

Marchington Parish Council Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday 27th September 2022

at Marchington Village Hall

Present – Cllr Bicknell, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Mann, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Hudson

Parish Clerk: Clare Nash

12 members of the public

Meeting opened at 19.30pm

1. To receive apologies and accept and record approval of absence – Cllr Bullock, Cllr Nixon, Cllr Tomkins, Cllr Roberts
2. To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None
3. To approve and sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 8th August 2022 - Proposed by Cllr Hayhurst
Seconded by Cllr Morgan
4. **Smallwood Manor Hospital** - Chair introduced the team from Cove Healthcare at Smallwood Manor Hospital and welcomed them to the meeting and invited the directors, Lee Smith & Bev Cyrus, and the manager Judith Smith to inform the PC about their plans for Smallwood Manor. Smallwood will be an inpatient young adult & children's mental health service operating at the lower 2 tiers of 4 levels of mental health need. Catering for children up to 18 years & young adults up to 25 years. Generally, these are young people with severe MH probs but posing a risk to themselves and not the wider community. There are 24 general beds in the main manor house allowing plenty of room. The old school changing rooms are being converted to another care facility. The intention for the hospital is to provide a sanctuary for children, & their families, while they receive treatment with the aim of getting back to normal life. Cove includes families so that they don't have to travel long distances and can stay and help their child recover. They hope to help young people from the local area. The mission is to reduce the length of time for patients in hospital. Cove have 14 years' experience in this field. Children will receive education on site whilst at the hospital. The Cove directors confirmed that the sports field including the cricket pitch will be used by the school and they have applied to divert the footpath to keep children safe. There is no intention to install a solar farm. Cove is keen to emphasise that the character of the school building is being preserved, the Cricket pavilion will be restored and the Lodge has been renovated and is going to be a single occupancy cottage (16-25yr age group) with a live-in carer. The swimming pool will remain to be used by the patients. When asked about security measures Cove responded that they believe the young people will not be wanting to abscond. A lifting road barrier for vehicles will be used to prevent vehicular access to the property. Cllrs asked what protocols have been devised with local police for absconders – Cove confirmed that they will liaise with the police about the young people in their care and they will keep the police aware so that they can act quickly in such a situation. Residents expressed interest in the arrangements for broadband at Smallwood. Cove is looking at this. They are bringing in their own portal. A resident asked if they could keep in touch about this. The hospital will be opening in November 2022 and Cove hopes to invite the PC to the opening.

Cove Healthcare left the meeting.

5. Marchington Woodlands Permanent Agenda Item
 - a. Travellers, Hobb Lane – 17th August travellers arrived in Hobb Lane. Residents & Parish Clerk reported this to the police and SCC. Cllr Hudson had spoken to Cllr Phillip Aktins – these travellers have been all around Staffs but have not caused issues to local communities, so deemed nothing needed to be done. They left the site clean and tidy when they moved on although it was noted that fires and wood collecting/cutting was an issue. The travellers have now left the parish and moved on.
6. Forestside Permanent Agenda Item – none
7. Other Organisations – To receive reports from outside organisations.
 - a. ESBC – Cllr Hudson reported that the council was very shocked to hear that the National Heritage Brewery Museum in Burton is to be closed by Molson Coors. Whilst ESBC cannot prevent the closure, they can try to work with Coors. Separately from the Brewery Museum ESBC had been planning to open a history of Burton Museum in the converted Bass House, but may not be room for all the Brewery Museum artifacts.
 - b. The issue of Violence Against Women & Children was raised at recent ESBC council meeting – Cllr Hudson supported but considered that the council should look into this matter in more depth & include violence against men also. Cllr Hayhurst pointed out that statistics show that violence against women is a bigger issue and ESBC could do more to support local charities in this area. Cllr Hudson said that the issue will come back to council for full debate.

- c. Staffordshire Police – Report previously circulated. Headline 47% increase in crime. Burglary in the village on day of Queen’s funeral demonstrates that the village is not immune. Police attended within 20 minutes. One culprit was caught. Resident reported a theft in the Woodlands of farm equipment.
 - d. Chapel Triangle – Cllr Hudson is embarrassed about the lack of progress, with the matter being passed from police to borough, borough to county. He has had a meeting with all parties & has been assured that County enforcement officers would deal with it supported by the police. Cllr Hudson has visited and photographed, sent these & copy of the law to County Council and requested them to deal with it. He has a meeting with Chief Constable in a few weeks and will mention it then.
8. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
- a. Planning Applications Received –
 - i. P/2022/01006 - Shortening of branches by a maximum of approximately 2 metres to remove spindly growth and reshape the crown of the tree to one Plum tree. Location: Yew Tree House, High Street, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD – No comments
 - b. Decisions Received –
 - i. P/2022/00737 - Change of use from Chapel to Restaurant (Class E) for use ancillary to the Smallwood Manor Estate Smallwood Manor, Uttoxeter Road, Netherland Green, Staffordshire, ST14 8N - Permitted
 - c. Enforcement Updates –
 - i. Charnwood – A planning application has been submitted but is not yet live on the planning pages - P/2022/00581 however Chris Hutton (ESBC) says the owners have now instructed an architect to deal with the application. There is no set time limit but ESBC have to be seen to be reasonable. MPC has raised the issue of the lighting and cameras with ESBC & this has been noted. Following a discussion it was decided to ask ESBC what is a reasonable length of time for this, since it has already been on 6 months since the issue was raised by the PC. The feeling was that ESBC is being too lenient. **Action Clerk: Contact ESBC Enforcement**
 - ii. P/2022/00109 – Complaint from resident received. Location: The Orchard, Allens Lane. The builder has built in a solid floor where a VOID should be and studding to take glazing either side of opening door frames, making this area in effect a Balcony overlooking the rear garden of the property and the properties at the lower end of Moisty Lane. ESBC have visited site and found that it is in contravention of the planning permission. They are awaiting builder’s decision on if he is to apply for retrospective permission to regularise the works or alter the structure to comply with the approved plans. PC consider that retrospective permission it is not acceptable since the original application was turned down on this reason. **Action: Clerk to write to Enforcement to make them aware of PC views.** Cllr Hudson supported this and will lend his weight to the argument.
 - iii. Brookside House – a resident reported that Velux windows have been installed in the roof of the house & questioned if planning permission was required since the house is within the Conservation Area of the village. David Ward (ESBC) has been contacted & will report back to the Parish Clerk.
 - d. Staffordshire Borough Council’s (ESBC’s) revised Draft Housing Choice Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2022 is now open for comments from residents, businesses, organisations and others. **Action: Councillors to send comments to Clerk by 7th October**

Councillor Hudson left the meeting

9. Council owned property updates -
- a. Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks -
 - i. Annual Inspection Report from Play Inspections – essentially only one issue identified (bike handles at Forestside) that needs repairing ASAP. **Action: Clerk**
 - ii. Silver Lane playground monthly safety report, Cllr Hayes – minor issues only, wooden bench seats need treating and fence post needs replacing. Some swing seats showing signs of splitting.
 - iii. Silver Lane fence – need an update on quote from DSK and to obtain quote for wooden fence from Grangewood. Alternatively, PC could continue to repair and replace as necessary. **Action: Clerk**
 - iv. Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report, Cllr Tomkins – issue with bike handles identified.
 - b. Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann – Platinum Jubilee art installation has been put up and looks very good. VH is being well used by the community.
 - c. Cricket Club, Cllr Mann – Complaints about dangerous parking have been received. Bowls Club and Cricket Club considered the main offenders. Cricket Club members have been spoken to. Residents can/should complain to the police about the parking. If bridge built from Silver Lane playing field Cllrs opinion was that this would help Cricket Club and would also enable residents to get around the village more easily.
10. Marchington Woodlands Village Hall
- a. MWVH would like to remove a Cherry tree in the hedge near the entrance. Not a PC issue but it was noted that the tree maybe in a conservation area and could have a TPO. MWVH should check this.
 - b. Noticeboard – The existing noticeboard is old and slightly dilapidated. MWVH would like to make the entrance safer and more attractive and would like the noticeboard moved and fixed to VH wall where visible from the road. PC is looking into the option of putting in a new noticeboard elsewhere (with the lectern) but using recycled plastic, a material

that has been rejected previously by MWVH. However previous proposal would have been large enough to accommodate both PC and VH notices. A PC only noticeboard would be smaller (2 panes). Discussion concluded that PC need specific information from MWVH, what, where and acceptable materials? Then PC can decide on way forward.

11. Defibrillators, Marchington, and Marchington Woodlands – AED offered PC and MWVH spare parts – time limited offer. MVH defib expired in July therefore PC decided to buy them straightaway. Although PC didn't buy the defib at MVH or MWVH they have previously bought spare parts for both defibs. Parish Cllrs were contacted and the consensus was that PC **should buy them** for both MVH & MWVH on this occasion to ensure the safety of residents. However, it was noted that a defib is only useful within a very small radius of its location which raises the question of the realistic value of a defib. Cricket Club has one but kept in the pavilion and the football club have one also now but again locked away. AED have said that supply issues are getting better, but in the meantime, if unit is deployed, they will loan one out until parts are available again. Training for CPR has been done by Cricket Club & Football Club – Seems more useful than defib. and cost is reasonable.
12. Marchington Woodlands, Chapel Triangle, Chair – covered earlier
13. Flooding
 - a) Church Lane – Severn Trent (ST) visited site on 7th September and explained to Cllrs the works that they were going to do to prevent blockages in the sewers. ST forecast it would take one to two days but is actually taking far longer. ST Pumps – Explanation is that there are 3 pumps but only 2 ever on at once. 3rd pump is a standby in case of failure of either of the other two pumps and requires manual switch on. ST will request that a cell operated monitor be installed in the manhole which will alert ST if the manhole fills up. However, would only give about 10 minutes warning & not enough for ST staff to get out to the village.
 - b) Flood Wardens – Sealed copy of Marchington Road Closure Scheme has arrived. Councillor Morgan took it home for further reading.
 - c) Clearing of culverts – Culverts have been cleared 2.5 months ago but ditch has not been cleared so water can't get away.
 - d) Drains – building site on Allens lane, rain has led to lots of soil being washed down into the drains and could cause blockages. **Action: Clerk - Notify Highways about this.**
 - e) Bund – the situation is absurd - situation is no further forward than two years ago. Anger felt by all. **Action Clerk: Find out about EA complaints procedure and write to Chief Exec of EA about the lack of action.**
 - f) Property Flood Resilience – residents expressed concern that money will be spent and nothing will be achieved.
14. Sudbury Prison, Chair - A meeting has been arranged for Cllr Mann, Cllr Roberts and Clerk to attend on 30th September about providing a prisoner to do works in the village.
15. Silver Lane bridge project, Cllr Morgan – no progress
16. Broadband, Cllr Morgan – Good news on this - the issue is live again and has been put forward to DCMS – result will be notified to us in 3-4 weeks. Looks hopeful and if we get the go ahead everyone will need to sign up again so much legwork by volunteers will be required but could be ready in 9-12 months.
17. Memorial Tree, Cllr Morgan – Request from footballer whose dad has passed away to plant a tree in his memory in Silver Lane Playing Field. Passed – unanimous
18. Bulbs for village planters – request from Jane Hilton – Cllrs agreed £50 to be spent. **Action: Clerk to notify Jane Hilton**
19. Village Phone Box – Chair – Paint has been provided. PC is looking for someone competent to carry out the work asap.
20. Finance, Chair – Unease was expressed that insurance renewal was late and as a consequence payment could not be approved at PC meeting before cover expired. Broker assured that we would remain covered but PC possibly at risk in case of a claim. Clerk to make note of this and ensure that renewal is received in time for future August meeting.
 - a. To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A (Payments above red line previously authorised by email due to postponed meeting)
Proposed – Marc
Seconded –Darron

Appendix A -September 2022					
Date	Monies received:	£			
01/08/22	Interest	£3.75			
TOTAL OF RECEIPTS		£3.75			
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
31/08/22	Perennial Landscapes Ltd - Inv 5401	£502.49	£100.50	£602.99	2536
18/08/22	AJG Community Schemes - Insurance Renewal - Inv Ref. 517363071	£1,611.11	£0.00	£1,611.11	2537
31/08/22	Handy man salary and expenses (includes fuel £20.36 & weedkiller £15)	£381.97	£3.39	£385.36	2538
13/09/22	Clerk salary - Includes final holiday pay	£601.06	£0.00	£854.56	2539
13/09/22	Clerk travel and expenses	£215.16	£38.34		
13/09/22	Clerk salary - New Clerk	£277.41	£0.00	£300.62	2540
13/09/22	Clerk travel and expenses - New Clerk	£23.21	£0.00		
Do not need to approve at the 27th September meeting					
31/07/22	Coleshaw construction ltd - Concrete for Silver Lane benches	£429.00	£85.80	£514.80	2541
28/08/22	DSK Engineering (Midlands) Limited - Inv 5888 (replacement of climbing log)	£150.00	£30.00	£180.00	2542
31/08/22	AG Sheard Inv for Stump grinding at MPC Playing fields - Reimburse Cllr Morgan	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	2543
21/09/2022	Mazars LLP - Invoice no. 2072984 Annual AGAR	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00	2544
27/09/22	Expenses for clerks leaving gift - Reimburse Cllr Mann	£34.94	£0.00	£34.94	2545
		£4,576.35	£298.03	£4,874.38	
As of 31st August 2022					
	Current Account	£1,001.13			
	Gold Account	£39,872.68			
	Solar Account	£56,777.06			
		£97,650.87			
Transfers required from Solar Account					
	Transfer - from Solar acc to current acc - For concrete -part of Solar bench project	£429.00	£0.00	£429.00	
	Transfer from Solar to current account - TTV Match funding	£475.00	£0.00	£475.00	

21. Highways and Footpath issues, Clerk

- Highways issues – Chevron at Birch Cross: This was reported last year and Clerk has recently sent an email to Trevor Mellor. There have been a number of car accidents on the Uttoxeter / Marchington Road recently, only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. **Action: Clerk to phone TM**
- Houndhill potholes have been reported again by resident.
- Clerk has reported the blocked drains in Church Lane and Silver Lane
- Footpaths –
 - Lower Stock Lane Farm, Stock Lane, Cllr Roberts – postponed until October meeting
 - Houndhill/Forestside footpath – meeting arranged for 20th October

22. Correspondence, Clerk

Chapel Triangle Update – Kate Kniveton (MP) **Action: Clerk to forward to Cllr Hudson**
 Funding for local groups, together active – Philip Atkins – No suggestions

23. Meetings at the Woodlands VH – Decision taken to move the Nov meeting to MWVH due to MADS rehearsals if possible. **Action Clerk.** In 2023 & onwards meetings will be held at MWVH in February, June and October. Chair advised that he will not be able to attend Oct or Nov meetings this year.

24. Urgent items for input onto the 11th October 2022 Meeting

Meeting ended at 10.05pm

Date of Next Meeting –11th October 2022