

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 21 July 2025 at 19:00



FC25: 53 Present from the Council: Cllr I French (Chair) Cllr S French A Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Chenery Cllr Horsnell Cllr Dempsey-Gray (19:15)
Cllr Day Cllr Jenkinson

FC25: 54 Present from the Public: 2

FC25: 55 Open Public Forum session (2 minutes per person):

One member of the public raised a number of points.

- Concern that members of the public can't raise agenda items.
- Didn't understand why her proposal wasn't included on the agenda.

Proposed working group policy

- Items 2.2 and 2.3 she felt were too authoritarian and were not inclusive and encouraging enough.
- Question regarding the role of the lead councillor.
- Item 3.9 she did not understand the phrase legal status of agenda publication.

The second member of the public raised the following points:

- She objects to the working group policy which is to be discussed later on the agenda claiming that SALC do not recommend working groups for ongoing work.
- She doesn't understand why village hall information is not in the public domain.
- She believes that new policy decisions exclude people and they should be more inclusive.

The Council noted these comments and feedback which will be considered when updating policies

Both members of the public left the meeting at 19:10

FC25: 56 Apologies for Absence: None

FC25: 57 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None

FC25: 58 Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting on 19 May 2025 and Extra Parish Council meeting on 17 July. **All Agreed**

FC25: 59 Receive Minutes

59.1 Finance & General Purpose Committee 7 July 2025 *Published*

59.2 Planning Committee: 2 July 2025 *Published*

59.3 Environment and Leisure Working Group 30 June 2025 *Published*

There was a question regarding proposals and who could prepare and submit them. This will be covered in more detail in items 65 & 66

59.4 Village Hall Modernisation Committee 11 July *Published*

FC25: 60 Suffolk County Councillor's Report (SCC): Councillor Nicoll reported the following:

- The Sizewell C final investment announcements will happen tomorrow this will disclose the funding from the UK government.
- Regarding the East Suffolk railway line: there is a significant amount of track work coming to the area to support Sizewell C trains. There will be complete closures at Melton crossing and also on the line towards Westerfield.
- In Eyke the road will be closed in mid August between the 11th and 18th for sewage works to support a new housing development.
- Councillor Nicoll also noted that he still has some funding in his locality budget so if the parish council require some support please let him know.

There was a question regarding electricity work at the lower high street in Wickham Market with no traffic lights. This caused significant traffic problems. Councillor Nicoll recommended that the Parish Council write to network assurance Sam Guiver and copy in councillor Paul West and himself.

It was noted that the ANPR camera was never installed for the allocated 2 weeks on Border Cot Lane. Action on the Clerk to write to councillor Nicoll explaining the situation.

Regarding Wickham market traffic calming plans councillor Chenery noted that Sizewell C were very slow in responding. Councillor Nicoll confirmed that he supports the extension of the 30 mile an hour speed limit on border cot lane and also supports double yellow lines

outside the George on both sides of the road. Councillor Chenery will write to Rebecca Quigg and copy councillor Nicoll.

FC25:61 East Suffolk Councillor's Report (ESC): *Published*

It was noted that East Suffolk Blooms was again operating and that Anne Westover had applied for bulbs.

It was suggested that "Ease the Squeeze" information could be published in the next Wickham Market Parish News

FC25:62 Chair's Report: *Published*. It was noted that the policing report has been published.

FC25:63 Clerk's Report: *Published*

There was some discussion regarding public participation and written reports from members of the public. The Clerk confirmed that the public participation document had not been updated since before his employment began and is happy to make changes to facilitate written reports.

FC25:64 Finance Report July 2024

64.1 Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule: *Published*

There was some discussion regarding the CCLA investment which provide a much better return than Barclays. This investment is also considered ethical.

64.2 Review Bank Reconciliation: *Published*

64.3 Review Summary Financial Statement: *Published*

FC25:65 Proposal to Review and adopt a clarification to WMPC Essentials No 6 para 4.2: *Published*

An amendment to para 4.2 was proposed to make the document more inclusive. *"If a member of the public would like to bring a proposal to the full council they can bring it through a Working Group, Committee or an individual councillor."* The Clerk will update and publish.

FC25:66 Proposal to Review and adopt new Working Groups policy: *Published*

The Clerk clarified that the text in Annex 2 of the May meeting was the advice from SALC supporting working groups. It was noted that working groups are a form of public engagement as they comprise of councillors and members of the public. It was noted that the proposed working groups policy was in response to comments that the Council's working groups did not all operate in the same way so this policy seeks to clarify how working groups support the Council. There were a number of amendments proposed to make the language more inclusive and less authoritarian. The Clerk will make the changes and recirculate to councillors to confirm that the amendments are as intended.

FC25:67 Proposal to appoint Sonya Exton to the Climate Change Working Group. **All Agreed**

FC25:68 Markets Report: *Published* There were no questions

FC25:69 Village Hall Modernisation Report *Published* It was noted that the grant application has been submitted to Sizewell C Community Fund. We will wait to hear the result in due course. A vote of thanks was proposed to Cllr Horsnell for his work on this project. **All Agreed**

FC25:70 Cemetery Clerk's Report *Published* It was noted that there are a number of leaning headstones. The Clerk noted that East Suffolk Services have offered a safety report. The Clerk will look at the costs for this.

FC25:71 Date of next meeting: 15 September 2025

Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting: Changes to the Public Participation policy

Meeting Closed at 21:00

Signed.

Cllr Ivor French, Chair. Date.

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