

# Marchington Parish Council

## Minutes of a meeting held on

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Marchington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bullock, Cllr Glover, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst (Chair), Cllr Mann, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Tomkins  
Cllr Hudson (Ward)  
13 members of the public

#### Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. To receive and, if appropriate, accept apologies for absence – *None*
2. To receive & record Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on items relating to the agenda – *None*
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were signed as a true record. Proposed – Cllr Glover  
Seconded – Cllr Tomkins
4. Public Forum – Mr MacDonald-Milner did not attend. Two residents spoke on the subject of the withdrawn planning application for Woodleigh House. The first felt that the parish council did not engage with the residents group opposed to the proposal & did not attend their meeting where they could have heard their opinions & concerns. Second resident expressed concern that applicant may have withdrawn planning application but could apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness instead as has been the case for other children's homes in the area. She asked for more information about this. **Action: Chair to report back on this.**  
A third resident requested the Parish Council to investigate the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in the village. He also expressed concern about parking on Church Lane & particularly opposite Church Close which forces vehicles onto the wrong side of the road just before a blind bend. Chair said that speeding will be on the October agenda. **Action: Clerk to keep resident informed.**  
The Chair said that Councillors have been inundated by emails and opinions of the villagers on the planning application for Woodleigh House & were in no doubt of their feelings both for and against the proposal. She explained that the parish council would have met the applicant at this Parish Council meeting and the proposal would have been discussed openly in public and the applicant would have been questioned about the concerns expressed by villagers. When considering planning applications Cllrs always consider representation from neighbours and residents. She noted that the Parish Council does not make the planning decision & if residents wish to comment on a planning application, they must do so to ESBC direct.
5. The following resolution was considered: By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussion of the following: Item 9 c) i) on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the legal nature of the matter to be discussed. Item 16. a) due to confidentiality. Agreed unanimously.
6. Other Organisations – To receive reports from outside organisations.
  - a) ESBC –. Cllr Hudson reported that the Uttoxeter Master Plan will be discussed at the next ESBC Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Burton Market Hall will also be discussed. The Iron Man event will no longer be held in Staffordshire. He has met with our MP to discuss the problem of rural crime. Through the Councillor Community Fund, he has supported funding for the new cooker at the village hall. Regarding Woodleigh House Cllr Hudson had requested additional time from ESBC and would have 'called it in' to go before a full planning committee meeting. This would have allowed the residents group to speak at the meeting. He explained that residents can ask for an extension for comments themselves. The Chair explained the reasons for the withdrawn planning application as given by applicant. Resident asked if the planning application could come back? Nothing has been received by the Parish Council.
7. Clerk's Report (previously circulated) was accepted with no questions. **Action: Clerk to publish with the minutes.**
8. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
  - a) **Planning Applications Received**
    - i) **P/2023/00797 – Proposal:** Erection of a single storey rear extension **Location:** 7 Porters Farm Court, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD **Marchington Parish Council Comments:** No objection assuming all environmental issues are considered.
    - ii) **P/2023/00856 – Proposal:** Change of use from C3 dwelling to C2 residential care home for 4(no) children. **Location:** Woodleigh House, The Square, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LH - **WITHDRAWN**
    - iii) **P/2023/00878 – Proposal:** Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey link extension creating an annex living accommodation **Location:** Frostfields, Silver Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LL **Marchington Parish Council Comments:** No objection assuming all environmental issues are considered.
    - iv) **P/2023/00880 – Proposal:** Felling of one Horse Chestnut (Tag 188), one Birch tree (Tag 206) and one Poplar tree (Tag 223), reduce one Ash (Tag 197) to a pollard of 8m above ground level, remove branch to one Poplar tree (Tag 208)

Signed:.....

Date:.....

at 5m, canopy reduction of 4m to one Willow tree (Tag 218) **Location:** Marchington Cricket Club, Jacks Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LW **Marchington Parish Council is the applicant therefore no comments.** Chair explained that the Parish Council had a Tree Survey carried out earlier this year & this identified some trees require surgery or removal. Resident noted that Tree 204 does not belong to Parish Council.

v) **P/2023/00954 – Proposal:** Use of the existing stable block and equestrian facilities for mixed personal and full livery use. **Location:** Ashleigh, Uttoxeter Road, Netherland Green, Staffordshire, ST14 8NT Grid Ref: 410795 330688 **Comments:** Marchington Parish Council is concerned that commercial use would result in additional traffic exiting the driveway onto a busy and fast stretch of the B5017 which is also used as relief road for A50 closures. Councillors also expressed concern for the safety of horses & riders because there are no bridlepaths connected to the property therefore resulting in the possibility of more horses being ridden along the busy road.

vi) **P/2023/00958 – Proposal:** Crown thin by up to 30%, crown reduction by up to 2 meters of one yew tree TPO 297 (T1). **Location:** West View, The Grange High Street, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD **Comments:** Marchington Parish Council has no comments.

#### **Decisions Received**

i) **P/2020/00635** - Erection of 2 No. additional poultry sheds with associated control room, heat exchangers, feed bins & hardstanding, formation of a 1.5m high soil bund, landscaping and expansion to existing drainage attenuation pond on an established poultry farm **Location:** Coppice Farm, Hobb Lane, Marchington Woodlands, Staffordshire, ST14 8R **Decision:** Permitted.

Resident thanked Cllr Mann for speaking at the planning meeting and raising residents' concerns with ESBC, and for the support of Cllr Morgan and Cllr Hayes also. She noted that other local Parish Councils made no representation. Chair thanked Cllrs also.

ii) **P/2023/00588** - Formation of an Outdoor Horse-Riding Arena with associated fencing for private use **Location:** Higher Stock Lane Farm, Stock Lane, Marchington Woodlands, Staffordshire, ST14 8PA **Decision:** Permitted

b) **Enforcement Updates** – None. It was noted that there is still no decision on Charnwood. **Action: Clerk to send Cllr Hudson details.**

8.36pm Cllr Hudson left the meeting.

c) **Neighbourhood Plan** – To consider request from Baldwins Gate residents' group. Item deferred to next month.

Resident asked about comments made on P/2023/00632 **Action: Clerk to send comments to resident.**

9. Council owned property - To receive reports & action if required.

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks -

i) Silver Lane playground monthly safety report - Cllr Morgan reported a broken post **Action: Handyman to replace.** Play equipment requires cleaning. Volunteers will be needed to do this. **Action: Chair**

ii) Playground and Board Rider inspection routine - Cllrs already carrying out a full inspection and considered that monthly inspections are sufficient.

iii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report - Cllr Tomkins reported that some strimming needed at the access. **Action: Clerk to mention to contractors**

b) Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann reported that the VH has a lot of bookings for the rest of the year. Work has started on the canopy replacement and is progressing well.

c) Cricket Club, Chair

i) Hedge – to consider legal advice received and decide course of action to be taken. (Item moved to Closed Session)

10. Highways & Footpath issues, Chair

a) Highways issues

i) A50 roadwork diversions and B5017 – The next A50 roadworks are scheduled for October. The Parish Council has been in contact with Cllr Atkins and Kate Kniveton, MP about problem with additional traffic and a meeting is arranged for Parish Cllrs with MP, contractors & National Highways on 27<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the situation.

ii) Resident raised issue in Church Lane – **Action: Cllr Morgan to visit and will report to Clerk.**

b) Footpath & Bridleway issues

i) Marchington FP2 – blocked. **Action: Handyman to attend.**

ii) Marchington FP 45 - stile needs repair. **Action: Handyman to source the sleepers & repair.**

11. Tree Work, Clerk

a) To consider if work desired to Tree 224 – Not identified in the survey. Chair asked knowledgeable resident to look at tree and report to Clerk. If she thinks necessary, it was decided that the work to remove the deadwood will be included in the other work.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

b) To consider quotes received for work identified in the recent survey and additional work. – It was decided to award the contract to Stockley Park Tree Services (Contractor B) at a total cost of £1300 ex VAT (inc. Tree 224)

12. Grounds Maintenance, Chair

- a) To consider Grass Cutting Contract proposal. – Cllrs discussed if MWVH verges should be included in the contract. Decision to be made when quotes are received. Councillors approved the contract document. **Action: Clerk to send out for quotations.** Query raised over area in front of Hilsea Crescent, ESBC also mowing. **Action: Clerk to contact ESBC**
- b) To consider & approve in advance costs for village planters. – Cllrs approved spending of £70 x twice per year (to be paid on receipts).

13. Finance, Chair

- a) To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A.  
Proposed – Cllr Bullock  
Seconded – Cllr Hayes
- b) Precept Grants – Information is on the website and has been sent out to regular applicants.

14. Community Fund, Chair

- a) Resident proposal for kissing gates at three locations in the village to give better access to people with mobility issues was discussed & Cllrs decided that it was an idea worth progressing and appropriate for Community Fund. Possibility of funding from SCC Community Paths Initiative also. It was considered that some fences could be adjusted so gates would be entirely on PC land. **Action: Clerk to arrange site meeting with Cllrs, contact landowners & get quotations.**

9.30pm Member of public left the meeting.

15. Clerk Training, Clerk

- a) Cllrs. approved ILCA to CILCA course costs of £120 + VAT and purchase of books at £234.50 (books will belong to the Parish Council)

16. Councillor Vacancy, Chair

- a) Councillors to consider candidate application for co-option to the Parish Council. (Item moved to Closed Session)

17. Correspondence and emails, Clerk

- a) Residents – re Woodleigh House planning application P/2023/00856 – clerk has responded
- b) Cllr. Atkins – re Consultation on draft recommendations for Division boundaries in Staffordshire – forwarded to Cllrs. & put on Facebook and noticeboards.
- c) Resident – re grass cutting – issue resolved.
- d) Environment Agency – re Embankment walkover in October – forwarded to Cllrs.
- e) Residents – complaints about parking in the village – clerk has responded.
- f) SPCA – notification of AGM – forwarded to Cllrs.

18. Urgent items for input onto 10<sup>th</sup> October agenda

- a) Flooding
- b) Christmas Trees

Members of public left at 9:35pm

**Closed Session – Press and Public to leave before commencement.**

Item 9 c) i) Councillors considered the legal advice received and following discussion decided to cut the hedge at Whitewalls back to the boundary. **Action: Chair to see the owners & explain Parish Council decision (clerk to accompany)**

Item 16. a) Councillors reviewed the application and voted unanimously to co-opt Sally-Ann Newstead onto the Parish Council. (Cllr Hayhurst declared an interest and did not vote.)

**Meeting Closed at 9.49pm**

**Date of next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Appendix A - September 2023					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Monies received:</b>	<b>£</b>			
01/08/23	RBS Gold Account Interest	£58.97			
03/08/23	Annual Deed of Benefit Payment - Green Lane Solar	£4,230.00			
	<b>TOTAL OF RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£4,288.97</b>			
<b>Invoice Date</b>	<b>Invoices/Money to be paid out:</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Chq No</b>
31/08/23	Handyman wages & expenses	£329.43	£1.48	£330.91	2631
31/08/23	Clerk Salary (Inc overtime)	£596.82	£0.00	£1,059.42	2632
31/08/23	Clerk travel & expenses (includes Website renewal)	£391.38	£71.22		
18/08/23	DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd - Invoice 6146 - Playground repairs	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00	2633
08/08/23	SPCA - New Councillor Training Course	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	2634
03/08/23	Greenbarnes Ltd - Invoice 17604 Silver Lane Noticeboard	£1,070.47	£214.09	£1,284.56	2635
31/08/23	Perennial Landscapes Ltd - Inv. 6974	£318.07	£63.61	£381.68	2636
	<b>TOTAL OF PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£2,796.17</b>	<b>£368.40</b>	<b>£3,164.57</b>	
	<b>As of 31st August 2023</b>				
	Current Account	£1,004.36			
	Gold Account	£36,157.22			
	Solar Account	£59,063.52			
		<b>£96,225.10</b>			

Signed:.....

Date:.....