

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council held on
Monday 16 March 2026 at 19:00



FC25:197 Present from the WMPC Councillors:

Council:	I French (Chair)	Day	Councillor Nicoll (SCC)
	Chenery	S French	A Besly (Clerk)
	Cooke	Horsnell	
	Creasey	Jenkinson	

FC25:198 Present from the Public: Iain Jamie (Beauly Homes)

FC25:199 Open Public Forum session. None

FC25:189 Review and comment on the design for the new Simon's Cross play area. This item was brought forward to enable Councillors to ask questions of Iain Jamie from Beauly Homes.

There were a few questions for Iain Jamie:

- What is the total area of the Playsite? 340m²
- What is the fence made of? 1.2m Estate railing with accessible gates.
- What is the surface? Mulch rubber throughout the whole area
- Have ESC Sarah Shinnie looked at the plans. Not yet. She will see them when they are submitted.
- How is the footpath across the site defined? It runs from the east between the play area estate railing and the close boarded 1.8m fence at the back of the apartments. Then to the south of the attenuation basin and on to the playing field.

The Parish Council are happy for this proposal to be put forward to ESC planning.

FC25:200 Proposal to authorise Apologies for Absence. There were no WMPC Councillor apologies. However Councillor Noble (ESC) apologised for being unable to attend.

FC25:201 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None

FC25:202 Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16 February 2026 and Extra Ordinary meeting on 26 February 2026. **All Agreed**

FC25:203 Receive Committee and Working Group Minutes

- 1 Planning Committee 17 February, 3 March and 12 March 2026. Councillor Jenkinson outlined the items considered at these meetings and commented that a further meeting is required next week.
- 2 F&GP Committee 9 March 2026. Councillor Chenery noted that should the Beauly Homes site be approved it would generate significant CIL and suggested that options and suggestions are voted upon by residents.
- 3 SZC Committee 12 March 2026. Councillor Chenery noted that cumulative traffic information has been requested.

FC25:204 Suffolk County Councillor's Report (SCC):

This is councillor Nicoll's last meeting with Wickham Market Parish Council as he is not standing for the County Council elections in May. He noted that Sizewell C has had the largest impact in this area and is disappointed that there are a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). He noted the cumulative strain of all the NSIPs on the community. How can we enforce transgressions of speeding and large vehicles on our small roads. Can villages bear the additional houses that the central government is requiring to be built in our area. He also commented that Suffolk Waste and Mineral group will be looking at the plans for Westerfield quarry.

He noted that planning is likely to be accepted as developers can appeal a refusal. East Suffolk Council would then have to bear the cost of an appeal if the appeal was upheld.

Suffolk County Council elections in May 2026 will cover a different area than the current one.

FC25:205 East Suffolk Councillor's Report (ESC): *Published* There were no questions

FC25:206 Chair's Report, *Published*. Cllr French thanked the Clerk who has cleared a second load of fly tipping from the Simon's Cross car park

FC25:207 Clerk's Report, *Published*. There were no questions and the Clerk was thanked for an informative report.

FC25:208 Deputy Clerk's Report, *Published*. It was noted that Leanne was doing a good job particularly in respect of communications, news magazine and the market.

FC25:209 Finance Report January 2026

- 1 Review Finance Report and Payments Schedule, *Published*. There were no questions
- 2 Review Bank Reconciliation, *Published*. There were no questions
- 3 Review Summary Financial Statement, *Published*. It was noted that the Cemetery is likely to be cost neutral for the current year
- 4 Review and approve reserves reallocation. It was proposed that the general reserve be increased to £60k (50% of the precept) and any remaining surplus be allocated to the village hall modernisation reserve. **All Agreed.** **Clerk /**

FC25:210 Payment Approvals. The following approvals were considered and proposals noted below.

- 1 Wayfinding order authorisation. WMPC have received a 100% grant. Authorised. **All Agreed.** **Clerk /**
- 2 Authorise CCLA 25k withdrawal. The Clerk outlined the requirement. Authorised. **All Agreed** **Clerk /**
- 3 Proposal to accept ESSL quote for 2026. The briefing recommends that ESSL be accepted as preferred supplier for grounds maintenance and that 2026 quote of £10,686.61 be authorised. **All Agreed.** Authorised. **All Agreed** **Clerk /**

FC25:211 Spring Cleaning approvals. Proposals to authorise the following cleaning around the village.

- 1 Pressure wash the Children’s play area **annually**. Authorised. **All Agreed.** **Clerk /**
- 2 Clean Bus shelter **annually**, Authorised. **All Agreed.** **Clerk /**
- 3 Engage ESSL to clear vegetation obscuring road signs in the village. Authorised. **All Agreed.** **Clerk /**
- 4 Clean road signs around the village. Roy Care can do this. Authorised. **All Agreed.** **Clerk /**

FC25:212 Proposal to approve IT policy, *Published*. Authorised. **All Agreed.**

It was noted that Councillors must use their Council email account for all Council business. They must not forward emails to their personal accounts but it is OK to forward some emails to non councillor personal accounts. **Clerk /**

It was requested that the Deputy Clerk forward Planning pdf documents with agendas

The Clerk will send the “Bring Your Own Device” agreement to councillors for signature. **Clerk /**

FC25:213 Proposal to authorise CIL Report, *Published*. Authorised. **All Agreed.** Report Signed

FC25:214 Proposal to decide whether or not to join Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group. See email dated 6 Feb 26. This was briefly discussed and Cllr I French agreed to find out more before a decision is made. **Chair**

FC25:215 Proposal to issue purchase orders for a detailed plan for the Village Hall suitable for the tendering process. Briefing *published* **All Agreed**
Sizewell C have confirmed a grant of £241k for village hall modernisation subject to grant Ts & Cs including satisfactory tenders.

FC25:216 Proposal to review report of 4th March 26 and to accept or amend the recommendations from the SZC Committee minutes. *Published*.

Councillor Chenery introduced the report of 4 March and described the current proposal for a 20 mph zone which runs from the Co-op in the South almost to Yew Tree Rise in the north and includes The Hill marketplace and the top end of both Dallinghoo Rd and Broad Rd. He explained the importance of a public information event to enable members of the public to question and challenge elements of the scheme so that the Parish Council can understand what all the residents want.

He has offered dates to Sizewell C for this event and is awaiting confirmation.

It was proposed that WMPC accept the latest traffic calming proposals as a vehicle to organising a public engagement event. Views on the extension of the 20mph speed limit will be sought at the event by way of a questionnaire. **All Agreed.**

At this point the meeting had run for 2 hours. It was proposed that standing order 3) x. be suspended to allow further business to be transacted. **All Agreed**

FC25:217 Promoted to the start of the meeting

FC25:218 Proposal to approve the Cemetery Management Plan, *Published*.

There was some discussion regarding the details of the plan and the proposal was put to the vote. Councillors Jenkinson and Day abstained. All others agreed. **Carried.**

FC25:219 Proposal to delegate the decision to pay for Deputy Clerk extra hours to the Chair and Clerk going forward (and report back to the full Council.) **All Agreed**

FC25:220 Proposal to appoint Pauline Huggins to the Climate Change working group. **All Agreed**

FC25:221 Reporting items for the next meeting.

- Village hall pitch protection

FC25:161 Date of next meeting: 20 April 2026

Meeting Closed at 21:36

Signed.

Cllr Ivor French, Chair. Date.

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