

Marchington Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday 12th April 2022

Present - Cllr Bicknell, Cllr Bullock, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Mann, Cllr Tomkins, Cllr Robberts

Parish Clerk – Becci Ede

7 Members of the public plus

19:30 – 20:19 Cathy Kompfner – The EA

19:30 – 20:19 Danni Haden – The EA

19:30 – 20:19 Heather McCready – The EA

19:30 – 20:19 Steve Allmark – Severn Trent

19:30 – 20:19 Laura Williams – Severn Trent

Meeting commenced 19:30

1. To receive apologies and accept and record approval of absence – Cllr Morgan, Cllr Hudson, Cllr Nixon
2. To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None received
3. To approve and sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 8th March 2022 - Proposed – Cllr Hayhurst
Seconded – Cllr Bullock
4. Update from the Environment Agency and Severn Trent regarding the flooding in Marchington.
Cllr Mann read out the questions that had been sent to the EA and Severn Trent prior to the meeting, the questions were answered in turn.
 1. The foul sewers in the village are not being cleaned as promised. Quantities of mud are regularly left on the road by farm vehicles. This must find its way into the sewer. It can set in dry weather causing restrictions and reduced capacity. Are there plans to clean them more frequently?
Laura Williams explained that Severn Trent have 72,000km of sewerage to look after, maintenance of the high risk and hot spot areas must take priority. Sewers should rely on self-cleansing, but this is reliant on customers not putting down things that they shouldn't, like wet wipes and nappies. The sewers in Marchington are on a foul system with an element of run off. Drainage from highways should be on a separate system, so mud and debris from the highways should not enter the sewer, this can be investigated if necessary and a cleansing program could be put in place if it was needed, there is currently no cleansing programme for Marchington.
 - 2 – There is a further problem with the foul sewer. The downhill run from the top of Church Lane ends just before the bridge. The pressure generated by the flow down the sewer in periods of heavy rain can cause the effluent to be ejected from the manhole immediately before the bridge. In a recent discussion with a site engineer following one of these events we were told that the design is not fit for purpose. Obviously, it was installed before housing development took place in upper Marchington. Because the sewer cannot cross the bridge there has to be a 90degree change in direction at some point and this is the root cause of the problem. The engineer was of the opinion, that a new system is required especially since there is a strong likelihood of further development in upper Marchington. Are there any plans to remedy this problem?
Laura Williams answered question 2 - We are aware of the 90 degrees turn, there is a group of consultants looking at this, the surveys and investigations have started. Some funding has been secured for Marchington, but a full data set needs to be captured before anything can be agreed to be done. A time scale for the investigation period cannot be given as its dependent on the weather conditions.
Cllr Mann asked Laura if residents should accept that raw sewerage will spill on to our roads and into the river. Laura commented that the latest issue with sewerage on the road was caused by a blockage which has now been cleared, this should stop the issue reoccurring. Steve Allmark stated that it is not acceptable, therefore monitoring is being done, around 6-12 months is required to get the correct range of weather to get a full set of data.
Cllr Bullock questioned why Severn Trent customer service would be saying that it is acceptable to have raw sewerage on the roads and running into rivers. Steve and Laura agreed that this should not be the case and they would take this feedback and raise it internally. Cllr Bicknell asked if it would be better to spend the money on solutions rather than investigation. Steve advised that Marchington has been allocated separate pots of money, some is for investigation only.
 - 3 – Whenever we contact Severn Trent requesting action on their part, we request subsequent confirmation that action has been taken. The Severn Trent phone operator always agrees to this but in practice, we seldom receive such confirmation. Will Severn Trent agree to ensure this happens in future?
Laura and Steve agreed emails will be sent to the Parish Clerk when works have been done.
 - 4 – In 2012 we were informed that we could contact Severn Trent to ask for an engineer to start an extra pump in the pumping station, which would help clear flooding on Church Lane. Confirmation of this was given to the Parish Clerk and Councillor Whitehead.
Subsequent enquiries revealed that there are 3 pumps in the station and that normally only 2 would be running. Switching on the 3rd has been shown to help and we and the Council have been given a phone number to request this action from Severn Trent. However, we now know that when demand is high the 3rd pump is running anyway so there is no gain to be had.

Two years ago, Ian was shown round the station by a Severn Trent engineer who agreed that extra pumping would help clear the sewer, which in turn, helps to clear the flood. He said that the 3 pumps are often in use anyway but informed Ian that expanding the pumping facility would not be too difficult as little or no new pipe work would be required if larger pumps were to be installed. Does Severn Trent have any plans to upgrade/enlarge the pumping station facility and if not, why not?

Steve confirmed that there are 3 pumps at the pumping station. One is always operational; this can deal with dry weather flows. The second pump will assist with wet weather. The third is a storm pump and will kick in when there's a storm. The pumps are all automatic and run on a full maintenance program. Cllr Mann said that in the past a number has been given so that the third pump can be turned on if required, Laura and Steve were not aware that this was possible and insisted that the pumps are automatic, they agreed to double check this and confirm back to MPC. Laura said that monitors and alarms are constant, the pumping station is a foul and not designed to take flood water, it is designed to take foul sewage from the Severn Trent network. Cllr Bullock noted that for years MPC and residents have been told that the 3rd pump needs to be switched on and that the pump station is there to take away flood water.

Laura reiterated that Severn Trent cannot take river water into their network, they do not have the capacity. The pumping station is not designed to take brook water at all. Steve agreed and said that if anything is different from what he has said tonight he will come back to us.

Steve advised that in around six months from now or as soon as the data is ready, Steve and Laura will come to a Council meeting to present the data and what they intend to do.

The EA addressed the meeting with an update on Flooding prevention. Marchington is complex with a number of different flood routes. They need to ensure that whatever they do does not impact another area. Three elements are being implemented, the first being natural flood management to slow the flow of water entering the brook, details of this will be available at the drop-in meeting. The second is flood defences, the project is moving forward on 11 properties to be installed in August to September 2022. The third is to build up and improve the condition of the flood bund, work should start August/September 2022, alongside this will be the building of a small wall on Church Lane by the bridge and clearing the Silver Lane culverts.

A resident asked if the EA would object to further development in Marchington which may add to the flooding issues. Danni Haden advised that they would object to development if it were in a flood plain.

Steve Allmark advised that Severn Trent are not part of the planning consultation, but they would not allow roof water to go into the foul system.

A resident spoke to the Severn Trent representatives at the meeting to advise that a Severn Trent engineer has informed them that Severn Trent are at the Prison regularly as they have many issues with the system there. Steve was not aware of any issues.

A resident asked how Severn Trent can be sure that their system is robust enough to ensure that any planning applications are being looked at? Cllr Mann advised that there are 10 houses to be added in the next 10 years as per the neighbourhood plan.

Steve advised that the department that looks at this should be aware of the high-risk areas. But going forward, if MPC let Steve and Laura know of any new developments then they will investigate it internally. The EA confirmed that they look at all applications passed on from the local authority and that they have a robust system.

20:19 – The members of the EA and Severn Trent left the meeting.

5. Other Organisations –To receive reports from outside organisations.
 - a. Staffordshire Police – Update previously circulated
6. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
 - a. Planning Applications Received –
 - i. P/2022/00208 - Proposed change of use of existing maize and grass crops (agricultural land) as a maize maze and car park (Class F.2) including kiosk for a three-month period per year. Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott In The Clay, DE6 5GX. **Marchington Parish Council makes no objection assuming that all environmental issues are considered.**
 - ii. P/2022/00286 - Reduction in height to 7 trees consisting of one beech, one flowering cherry, four Sycamore Trees and one leylandii to give a finished height between 1.2m and 1.8m. 23 Woodland Views, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8NF **Marchington Parish Council makes no objection.**
 - iii. P/2020/00929 – Revised Application - Demolition of existing timber porch to facilitate the erection of a single storey porch to the Southwest elevation and erection of a storm porch to the Northeast elevation (Amended Plans and Description) Location: Porters Farm, High Street, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD. **The Council discussed and requested that the Clerk to check on previous applications and advise the Council when comments were made –**
Action Clerk
 - b. Decisions Received –
 - i. P/2021/01672 - Erection of a first-floor side and rear extension. 3 Moisty Lane, Marchington, ST14 8J – Permitted
 - ii. P/2022/00202 - Felling of 3 Spruce trees. Church Farm Church Lane Marchington Staffordshire ST14 8LJ – No Objection
 - iii. P/2022/00134 - Crown reduction in height by no more than 1m and 0.5m from the sides of the leylandii hedge. Yew Tree House High Street Marchington Staffordshire ST14 8LD – No Objection
 - iv. P/2022/00140 - Pruning of branches resting on a shed roof to give 2 metres clearance to the roof of one Ash tree (TPO NO 281) Church Cottage, Church Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ – Consent Granted

- v. P/2022/00194 - Reduction of lateral spread of the crown by 1.0m-1.5m (dependent upon where sympathetic pruning cuts can be made) all round and cleaning of the whole crown during the works of 1 Willow tree. 12 Woodland Views Marchington Staffordshire, ST14 8NF – No Objection
- vi. P/2022/00286 - Reduction in height of 1.2m -1.8m to 6 trees consisting of one flowering cherry, four Sycamore Trees and one leylandii and crown reduction of 1 beech tree of 1.2m -1.8m Location: 23 Woodland Views, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8NF – No Objection
- c. Enforcement Updates –
7. Council owned property updates -
- a. Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks -
- i. Silver Lane playground monthly safety report. **Cllr Mann read the report completed by Cllr Morgan, the main gate is bent but working ok. The old wooden fencing needs changing sometime in the future. The junior and toddler swing seats need replacing at some stage. The carpark needs to be weeded.**
- ii. Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report. **Cllr Hayhurst to forward the report later in the week.**
- b. Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann – **The trees have now been cut down, this has exposed the neighbouring fence, which is in a poor condition, but is not the responsibility of the village hall. The stone wall has been repaired.**
8. The Cricket Club, Cllr Mann
- a. Drainage update – **A sewage pipe had to be replaced urgently, the invoice is not yet available but estimated cost is around £800.**
- b. Memorial plate costs – **Further quotes need to be considered. The Council asked if a second person should be added to the memorial.**
9. Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, Cllr Hayes – **No comments have been sent in this month. Cllr Hayes asked a member of the public who is on the committee for an update. The committee member advised that a Facebook page has been started for the Village Hall.**
10. Marchington Woodlands Triangle – **The Clerk read out the letter that was sent to the Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police followed by Cllr Mann reading out the response that has been received. A discussion took place, the Council suggested that a meeting with a representative from Staffordshire Police and Cllr Hudson with a member of MPC and a resident of the Woodlands present would be useful. The Council agreed that a letter should be sent to our MP for support.**
11. Finance, to authorise payments as listed in Appendix A, Cllr Mann
Proposed – Cllr Tomkins
Seconded –Cllr Bullock

Appendix A -April 2022					
Date	Monies received:	£			
01/03/22	Interest	£0.31			
12/03/22	Parish garden rent payment	£40.00			
16/03/22	Uttoxeter Cricket Club	£250.00			
30/03/22	Marchington Solar - Deed of benefit payment	£5,000.00			
01/04/22	Western Power Payment	£26.15			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£5,316.46			
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
12/04/22	Marchington Village Festival	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	2492
25/03/22	Benches - Picnic area at Cricket Club (from Solar fund) - Reimburse Cllr Morgan	£210.00	£0.00	£685.00	2493
18/03/22	Green Lane - Willow Arbour (from TTV Grant) - Reimburse Cllr Morgan	£475.00	£0.00		
12/04/22	Clerk Salary	£448.80	£0.00	£503.90	2494
12/04/22	Clerk travel and expenses	£55.10	£0.00		
06/04/22	Handy Man payment and expenses	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00	2495
12/04/22	Marchington Solar - Deed of benefit payment transfer to Leek account	£5,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	2496
12/04/22	Payment to Friends of Marchington gardening group - Green Lane project	£577.14	£0.00	£577.14	2497
		£7,136.04	£0.00	£7,136.04	
As of 30th March 2022					
	Current Account	£1,002.23			
	Gold Account	£41,712.12			
	Solar Account	£49,859.55			
		£92,573.90			
	Set up transfer from Leek account to MPC account to cover cost of benches for £1,358.00				

12. Solar Farm Grant Projects

- a. **Map lecterns – Cllr Hayhurst, advised the Council that all cost options had been reviewed and lectern proposals had been sent round to the Council. The recycled plastic lecterns, the creation of artwork and the printing of maps for 3 locations comes to a total of £3216.00. A resident raised concerns about the current maps and that they are not always correct. Cllr Hayhurst confirmed that the footpaths will be taken from the Staffordshire County Council definitive map and suggested that residents could be consulted before maps are finalised. Cllr Mann agreed that there would need to be some interaction with the community when finalising the maps.**

A vote was taken to spend £3216 from the Solar fund, all councillors voted in favour.

- b. Cricket Club benches - Cllr Mann, the two benches have been purchased and are for use of the community for picnics.

13. Antisocial Behaviour, Forestside - Cllr Mann advised that he had visited the complainant today and that the issue seems to have abated.

14. Mink sighting, Cllr Mann advised that a local resident vet has spotted a mink on prison property. Some residents of the Woodlands confirmed that they have them in the area. It was agreed that MPC should communicate the to Dovegate prison.

15. Highways and Footpath issues, Clerk

- a. Highways issues – There is an issue with Potholes by Wren Park and Lark Cottage, reports are yet to be raised - **Action Clerk.**

- b. Footpaths – Cllr Hayhurst advised that she and the Clerk had met with the maintenance company for Evans Property. They have cleared the brambles to re-open the footpath but discovered a large ditch at the other side of the boundary fence. The Clerk has been in touch with Staffordshire County Council to discuss the next steps. Residents have made their own footpath to get around the issue. All footpaths in the area have stops where the MOD land was, MPC should look to get these reinstated over time.

16. Correspondence, Clerk

Resident letter – Regarding the phone box and purchase of new benches – **Action Clerk - Get costs for painting.**

ESBC - Road closure notice, Marchington 10K 26th June

Draycott PC – Invite to relief road meeting

Hortons – Email regarding noise concerns

Philip Atkins - notification of consultation on Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan – Cllr Hayhurst and Cllr Bullock raised concerns regarding traffic and flooding. A resident advised that Draycott PC are pushing to have the traffic pushed back to the A50. All quarry vehicles to go back to the A50. The Council agreed that a letter should be sent, **Action Cllr Mann and the Clerk**

Philip Atkins - Uttoxeter Joining Up the Community Project - First Forum Meeting

Resident Letter – HGVs on Silver Lane

17. Urgent items for input onto the 10th May 2022 Meeting

Meeting closed at 21:44

Date of Next Meeting – 10th May 2022