



Wickham Chamber of Trade

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th August 2025 at 5.30pm

Attendees:

Ben – Meon Valley Butchers
Frank – The Square Cow
Julie – Wickham Boutique
Julie (JC) – Wickham Fisheries
Leah – Wickham & Knowle Parish Council & Team Wickham
Lorraine – A Good Yarn
Lorraine – Stream Hair Salon
Louise (LH) – Hygge Home
Mike (MD) – Retiring Treasurer
Nicky – Biscoes Solicitors
Nigel (NP) – Police Liaison
Sarah – Wild Art Gallery
Trish (TD) – The Square Cow (Partial attendance)

Apologies:

Curtis – Sienna's Baby Boutique
Eliza – Warwick Lane / Baytree Walk
Helen (HF) – The Square Yard
Laura – Salt and Paper Digital
Sandy (ST) – Sue Ryder
Sophie – Confiserie Verdonk
Steve – Wickham Coffeehouse / Warwick Market

1. Update(s) on progress since last meeting

LH has compiled a database of known Wickham & Knowle businesses. Wickham Chamber of Trade (WCT) need to obtain written permission/consent from all businesses for WCT to hold their information on file and communicate regarding WCT business. LH has, therefore, created a short form for completion. MD, TD, HF and JC have all offered assistance with obtaining contact information/permissions from businesses. LH will coordinate. Going forward, the Wickham Village News WhatsApp group will be utilised to communicate village news to all businesses who have joined the group. The Chamber of Trade WhatsApp group will be strictly for members of the WCT to communicate WCT business.

2. Confirm viability

It was agreed that the WCT would continue to move forward and is optimistic about the future and how the WCT can benefit its members.

3. Appoint Officers

FD elected as Chair

LH elected as Secretary

ST elected as Treasurer

NP elected as Police Liaison

4. Agree Objectives

The WCT Objectives were agreed (as attached).

It was agreed that the acronym WCT would be used across the board to avoid any confusion.

An official domain name, email address and website will be created.

A Facebook page/group will also be set up.

5. Confirm membership details

It was agreed that annual membership will cost £65 (a little over £5 per month).

Membership will be on a per business basis.

LH has prepared a Membership Form which will be circulated once the identified issues with the WCT bank account have been resolved so that any membership monies paid can be accessed.

Membership benefits were discussed and it was agreed that there is an opportunity for WCT members to offer other members discounts etc on production of a card/proof of membership (not compulsory). LH has been researching free/low cost membership apps and will report back.

WCT will produce window stickers or similar for members to display in their premises.

6. Frequency and format of future meetings

It was agreed that future meetings would take place on the last Wednesday of every alternate month.

5.30pm was agreed as a start time.

Venues for future meetings was not discussed but any member that would like to host a meeting in their venue (if appropriate) should contact the WCT Secretary.

As well as a short formal agenda for each future meeting, it was agreed that there would be a presentation/speaker on a topic that would be beneficial to members followed by networking opportunities.

It was also agreed that there may be opportunities for occasional social events/fundraisers.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 5.30pm at The Square Cow.

8. AOB

It was confirmed that WCT will be paying the Parish Council £1327.87 towards the 2024 Christmas Lights Switch On event.

It is hoped that this will be completed by Wednesday 10th September latest.

Further contribution may also be possible for the 2025 event once the initial WCT membership has been confirmed.

Although it wasn't discussed at the meeting, a WCT logo has been created which represents the main business sectors in the village – retail, hospitality, health and beauty and services. The bright colours of the logo represent the creative industry that exists in the village. All coming together as one.



Wickham Chamber of Trade

Wickham Chamber of Trade welcomes **engaged** and **proactive** members of our business community to be an integral part of a **connected** and **informed** business network that supports local business to **thrive** and **grow**, at every stage.

The (new) **Wickham Chamber of Trade (WCT)** offers members the opportunity to:

- **Develop networks** – Running a successful business is about knowing your stuff but **who** you know can definitely help too! WCT members regularly network and attend social events so they can make valuable connections and unlock new customers to help their business thrive.
- **Promote their business to others** – Members have the opportunity to promote what they do to others at WCT meetings. Businesses will also have a premium listing on the Business Directory page of the WCT website and on our Facebook page.
- **Promote collaborative working** – WCT members are encouraged to work together, to support each other, to share their knowledge and experience, to innovate and help each other to thrive and grow.
- **Provide a safer environment for traders** – WCT members work together to ensure that we better protect our businesses against crime and provide the safest and most supportive environment possible for those who work in our village.
- **Promote the businesses of Wickham** and be involved with initiatives that help spread the word and attract visitors to our beautiful and vibrant village.
- **Be part of a collective voice** – WCT members have their say on local issues, influence decisions that matter and join forces to effect change.
- **Receive exclusive member offers and discounts** and even, in some cases, obtain financial assistance towards projects designed to benefit the business community and/or bring trade to the village.
- Use our logo, add it to their emails, websites and display it in their premises – **be proud of being a WCT member!**