

Marchington Parish Council

Minutes (Draft) of a meeting held on 12th December 2023 at Marchington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bullock, Cllr Glover, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Mann, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Newstead,
Cllr Tomkins,
Clare Nash, Parish Clerk
6 Members of the public

Meeting opened at 19.30pm

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: Cllr Hayes and Cllr Hudson
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on items relating to the agenda were received from: Cllr Hayhurst Item 9 a) iv
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023 were signed as a true record. Proposed – Cllr Tomkins
Seconded – Cllr Glover
4. Public Forum
5. Cllrs resolved to approve the following resolution: By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussion of the following: Item 20. due to confidentiality.
6. Other Organisations –To receive reports from outside organisations.
 - a) ESBC - Cllr Morgan reported that Cllr Hudson had advised him that car parking charges are going to increase by 35%; and that the proposed Sports Hub at Spath is back on the ESBC agenda.
7. Crime, Chair
 - a) Crime Report (previously circulated) Received and accepted.
8. Clerk's Report (previously circulated) Received and accepted. It was noted that the Bag Lane pothole is possibly due to a cracked road drain.
9. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
 - a) **Planning Applications Received –**
 - i) **P/2023/01202 - Proposal:** Erection of a general-purpose agricultural building **Location:** Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott In The Clay, Staffordshire, DE6 5GX Grid Ref: 415403 331179 **MPC Comments:** No comments
 - ii) **P/2023/01203 - Proposal:** Prior Approval for the conversion of an agricultural building and part of an agricultural building to a Flexible Commercial Use (Class E) **Location:** Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott In The Clay, Staffordshire, DE6 5GX Grid Ref: 415403 331179 **MPC Comments:** No comments
 - iii) **P/2023/01258 - Proposal:** Installation of roof mounted solar panels on the southwest facing roof slope. **Location:** 1 Brookhouse Court, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8TU Grid Ref: 410876 330624 **MPC Comments:** No comments
 - iv) **P/2022/01145 – Proposal:** Demolition of outbuildings to facilitate the erection of 9 dwellings with associated garaging, detached garage, parking, alterations and demolition of rear wing to existing farmhouse and erection of a replacement two storey rear extension and provision of parking and workshop, together with construction of amended vehicular access (Amended Drainage Strategy) **Location:** (Bagshaws), High Street, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD Grid Ref: 413441 330843 Cllrs discussed the Amended Drainage Strategy Report Rev E and the LLFA response. It was noted that the development is not in the flood plain. Cllr Mann reported that he had spoken with Henry Wood of the LLFA and had been reassured that the measures being implemented were sufficient to mean that the development will limit the amount of water entering the brook & should not add significantly to the flooding situation in the village. It was noted that there is currently no control of the water flow from the site, but the attenuation tank & hydro brake will introduce some control. Inevitably there will be more sewage from the development but the neighbourhood plan includes these houses and, if they are not built at Bagshaws, sites will need to be found elsewhere in the village. It was felt that the developers had done their best to work with the village. **MPC Comments:** Cllrs voted (Cllr Hayhurst did not vote) to support the project as the plans stand currently, taking into account the comments already submitted and provided that the developers comply with Amended Drainage Strategy Report Rev E and the conditions stipulated by the LLFA. **Action: Clerk to submit comments.**
 - b) **Decisions Received - None**
 - c) **Enforcement Updates** Charnwood – Chair reported that no new planning applications have been made.
10. 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 Tomkins reported that the Springies need cleaning. **Action: Handyman to attend.**
 - ii) Silver Lane Football pitch – Reports of private football coach using the facility were discussed. It was noted that the PC does not hire out the facility, but it is a public space so it is not possible to prevent the public using the football pitches. It was also noted that professional dog walkers use the playing fields for their business.
 - iii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report. Cllr Mann reported that there is a coping stone missing from the boundary wall **Action: Handyman to replace and equipment needs cleaning. Action: Handyman to attend.**
 - iv) Cleaning of play equipment, update – covered in Items ii & iii
 - v) It was resolved to rebook the Play Inspection Company to carry out the Annual Safety Inspection in 2024 at a cost of £270.75 +VAT **Action: Clerk**
- b) Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann reported that VH is being well used with panto, training days, pub meeting & brass band recently. Canopy is nearly finished; PIR light will be installed for the disabled parking space. Final finish will be in the spring. VH committee very active with fundraising to pay for the canopy - £4,800 raised through recent events.
- c) Cricket Club report,
- i) Driveway repairs – to consider quotations received, Cllr Morgan – **Postponed until the January meeting.**
 - ii) Drains issue, Cllr Morgan reported that the runoff drain to the soakaway has collapsed and requires urgent attention. It was resolved to ask Wainwright Rhodes to investigate. **Action: Cllr Morgan.**
 - iii) Overhanging hedge on driveway, update, Chair informed Cllrs that she has had two meetings with the owner of Whitewalls (THO) to try to resolve the situation. THO is disputing the position of the boundary. Chair has informed him that, if this is the case, he needs to send the PC a letter from his solicitor. Chair considers this is an invalid claim. THO was concerned that his hedge will die if cutback. Therefore, a second meeting was held including Tom Morrison (TM), the arboriculturist, to provide specialist advice. TM confirmed that the PC has the right to cut back the hedge and that cutting it back to the boundary wall will not kill it. THO indicated that he would like the PC to put up a fence on the driveway to maintain his privacy. Chair made it clear that the PC cannot afford a fence. Chair proposed that the PC cut the hedge back to the boundary up to a height of 2m leaving the hedge above as currently. This will provide the necessary access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles whilst giving the best conditions for the survival of the hedge. TM suggested that small trees could be purchased at minimal cost to be planted in the gaps which would grow up to provide screening. It was noted that THO did not favour this solution. When asked THO refused permission for the Chair & TM to visit the garden side of the hedge. Chair warned Cllrs that THO has threatened to sue the PC however, if the PC use a qualified contractor and act in a responsible manner, it would be hard to prove negligence. This is a safety issue and THO has allowed his hedge to extend into the driveway. The Chair proposed that the PC book the contractor to cut the hedge, as proposed above, in third week of January. All Cllrs agreed with this & it was resolved that the Chair would write to THO at Whitewalls to state the position of the Parish Council and to inform him that the overhanging hedge will be cut back in January. **Action: Clerk & Chair. Action: Clerk to book contractor.** The Chair informed Cllrs that she has also met with the owner of the Firs, and it was agreed that her gardener would cut back the hedge here sufficiently to allow the Cricket Club gate to open fully. Cllrs considered the safety issue here is not the same as further up the drive and this will meet their requirements. Cllrs decided that it is not necessary for the Parish Council to cut the hedge at The Firs.

11. Flooding and Environment,

- a) Cllr Morgan reported on the outcome of the recent meeting Cllrs had with the Environment Agency. He noted that the flooding from Storm Babet was the highest recorded and the bund protected Church Close. He noted that the ditch clearance carried out by the Industrial estate had increased water flow. Cllrs asked the EA for an open meeting for residents to discuss issues surrounding flooding. EA was agreeable to this but would like Severn Trent and SCC to be involved also. It was proposed that PC ask Kate Kniveton, MP, to convene a public meeting with all parties involved and the Clerk has written to MP to this effect. Regarding the Bagshaw's development - the EA confirmed that they are not asked to comment on developments smaller than 10 houses. EA have checked the flood barriers and will be organising training to ensure that they are correctly deployed. The Section 19 Report was discussed with the EA & it was noted that the actions recommended have been completed. The EA didn't think that tree felling on Marchington Cliff had any significant effect on flooding in the village. It was noted that Henry Wood (LLFA) disagreed with this viewpoint. It was noted that the mud runoff on Marchington Cliff may have contributed to the recent accidents. LLFA advice was to monitor how many times Fairford floods compared with previously. **Action: Clerk to publish minutes of the EA meeting with PC meeting minutes.**
- b) Emergency Centres - Cllr Morgan noted that a safe place is needed for people to go when they have been affected by a flood situation. It was agreed that this should be the village hall and this could form part of a Flood action Plan for the village as suggested by the EA. **Action: Clerk to chase EA for template flood action plan.**
- c) Flood Recovery Grant- the Clerk advised that ESBC are collating information on properties affected by flooding during Storm Babet to send to SCC. If enough properties in the area were affected, then will qualify for government grant. The EA has sent information on the properties affected to ESBC and residents affected should send information to Andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

- d) Flood Warden recruitment & training, update. There has been good uptake for this, and the Clerk is arranging training for the New Year. Clerk will notify volunteers of the date shortly and book the village hall. **Action: Clerk**
12. Highways & Footpath issues, Chair
- a) Highways issues
- i) A50 Roadworks diversion, update – The A50 road closure on 20th November resulted in large volumes of traffic and HGV's driving through the village. Chair thanked residents for sending photos to the PC which added weight to the complaints. The Clerk is arranging a meeting in the New Year with National Highways & Balfour Beatty to discuss solutions. Chair advised that the PC will be pressing for a police presence at Moreton Lane and Stubby Lane in the early evening.
- ii) In response to recent resident requests, the PC discussed the need for a 20mph speed limit in the village. Cllrs were generally not in favour of the proposal citing the situation in Wales and the lack of effective policing of the current speed limit. It was noted that street parking tends to reduce drivers' speed. It was noted that speeding issue is getting worse on Jacks Lane & the speed bumps are not effective in slowing drivers causing a safety issue for pedestrians. No footpath and street lighting is adding to the danger. It was agreed that alternative actions are required to reduce speed. More monitoring by the CSW team was suggested but more volunteers are needed. Speed Indicator Devices are prohibitively expensive. It was suggested that the PC could put up 20isPlenty signs however it is not certain if this is legal and what cost is involved? **Action: Cllrs & Clerk to find out more information about other actions that could be taken & encourage more volunteers to join CSW team.**
- iii) Potholes - There are serious potholes on Thorney Lanes, Clerk has contacted Cllr Atkins. Clerk noted that anyone can report potholes via the MyStaffs app and add weight to the existing reports.
- b) Footpath & Bridleway issues –
- i) Forestside Permissive Path (PP) Project, update. Landowner has given permission for a permissive path from Forestside to the main village. Cost is in the region of £255 for the PP application. Cost of a stile is unknown, but PC may request SCC Rights of Way for help with this. It was resolved that the PC should proceed with this and costs to be met from the Solar fund if permitted. **Action: Clerk to progress this with all parties.**
- ii) Footpath 45, fallen branches and stile repair, update. **Action: Handyman to remove tree. Action: Cllr Morgan to source sleepers for the stile.**
13. Grounds Maintenance, Chair – to consider the quotations received for the grass cutting contract and to re-consider the decision about mowing at Forestside. Cllrs discussed Forestside. The Chair explained that, in addition to the PC, ESBC have also been mowing the communal areas at Forestside. This is the reason for the Marchington Special Tax which ESBC levy on all residents. ESBC has been unable to confirm that they will stop collecting this tax if the PC instructs them to cease mowing these areas meaning that residents may continue to pay twice. It was noted that there may be complaints about long grass if cut every 3 weeks instead of every fortnight, but the PC will direct complaints to ESBC. Cllrs resolved to remove these areas from the PC contract. Cllrs considered whether to continue to mow the Woodlands Village Hall verge. It was resolved that the PC would continue to cut this area. Cllrs considered the quotes for grass cutting. Cllrs voted to award the contract (fixed for 3 years) to Perennial Landscapes Ltd for the sum of £3,226.95 +VAT per year. **Action: Clerk to advise all contractors who tendered of the PC decision.**
14. Map Lecterns, Chair – Cllrs considered the quotations received for installation of the map lecterns. Cllrs voted to award the contract to MPB Contractors at a cost of £600.00. **Action: Clerk to appoint contractor & arrange installation.**
15. Finance, Chair
- a) Christmas Trees, Cllrs voted to approve expenditure of £350 + VAT
- b) Parish Council Clerk's Salary Structure –Cllrs voted to approve the recent Local Government pay award which will be backdated to April 2023. Chair advised that the Clerk has resigned and will work notice period which will end on 26th February. Clerk has agreed to work an extra month if required. **Action: Clerk to advertise the position on Facebook, SPCA, website, Parish Magazine, Community Shop and PC noticeboards.** Cllrs discussed the position and decided to review which areas could be delegated. **Action: Cllrs & Clerk**
- c) To discuss contribution to Flood Warden's replacement mobile phone, Cllr Morgan reported that a Flood Warden (FW) lost his phone in the flood water whilst helping residents. Clerk advised that PC could contribute under LGA 1972 Section 111. Cllrs sympathetic to the FW situation. FW's need a mobile phone to carry out the job Cllrs agreed that the PC should make a contribution of £50 to the cost of the FW's mobile phone. **Action: Clerk to add to January payments** It was suggested that the PC could consider providing FW's with waterproof phone covers. **Action: Cllr Morgan to look into this.**
- d) To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A
- Proposed Cllr Bullock
 - Seconded Cllr Morgan
16. Footpath Gate Project update - Councillors approved the contract specification for quoting and it was decided to purchase the gates (Options B & C) from Centrewire Ltd. **Action: Clerk to get quotes for installation.**
17. Broadband update - Cllr Morgan reported that Connect 5 have won the Government contract to supply Full Fibre Broadband in this area. He noted that under the terms of the contract there will not be an opportunity to shop around for suppliers. The work will not start until 2025 at earliest. It is uncertain if the Woodlands will be part of the scheme but those with Uttoxeter phone numbers may get it via the Openreach scheme.

18. Correspondence and emails, Clerk

- a) Kate Kniveton MP – re Royal Mail request to SCC to be exempt from weight restrictions on Stubby Lane.
- b) Kate Kniveton MP regarding A50 Roadworks diversion.
- c) Cllr Atkins – regarding the A50 Roadworks diversion – forwarded to Cllrs.
- d) Helen Carter (Midlands NHS Partnership) regarding access to vulnerable people during flood events – Clerk replied.
- e) EMA – regarding the move to Stage 3 of the Airspace Change Process – forwarded to Cllr Mann
- f) Helen Thomas (Low Carbon) – request for information about solar spending – Clerk responded.
- g) Cllr Atkins – Regarding SCC residents survey – forwarded to Cllrs and posted on Facebook.
- h) Cllr Atkins – Re Rural Funding Digest – forwarded to Cllrs, village halls, Festival Cmtee and Community shop.

19. Urgent items for input onto January agenda - None

Closed Session - Press and Public left before commencement.

20. Councillor Vacancy, Chair. Cllrs considered the application for co-option to the Parish Council. Cllrs decided that they wished to continue to look for a representative from the Forestside area of the Parish and not to co-opt the applicant on to the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk to advise applicant of the decision.**

Meeting Closed at 21.50

Date of next meeting 9th January 2024

Appendix A - December 2023					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers		
01/11/23	RBS Gold Account Interest	£85.14			
01/11/23	Transfer from Leek Account to Gold Account - Map lecterns		£1,020.00		
01/11/23	Transfer from Leek Account to Gold Account - Map lecterns graphic design		£2,045.50		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£85.14	£3,065.50		
Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
30/11/23	Handyman wages & expenses	£168.00	£0.00	£168.00	2659
30/11/23	Clerk Salary	£568.40	£0.00	£615.74	2660
30/11/23	Clerk travel & expenses	£44.91	£2.43		
06/11/23	Marchington Village Hall Inv. 1689 (Hire for EA Meeting)	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00	2661
20/11/23	Stockley Park Tree Services Inv. 1066 (Tree Work)	£1,300.00	£260.00	£1,560.00	2663
27/11/23	Marchington Village Hall Inv. 1695 (Hire for CC Hedge Meeting)	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00	2664
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£2,115.31	£262.43	£2,377.74	
As of 30th November 2023					
	Current Account	£1,008.12			
	Gold Account	£36,649.98			
	Solar Account	£59,157.55			
		£96,815.65			