

Marchington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on

14th November 2023 at Marchington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bullock, Cllr Glover, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Mann, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Newstead, Cllr Tomkins, Clare Nash, Parish Clerk
8 Members of the public
Uttoxeter Cricket Club (UCC) representatives: Adam Johnson (AJ), Jim Malkin (JM) and Will Buggey (left at 21.35)
JVH Planning representative: Janet Hodson
Marchington Village Hall (MVH) Representative: Geraldine Flavell (left at 19.35)
Marchington Woodlands Village Hall (MWVH) Representative: Karen Perrins
St Peter's Church representative: Tom Castle (left at 19.45)
St John's Church representative: Mike Cleaver (left at 20.07)
Marchington Tennis and Bowls Club (MTBC) representative: Mark Flavell (MF)

Meeting opened at 19.30pm

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 –
Cllr Mann - Items 4 i) MVH & 4 v) MTBC
Cllr Bullock - Item 11 c) ii) & iii) UCC
Cllr Hayhurst - Items 4 v) MTBC & 10 ii) Bagshaws & 11 c) ii) & iii) UCC
Cllr Morgan – Item 11 c) ii) & iii) UCC
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2023 were approved & signed as a true record.
Proposed – Cllr Glover
Seconded – Cllr Bullock
4. Public Forum
 - a) Precept Grant Applications
 - i. Marchington Village Hall – GF explained that £6,439 was spent on maintenance in 2022/23 and the VH committee is grateful to the PC for its support. The hall is very well used but this has consequences for maintenance costs, so they are requesting £2,500 this year. No questions from Cllrs.
 - ii. Marchington Woodlands Village Hall – KP thanked Cllrs for opportunity to present. The grant is very helpful for maintenance and allows the VH to spend on other things. 3 categories of expenditure: H & S, outside maintenance, and emergency expenditure such as repairs and plumbing. MWVH committee want to keep the hall looking smart and have outstanding list of jobs to do. Requesting £2000 grant. Cllr Hudson suggested that MWVH could apply for Cllr Community Fund award. Cllrs queried what expenditure anticipated for next year, KP replied that these were given as an indication of the type of maintenance costs that could be incurred.
 - iii. St Peter's Church – Have applied for £2000 for maintenance of churchyard, grass trees and hedges. Churchyard is an asset to the village as a whole, it has a footpath kept well by the Church. Cost varies from year to year. In 2022 £2,245 spent, half amount of previous year due to tree work in 2021. Estimate for 2023 is £3,230 and 2024 looks similar. Very grateful to PC for grant. Church gates were funded by private donations. Questions: None. Cllr Hudson said that Church could also apply to Cllr Community Fund. **Action: Clerk to forward to MWVH and St Peters**
 - iv. St John's Church – This year spent more than in previous years due to weather conditions resulting in faster grass growth. Requesting £2,000 as previously but noted that inflation means that this is worth less every year. Felt that it is important that the churchyard is maintained well for parishioners' major life events. Questions: None.
 - v. Marchington Tennis and Bowls Club – Applying for grant of £750 towards professional cleaning of the tennis courts. Total cost is £1,037. Have applied for another small grant also. The club has made a loss of £722 in 2022 and the courts need urgent attention. Questions: None. Cllr Hudson reminded MF that he could apply for ESBC Sports Council grant – up to £1000.
 - b) JVH Planning – regarding Bagshaws Development – Janet Hodson (JVH) explained that she had come to ask for PC support for this application as it now stands. The LLFA have signed off the Drainage Strategy Report. Storm water disposal was the main problem but the addition of an underground attenuation tank (outlet on third party land) and permeable driveways will provide sufficient capacity. They still have issues with SCC Highways who require the buildings to be set further back from the road plus the addition of a footpath. The two barns are to be rebuilt set back to give better visibility for vehicles exiting, but the developers are not willing to move them further. The biggest issue is the Conservation Report commissioned by ESBC which requires the existing buildings to be renovated and converted. JVH's structural engineer consider that the buildings are beyond conversion and JVH suggested that Walton Homes will walk away from the project if they don't get permission for the proposed scheme. The proposed scheme is economically viable, but in their opinion

Signed:.....

Date:.....

the scheme proposed by the conservation consultant is not. JVH explained they have tried to maintain the character of the existing property and the frontage would be a reproduction of the current but set back from the road. Cllr Mann said the site is included for development in the Neighbourhood Development Plan but the drainage strategy is most important. Much of the report is based on modelling done by the EA in 2011 since when the village has had numerous significant flooding events. He questioned if the attenuation tank is big enough? The PC has not received any evidence that the LLFA has passed this strategy. JVH read out the letter from the LLFA with the conditions attached and stated that ESBC will not refuse it on grounds of drainage because it has been passed by the LLFA. Cllr Hudson queried the LLFA report & if it could it be re-visited by ESBC? Chair thanked JVH for coming to speak to councillors.

- c) Uttoxeter Cricket Club (UCC) - regarding planning proposal for fixed nets and winter opening. AJ thanked the PC for support thus far & explained that they are the only CC in the area not to have proper training facilities. Currently have 120 members with 17 juniors in county system which is great for sport in the village. Asked for PC support for the proposal to install fixed nets. JM said that the application requires a tree survey and requested a copy of the PC Tree Survey or details of the arboriculturist used by the PC. Chair explained that PC survey may not meet ESBC planning requirements but that the clerk would send details of the arboriculturist to UCC. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr Morgan questioned if the proposed position of the nets will at risk of flooding? Flood survey has been carried out and considered ok. Winter opening of the bar – currently a clause in the tenancy agreement prevents this without the permission of the PC. UCC would like to employ a bar manager take over management of the bar on a profit share. UCC are requesting permission of the PC to use the pavilion as a bar facility during the winter months as well as during the cricket season.
- d) Member of the public spoke about recent flooding on 20th October. She thanked Flood Wardens for their help. More FW's needed especially from Silver Lane & Houndhill area. Possibly need a meeting to recruit more people. She asked if flood alerts are sent to all councillors? Flood sacks/bags –she has been unable to find where to get these & asked if the PC could help with this? She noted that the SCC Flood Report for Marchington is on the PC website but not been discussed at a PC meeting? Requested that this is discussed. Expressed disappointment that Severn Trent did not come out to switch extra pump on despite calls to them. Considered that more holding lakes are required, and ditches need to be cleared. Has the prison cleared the ditches as promised?
- e) Member of the public addressed the PC regarding speeding in the village and requested the PC to consider introducing a 20mph speed limit in the village. Frequently witnessed vehicles speeding. The roads are very narrow with few pavements. Used by pedestrians including children, cyclists, dog walkers and horse riders but the dangers deter people from walking. Speed bumps are ineffective – larger vehicles straddle and don't slow down. He noted that slower vehicles are safer vehicles. The roads in Marchington are residential not commercial and a 20mph speed limit might encourage HGV's to use other larger roads.

5. Woodlands Permanent Agenda Item - None

6. Forestside Permanent Agenda Item - None

7. Other Organisations –To receive reports from outside organisations.

- a) ESBC – Cllr Hudson reported that the next full council meeting will be on 11th December. Ward Enhancement Scheme has been introduced but weighted against rural communities which are in Cat C (low). He intends to raise this with the administration. ESBC are looking to bring some services back in house – in particular leisure facilities, he is not supportive of this proposal. He also reported that the plans for the redevelopment of the Maltings are on hold, more designs are to be commissioned and there will be another public consultation on the matter. Development of Uttoxeter High St will also be delayed as a result. The proposals for the Sports Club on the quarry has been put on hold. He feels that the rural areas are being overlooked for spending however his Cllrs Community Fund is helping with cost for new cooker in Marchington village hall. Has been approached by resident about overhanging hedge on CC driveway but will not get involved. PC has acted properly in his opinion. He thanked Parish Cllrs for all their help during the storm Babette flooding.

8. Crime, Chair

- a) Crime Report (previously circulated) briefly discussed.
- b) Cllr Morgan reported on Draycott PC meeting with Insp Scott Gidman. Draycott Cllrs were concerned about keyless car thefts. The Insp responded that they are making significant progress on this and have caught quite a number of criminals. Armed response units in the Woodlands were also queried. He explained that the police will use all resources, and armed officers could be used for any crime situation if available. Staffordshire Police were identified as failing in 2022 but have recently recruited 500 more officers which should result in improvement. Speeding traffic on the A515 was raised by Draycott Cllrs. He replied that new digital cameras much better but average speed cameras are more effective. Cllr Morgan felt reassured by his answers. Cllr Hudson explained that things are improving but will take time.

9. Clerk's Report (previously circulated) Brief discussion during which it was noted that the large pothole on Bag Lane has been fixed but as they have not repaired the leaking pipe underneath it is deteriorating again already. Chair encouraged parishioners to report this via SCC app until it is fixed properly.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

10. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
- a) **Planning Applications Received –**
- i) **P/2023/01047 - Proposal:** Erection of a part two storey, part single storey rear and side extension including canopy over bow window. **Location:** 7 Church Close, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8NQ **MPC Comments:** Two objections have been received. Cllrs agreed that the proposed extension is too big and tarmacs over part of the lawn. Cllrs resolved to object to this proposal. Clerk to formulate objection to this proposal based on residents’ objections & send to Chair for approval before submitting to ESBC. **Action: Clerk & Chair**
- ii) **P/2022/01145 – Proposal:** Demolition of outbuildings to facilitate the erection of 9 dwellings with associated garaging, detached garage, parking, and workshop to serve the farmhouse and construction of vehicular access. **Location:** (Bagshaws), High Street, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD. Cllrs considered the Revised Drainage Strategy Report Rev E - Cllr Bullock chaired the discussion. Concern was expressed with regard to the drainage strategy for the site. Flooding is a major issue in the village & concern was expressed that this development may add to the problems. Residents were assured that interceptors will deal with chemical run-off & the management plan would include maintenance of these. It was decided that the Clerk would ask ESBC for a further time extension for comments on the drainage strategy, for both the PC and residents, to allow further discussion on the proposal at the next meeting and a copy of the LLFA approval document. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr queried what happens to the Neighbourhood Plan if this development is refused. Cllr Mann replied that the PC would need to find other sites in the village for the nine houses that are included at Bagshaws. Resident noted that there is need for more small houses in the village.
- b) **Decisions Received**
- i) **P/2022/01209 Proposal:** Alterations to dormers, erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension, alterations to the existing porch and erection of new entrance gates, fencing and walling. **Location:** The Old Chapel, Hodge Lane, Marchington Woodlands, Uttoxeter, ST14 8PE **Decision:** Permitted
- ii) **P/2023/00632 Proposal:** Demolition of existing outbuilding to facilitate the erection of a dwelling. **Location:** Land rear of, The Community Shop, Church Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ **Decision:** Refused
- iii) **P/2023/00958 – Proposal:** Crown reduction by selective branch reduction of 1 metre on the property side only of one Yew tree (TPO 297) **Location:** West View, The Grange High Street, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD **Decision:** Permitted
- c) **Enforcement Updates –**
- d) **Neighbourhood Plan Review update -** Cllr Mann reported that in 2015 the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) group was tasked with identifying sites for 20 houses in the village. These were agreed and included in the NDP. Subsequently the NDP has been crucial in ESBC planning decisions in the village with proposals outside of the NDP being refused. He reported that the review is not complete but progressing well.

(2 members of the public left at 21.06)

11. 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 Glover reported that the gate and a bench need attention. Issues identified in the Annual Inspection by The Play Inspection Co. Ltd were discussed. It was decided to get quotes for replacing the timber post to consider against the cost of the timber investigation quotations. **Action: Clerk to get a quote for replacement timber post.** The fox problem was discussed. **Action: Chair will include in Parish Magazine.** Cleaning of the equipment was discussed. **Action: Cllr Mann to ask Handyman if he could carry this out?**
- ii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report **Action: Cllr Bullock to send to clerk** No serious issues identified in the Annual Inspection. Surfaces noted as being mossy. **Action: Cllr Mann to ask Handyman to clean.**
- b) Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann reported that the issue with the ladies’ toilets is sorted. The new canopy is nearly finished.
- c) Cricket Club report,
- i) Driveway repairs – Cllr Morgan & Cllr Hayes have drawn up a specification. It was decided to include additional area (entrance to No 8) **Action: Clerk to get quotes for patch repairs. Action: Cllrs Hayes and Morgan to mark areas.**
- ii) Fixed Nets – Councillors considered the plans proposed by UCC. Chair asked if councillors support the planning application for the fixed nets. **Councillors voted to support** UCC’s proposed plans for fixed nets to be installed. (Cllrs Bullock, Hayhurst and Morgan did not vote)
- iii) Winter Bar Opening – Councillors considered the UCC proposal to open the bar on Friday evening, Saturdays & Sundays plus one evening in the week during the winter months. The current license runs for 12 months of the year but their tenancy agreement prevents opening outside of cricket matches and events without permission of the Parish Council and a change to the licence is required to permit non-members. Discussion followed during which it was noted that with the recent closure of the village pubs there is currently nowhere for parishioners & local clubs to socialise. However concerns were expressed over UCC’s proposed opening hours. **Councillors voted to support in principle**

Signed:.....

Date:.....

UCC's proposal to extend opening of the Pavilion bar into the winter months subject to some constraints still to be defined. (Cllrs Bullock, Hayhurst & Morgan did not vote) **Action: Clerk to email UCC to confirm this.**

12. Solar Grant Application from UCC - Cllr Bullock championed this application for a £1000 grant to help with the costs of fixed nets. **Cllrs voted to approve the grant.**
13. Flooding and Environment, Chair
 - a) Cllr Morgan had previously circulated a report to Cllrs about the recent flooding event on 20th October & this was discussed. It was felt that the recently improved embankment behind Church Lane did its job properly, the D & P embankment improvement also worked well and gave additional time for preparations to be made. However, when the water did over-top it was very fast and flooded everywhere rapidly. It was noted that a house alongside the brook, which had never flooded before, flooded and there is concern that this could perhaps have been caused by the raising of the little embankment. It was noted that during flooding events sewage goes into the brook & flood water but there is no alternative route for people walking to their homes. More volunteer Flood Wardens are needed & they require training to be insured. An email received by the PC from a Community Nurse raised the issue of access for health & support services to vulnerable residents during flooding events when all roads into the village become impassable. Cllrs are meeting with EA on 24th November to discuss the issues and this will be raised with them. The recently installed flood barriers did not appear to work effectively raising the question if this was an installation issue or an operational one? **Action: Clerk to circulate SCC Flood Report to all Councillors.** This will be raised at the meeting with the EA. It was noted that a heavier sign is needed for road closure signs. It was suggested that the Flood Wardens need regular refresher training & the equipment needs a regular maintenance. Cllrs discussed the possibility of providing a safe, warm space, such as the village hall, for people affected by the floods. Resident asked if any information regarding Flood Recovery Framework funding – Clerk replied not. Chair noted that blocked gullies are contributing to the flooding problem.
 - b) Tree Felling on Marchington Cliff and Forest Banks - response from the Duchy said that they do not believe that the tree felling will have any effect on flood run off.
 - c) Marchington Brook fallen tree - Handyman has removed this.
14. South Staffordshire Water, Cllr Mann & Cllr Hayes reported there have been issues with supply both in the Woodlands and in the village. **Action: Clerk to contact SSW to ask for a meeting.**
15. Highways & Footpath issues, Chair
 - a) Highways issues
 - i) To discuss if a 20mph speed limit is required in the village. **Postponed to December**
 - b) Footpath & Bridleway issues –
 - i) Forestside Permissive Path Project update. **Postponed to December**
16. Grounds Maintenance, Chair – to consider the grass cutting contract & quotations received. Chair explained that ESBC raise £532 from Marchington Special Tax for the cutting of communal grass areas at Forestside every three weeks. Following a brief discussion Cllrs decided to remove these areas from the grass cutting contract. Consideration of the quotations for the grass cutting contract was **postponed to December.**
17. Map Lecterns, Chair – to consider quotations received for installation of the map lecterns. **Postponed to December.**
18. Finance, Chair
 - a) To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A
 - Proposed Cllr Hayes
 - Seconded Cllr Bullock
19. Footpath Gate Project update, Clerk **Postponed till December**
20. Christmas trees, Cllr Morgan - Cllrs voted to provide Christmas Trees for the three areas of the parish, as last year.
21. Staffordshire Parish Council Assoc. AGM report. – not received due to lack of time.
22. Climate and Ecology Bill, Chair – Councillors to decide if the Parish Council supports (information previously circulated) – not considered due to lack of time.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

