

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH



SIZEWELL C COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr David Chenery

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council, Sizewell C Committee held on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 19:00

SZC25: 14 **Present from the Council:** Cllr Chenery (Chair) Non-Cllrs as committee members:
Cllr I French A Westover
Cllr S French A Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Horsnell

SZC25: 15 **Present from the Public:** 3 plus Cllr S Noble [ESC]

SZC25: 16 **Open Public Forum session** (3 minutes per person):

One member of the public commented that the offer from Sizewell C is a good offer to have a 20 mph speed limit between the Co-op and the George public house. If this makes Wickham Market safer then it's good.

Another member of the public who lives on the High Street expressed a concern that the Sizewell C proposal does not go far enough and is in favour of an extended 20 mph speed limit.

Councillor Chenery responded that we should get the existing plans for the public information event and get feedback from everyone.

Another member of the public asked that if there are elements that the public would like to question how do they do this?

Councillor Chenery responded that this can be brought up at the public information event.

Anne Westover commented that Wickham Market Parish Council have not been delaying the scheme.

She feels that Sizewell C and Suffolk County Council Highways have not produced information as quickly as perhaps they could.

Councillor Chenery 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.

The Clerk will put the latest set of drawings on the parish council website.

SZC25: 17 **Apologies for Absence:** A Stansfield

SZC25: 18 **Declarations of Interest** and Dispensations in items on the agenda. Dispensation noted for A Westover

SZC25: 19 It was proposed that the Minutes of meeting of 27 May 2025 be approved: **All Agreed**

SZC25: 20 **Chair's Report:** Councillor Chenery was unable to attend the last Southern Transport Forum and Councillor I French attended in his place. He provided the following notes:

- Both the South and North Park and Rides are being used with a build-up of traffic during the month.
- Friday Street roundabout due to be open to traffic 30th March.
- Yoxford new pedestrian crossing over A12 operational.
- A12 night closures 17th April to 4th May Wickham Market area.
- TRG to review 12 months stats of increase in vehicles.
- 5 new electric buses will be operating in the near future.
- Sizewell signage will be displayed back and front of vehicles.
- Posters to be issued for rail engineering works.
- Parishes complained about road verges and surface damage on minor roads.

SZC25: 21 **Committee process and protocol**

- Anne Westover raised a concern regarding proper process relating to the extra ordinary parish council meeting on the 16th of October 2025. She felt that there should have been a Sizewell C Committee meeting before the full council meeting to approve the report that was presented to the full council and that non council members of the Sizewell C committee should have been formally invited. She also felt that her apologies for not being able to attend this Full Council meeting should have been recorded.
- Councillor Chenery responded that the report was from him as Chair of the Sizewell C committee and not the committee The reason that this went to an extraordinary full council meeting was because it was an important decision that required full council approval. In addition to this the councillor members of the Sizewell C committee were all present at this full council meeting.

- The Clerk confirmed that the process for calling an extraordinary meeting was correct and cited a recent extraordinary meeting to discuss the planning application for the Simons Cross development. This had not gone through the planning committee but came direct to the full council as an extraordinary meeting because the decision required full council input. As the extraordinary meeting in October was a full council meeting the only apologies that are recorded are those of councillors.
- It was accepted that while it is not required to formally invite non councillors to a full council meeting, in this instance it may have been courteous to do so.
- Arthur Stansfield was not able to attend but provided an email statement that he asked to be read out and minuted:

I cannot agree to accepting the token 20mph limit suggested so cannot recommend the report goes forward. I attach an article from today's EADT. Interesting report about the woes of Middleton. I drove through it the other day and wondered what all the rats along the side of the road were about. We should take this as a warning and push Sizewell and SCC for the 20mph limits. We will need to push right up to and possibly beyond the criteria for 30mph limits. We all know the 20mph limit is needed and makes sense and must not be beaten by the bureaucracy of SCC highways. We must also reinforce that the polluter must pay to SZC. They cannot be allowed to wriggle out of funding the 20mph scheme.

I am very concerned that the report in October purporting to come from the Sizewell committee had not been seen by the committee and appeared to be mainly written by Sizewell C. There was then a meeting between David, Ivor Sizewell C and SCC highways earlier this year. The Sizewell committee was not informed of this meeting let alone invited. This behaviour looks like collusion and is not acceptable.

The Sizewell committee needs to work as a team and individual members taking actions without consultation with the committee means that the collective way to get the best is not available. Would you expect a football team to win if only the captain was aware of a fixture and turned up by himself? This behaviour has to change.

Councillor Chenery strongly refuted any suggestion of collusion and that the feedback from the meeting with SZC was shared soon after with all committee members. Regarding an extended 20mph limit SZC has advised we should await to see the impacts of the additional SZC traffic through the village and if, in future years, a case was justified they would ask Transport Review Group (TRG) to consider funding additional measures.

SZC25: 22 Accumulative traffic impacts and timelines of developments affecting Wickham Market – proposal to develop a report on these issues

There was a request for the latest timeline for Sizewell C traffic through Wickham Market. Councillor Chenery will request for the latest information. He also confirmed that Sizewell C lorries are restricted from coming through the village.

There was concern over the cumulative effects of a number of projects creating traffic which may come through Wickham Market. These include Westerfield quarry, housing at Campsea Ashe, Eyke and Rendlesham together with 24 dwellings in Wickham Market at Simon's Cross.

It was noted that East Suffolk Council Planning may consult highways regarding traffic volumes generated by planning requests. WSP is a Suffolk County Council highways contractor and should be able to bring this information together. Agreed to defer for the time being.

SZC25: 23 Consideration of SZC's proposal to move their proposed traffic calming scheme forward, report published. Committee and Council to agree a resolution.

Councillor Chenery talked through the published report and suggested taking the existing drawings with the inclusion of a localised 20mph zone to a public information event. It was recommended that this report is brought to the full council as soon as possible to move forward to a public information event run by Sizewell C. **All agreed**

SZC25: 24 Consideration and application of SCC Highways revised 20mph policy on Wickham Market – Committee and council to agree a resolution

Suffolk County Council have a process for implementing a 20mph speed limit this includes:

- Support from the Suffolk County Council councillor,
- A local consultation,
- A speed survey funded by either Wickham Market Parish Council, Suffolk County Council or East Suffolk council.

20 mph speed limits are generally recommended for areas of high pedestrian usage as they are intended to protect pedestrians.

A question was raised regarding Broad Road and whether this should be a 20mph speed limit as well.

The Sizewell C Committee recommend that the Council engages with all people regarding Broad Rd and incorporate that engagement in a questionnaire as part of the Sizewell C public information event.

SZC25: 25 Feedback from SZC on issues raised at its meeting with residents in November 25

Councillor Chenery presented the feedback received from Sizewell C regarding the questions that Wickham Market Parish Council had raised. These are attached at Annex 1.

SZC25: 26 Format of public information event – Committee and Council to propose the format

It was suggested that a Friday evening and Saturday morning would provide most people with the opportunity to attend. Suggested dates are May 15 & 16 or May 22 & 23. (the latter dates would be just after the distribution of the May newsletter).

It was also suggested that an online event could work

SZC25: 27 **Date of next meeting:** To be agreed

Meeting closed at 21:00

These minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings of the meeting

Signed.

Cllr Chenery, Chair.

Date.

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Annex 1

Responses to WMPC queries

Paragraph numbers refer to queries raised and “a” is the response from SZC

1. Raised elements to gateway features as mentioned below:
 - a. Currently unless there's a clear justification, we don't propose to amend the design any further
2. Traffic flow increase on the lower High Street - your monitoring data (page 14) shows a 6% increase between April 25 and Aug 25 which might be considered a lot in 4 months?
 - a. The October 25 data (see attached Traffic Monitoring report) shows a decrease of 4.5% from April 25 and 10% from the Aug 25 figures so more monitoring would be required to give a clear picture of the consistent state of affairs. It should also be noted that the purpose of the Aug 25 snapshot was to give a sense of the higher traffic during the peak holiday season. Steve Merry also notes that surveys are snapshots, traffic volumes vary and there is also a level of variability associated with surveys themselves. I always allow a +/-10%
3. Traffic speeds – page 35 suggests speeds on this section are in the 20's but these seem low, hence I asked if you have 12 hour 85%ile figs rather than 24hour, as 12 hour data would cover the busiest hours of the day.
 - a. I've spoken to the team who put together the traffic monitoring data for us and this would be time consuming to develop – having said that, they have checked on the peak hours and they do not vary significantly from the 24h 85%ile
4. 20mph speed limit – has Steve Merry come back to you with what he'll accept?
 - a. As previously agreed, SCC are prepared for the 20mph zone currently in the design from the co-op to the butchers [revised drawings show almost extending to Yew Tree Rise] to go forward to TRO consultation
5. Border Cot Lane new parking spaces – I think there will be exit visibility from Riverside across the verge? Did the safety audit pick this up?
 - a. I've asked for detail on the safety audit for you, but haven't got details as yet.
6. Double yellow lines impose 24 hour waiting restrictions but allows loading, unloading and builders vans. Not sure about carers. Perhaps we can look at the exemptions in the proposed TRO?
 - a. SCC do not have any knowledge of precedent for TRO exemptions including carers
7. Residents car park permits – I wonder if ESC would offer this?
 - a. Steve from SCC notes that it is worth some caution as car parking permits do not always deliver what residents expect; it would be worth WMPC discussing all the pros and cons with ESC if ESC were prepared to look at this option. Steve also noted that there is a long term cost that needs to be covered, generally by fees
8. Contacting Rolands Plastics – are WSP able to do this, to see if they would offer some sort of private residents parking on their premises?
 - a. We would suggest that the Parish Council approach Roland Plastics independently to discuss this further.
9. Moving on-street parking to the north side of the High Street – I wasn't aware of Patrick's views about this. Has he discussed this with you?
 - a. Unless there's a very clear justification we would not be intending to amend the design further
10. DYL extension noted in email titled WM Transport Scheme – formal acceptance:
 - a. John Rozier has confirmed that the current design shows refresh of existing lineage. We've asked for clarification from the design team
11. Regarding the agenda for the cttee meeting our cttee may consider reporting on the accumulative traffic impacts from SZC and other local developments in and around WM (housing, solar farms, quarry etc) – do you have a schedule of expected SZC related traffic through WM for each year of construction?
 - a. I've checked with Richard Bull and we don't have this granular forecast, but will encourage traffic from the A14 to use the A14/A12 with signage etc rather than the B1078
12. Also, do you have a date for the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Border Cot Lane? We thought that was planned for last December.
 - a. B1078 Phase 1 was delivered in November – December last year. The extension to the 30mph limit at Border Cot Lane is included in the Phase 2 which is currently with SCC for review and Technical Approval. The intention is to offset the 30mph extension and rest of Phase 2 with the B1122 works (so taking place on the days when the B1122 works are not, to manage contractor programmes): this would be from late April by the current programme