energy Project. Councillor Chenery outlined the principle of such a project:

Projects could include wind turbines, localised solar, heat pumps, insulation. Grants are available from ESC and consultants can assess our community for suitability. It was agreed that Councillor Chenery could do some more research into the possibilities.

FC26-87 Proposal to install a seat on the western boundary facing the tennis Courts on the Simons Cross playing field. Example cost for a 2m seat is £700 plus fitting.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that last time this was proposed, residents of Orchard Place unanimously objected. Councillor Chenery will consult residents again. It was proposed that a seat should be installed subject to the Orchard Place consultation. **All Agreed.**

FC26-88 Proposal to consider in principle CCTV to cover the MUGA, Skate Park and Children's play area to help combat vandalism, litter, broken glass and general antisocial behaviour. If agreed, a costed case will be prepared.

After some discussion it was agreed that this is a good proposal provided the cameras can view each other to combat their own vandalism. A fully costed case will be brought to a future full council meeting.

FC26-89 Proposal to trial a project to create a memorial wood at the cemetery.

There was considerable discussion regarding the proposal including a number of financial issues raised by Councillor Jenkinson. The Clerk offered to withdraw the proposal but the council wants to be able to plant more trees and consider this to be an appropriate space. The proposal was voted upon and all Agreed except Councillor Jenkinson. He was asked if he objected but he simply abstained and was unable or unwilling to articulate a reason for this. **Carried.**

FC26-90 Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 Proposal to exclude the public for the following item on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information.

FC26-91 Proposal to approve the Deputy Clerk's Salary. The Deputy Clerk's salary was approved. **All Agreed.**

Meeting Closed at 20:42

Signed.

Cllr Ivor French, Chair.

Date.

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