

Marchington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on

10th October 2023 at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bullock, Cllr Glover, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Morgan
Clare Nash (Parish Clerk)
5 members of the public

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Mann, Cllr Newstead, Cllr Tomkins & Cllr Hudson (Ward)
2. To receive & record Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on items relating to the agenda – None
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed – Cllr Bullock
Seconded – Cllr Glover
4. Public Forum
5. Woodlands Permanent Agenda Item – Marchington Woodlands Village Hall representatives asked if it the old noticeboard (owned by MWVH) could be removed when the map lectern is installed? Marchington Parish Council (MPC) will let the MWVH Committee know when the contractor has been selected. **Action: Clerk**
6. Forestside Permanent Agenda Item - None
7. 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 18. a) due to confidentiality. Approved unanimously.
8. Other Organisations –To receive reports from outside organisations.
 - a) ESBC – Cllr Hudson sent an update on planning permission for the wall at Charnwood. ESBC are looking to withdraw the application and work with Staffordshire County Council (the landowner) to seek removal of the wall. MPC will continue to follow this up.
9. Crime, Chair
 - a) Crime Report (previously circulated) Figures for 3 months to July taken from Staffordshire Police website. High number of violence & sexual crimes noted, only a few burglaries.
 - b) Invitation to Draycott PC meeting with Insp. Scott Gidman has been rescheduled to 9th November. Cllr Morgan and Cllr Glover will attend. **Action: Clerk to reply to Draycott Parish Clerk**
10. Clerk's Report (previously circulated) was accepted. Cllr Morgan suggested road sweepings from recent road re-surfacing could be used for CC driveway repairs. Member of the public noted that there had been problem with the defibrillator at Marchington Village Hall. Chair confirmed that it has been checked and all ok.
11. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
 - a) **Planning Applications Received - None**
 - b) **Decisions Received**
 - i) **P/2022/01464 Proposal:** Formation of Pond including ground source heat pump and septic tank. **Location:** Hanging Wicket Farm, Scounslow Green Road, Scounslow Green, Staffordshire, ST14 8RD **Decision:** Permitted
 - ii) **P/2023/00637 Proposal:** Erection of a part two storey part first floor office block extension with associated balcony area. **Location:** CTR Group Limited, Marchington Industrial Estate, 30 Stubby Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LP **Decision:** Permitted
 - iii) **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) at 5m, canopy reduction of 4m to one Willow tree (Tag 218) **Location:** Marchington Cricket Club, Jacks Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LW **Decision:** Permitted
 - iv) **P/2023/00797 - Proposal:** Erection of a single storey rear extension **Location:** 7 Porters Farm Court, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LD **Decision:** Permitted
 - b) **Enforcement Updates – None**

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- c) **Neighbourhood Plan** – Request for support from Baldwins Gate Parish residents’ group was considered. A planning application for development has been passed at appeal despite it being against their Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). They have written to all parishes that have a NDP, requesting them to write to the local MP asking for NDP’s to be respected. All Cllrs agreed that MPC should support. **Action: Clerk to write to MP and to Baldwins Gate residents’ group.**

12. 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 Hayes - report to follow. **Action: Cllr Hayes**
 - ii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report, Cllr Morgan reported all ok.
- b) Marchington Village Hall – Chair reported that the canopy work is progressing well.
- c) Cricket Club - Cllr Bullock reported that she had recently attended the Uttoxeter Cricket Club (UCC) committee meeting. Current issues including the overgrown hedge, driveway repairs & parking were discussed. She reported that UCC are planning to open the club over the winter, including Christmas Day & Boxing Day, to raise funds. They are pleased that MPC will be carrying out work on the trees, but they may have an issue with access for the contractor. **Action Clerk to respond and ask for more information.**
- i) Hedge update, Chair – Following the September PC meeting MPC requested a meeting with the owner. Reply received on the day of MPC meeting. He offered dates but asked for response to his email of 17th July prior to the meeting. Chair will respond and clerk will arrange a meeting prior to booking the contractors. **Action: Chair & Clerk**
 - ii) Driveway repairs – The solicitor has responded to MPC’s query regarding liability for maintenance costs of the driveway. Confirmed that UCC are responsible for 50% and the other users are responsible for a proportion of the costs, but percentages are not defined. Therefore, discussion will be required with other users to get agreement. Quotes received were reviewed and it was decided that a detailed specification for the work to be carried out is required. **Action: Cllrs Morgan & Hayes to draw up a specification for quoting.**
 - iii) Fixed Nets – UCC would like to install fixed nets, but this requires planning permission and hedges will need to be cut also. Chair noted that as landlords the Parish Council needs to see and approve the proposal before it goes ahead. UCC have requested a copy of the MPC Tree Survey to accompany their planning application. However, it was noted that this may not be suitable. **Action: Clerk to respond to UCC and ask what type of tree survey ESBC requires.** UCC need to raise funds for this improvement and would like to apply for a Solar Grant. **Action: Clerk to send Solar Grant information to UCC Club Secretary.**

13. Highways & Footpath issues, Chair

- a) Highways issues
- i) A50 roadworks diversion and B5017 - Chair reported on the outcome of a meeting arranged by our MP with National Highways & their contractors on 4th October. Explained that a contraflow is not possible nor is it to change the official diversion route, but the following mitigating actions were agreed to be put in place for the start of the next road closure on 9th October:
 - Two ‘Follow Diversion Not Sat Navs’ signs between A50 at Sudbury and Moreton Lane roundabout.
 - Two ‘Follow Diversion Not Sat Navs’ signs between Moreton Lane Roundabout & B5017 junction.
 - Two ‘7.5t Access Only’ signs on left & right verge at Moreton Lane junction to back up permanent signs.
 - Two ‘7.5t Access Only’ signs on left & right verge at the junction from the A515/B5017
 - Staffordshire Police will sit at the junction of Moreton Lane from 9-11pm to deter drivers from taking shortcut.
 - Two yellow/black ‘No Access to A50’ signs on left & right verge at Moreton Lane junction.
 - Staffordshire Police to drive the B5017 from the A515 to Uttoxeter and from Moreton Lane through Marchington to the B5017.
 - National Highways will position Mobile Matrix sign on A515 before B5017 Junction
 - National Highways looking to provide a Traffic Officer to park on A515 before B5017 junction.

Feedback received from National Highways so far implies that these measures appear to be making a difference and deterring HGV’s from using B5017. MPC will continue to keep an eye on this. There are more roadworks planned for next year but hopefully National Highways will keep MPC informed.

- ii) Residents’ concerns about speeding in the village and parking opposite Church Close were discussed. It was noted that it would detrimentally affect passing trade for the shop if no parking allowed outside but it was decided to contact the shop to ask if their staff/volunteers could be asked to park in the shop car park. Church Corner is a bad bend for traffic coming into the village. The possibility of a sign to warn drivers was discussed but it was noted that there is already a chevron to do this although often obscured by vegetation. Church car park considered but not felt to be a solution. **Action: Clerk to contact the village shop & request that staff & volunteers use car park and ask if a post on**

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the shop Facebook page could highlight this also. Action: Clerk to contact resident who raised the issue. Prison traffic issue was raised. Chair felt that there had been an improvement since the meeting with the Prison Directors in August, but she emphasised that any reports of vehicles seen to turn right out of the prison need to be sent to the Clerk for forwarding to the Prison Authorities and must include the registration numbers of the vehicles so that they can contact the staff involved.

b) Footpath & Bridleway issues - *none*

14. Grounds Maintenance update, Chair. – It has been found that ESBC are mowing all of Forestside except for the playground and football pitch. This is thought to be the reason for the Special – Marchington addition to the Council Tax but ESBC have not confirmed this. These areas could therefore be removed from the MPC grass cutting tender document however it is not known how often are ESBC mowing nor if they are actually mowing? Action: Clerk to find out how often ESBC mow? Ask Cllr Hudson to chase up ESBC regarding the special tax – is it paying for these areas to be mowed? It was decided to send out the tender document for the grass cutting contract with a request for the cost of these areas to be separated out so that Councillors can make informed decision. Action: Clerk to amend and send out tender documents to contractors for quoting.

15. Finance, Chair

a) To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A

- Proposed, Cllr Morgan

- Seconded, Cllr Bullock

Noted that in future the clerk will amend the layout to better identify the transfers between accounts. Action Clerk

b) AGAR External Auditor's Report, Clerk reported that the external auditors report has been received with no significant matters raised.

16. Kissing Gate Project - Cllr Morgan reported on a meeting with a supplier to look at locations for gates to replace existing stiles to improve accessibility. 1 or 2-way self-closing gates are better than kissing gates so these now being considered. Ground must be level and free draining therefore at Silver Lane it is suggested that the gate could be positioned further into playing field to avoid the ditch. Cllrs. view is that the Silver Lane footpaths are priority. Landowners will need to be contacted. Action: Clerk to get quotes and investigate funding available.

17. Flooding & Environment, Chair

a) Embankment Walkover – This has been organised by the Environment Agency (EA) and is on Friday 13th October at Marchington Village Hall at 11am.

b) Marchington Brook Pollution Incident – There was evidence of a diesel spillage in the brook two weeks ago, Cllr Morgan reported it to the EA Hotline and Clerk contacted Hortons (industrial estate managers) to alert them also. EA have since reported that it was coming from the Industrial Estate but that it would take a month to identify the source. A member of the public noted that the EA have taken measures to mop up diesel in the brook at Green Lane.

c) A member of the public questioned the effect of tree felling on Marchington Cliff & Forest Banks on flooding and wildlife. It was noted that it may also affect EA flood management projects in the Woodlands and flooding situation generally. Action: Clerk to contact the Duchy Estate Manager, and the EA, to ask if increased run-off has been considered and what actions are being taken to counter-act the effect on flooding. Cllr Hayes noted that more signs needed on Woodroffes Cliff to alert road users to the lorries and mud on the road. Action: Clerk to contact the Duchy Estate Manager

18. Councillor Vacancy, Chair

a) Councillors to discuss candidate application for co-option to the Parish Council. (Item moved to closed session)

19. Correspondence and emails, Clerk

a) Resident re B5071 Meeting – clerk responded.

b) Resident re new road surface treatment – clerk responded.

c) Resident re Church Lane Corner - clerk responded. Action: Clerk to inform of discussion tonight.

d) Resident re concerns about new road surface treatment & effect on drains– clerk responded.

e) Staffordshire County Council – re request to promote Bus Passes – posters put on noticeboards.

f) SEN School requested to book playing field – clerk responded.

g) YMCA Big Sleepout – forwarded to Cllrs and poster on noticeboard.

h) UNRN – Information on biodiversity projects in Marchington – Clerk responded.

i) Cllr Atkins – Climate Change Action Fund – forwarded to Cllrs.

j) Cllr Atkins – Fire and Rescue – Electrical Fire Safety Information – forwarded to Cllrs.

k) ESBC – Ward Enhancement Programme Funding – forwarded to Cllrs.

l) Electrical Safety Fund – information forwarded to Cllrs.

m) ESBC – Polling Station Review – forwarded to Cllrs and on noticeboards.

20. Urgent items for input onto 14th November agenda

Christmas Trees

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Closed Session – Press and Public to leave before commencement.

Members of the public left at 9.09pm

Item 18. a) Councillor Vacancy - Councillors discussed the application. It was decided to defer to November and ask the applicant for more information. **Action: Clerk to contact applicant.** Councillors decided to try to encourage application from Forestside resident(s) to better represent the area of the parish. **Action: Clerk to print flyer. Cllrs to assist with distribution.**

Meeting Closed 9.23pm

Date of next meeting 14th November 2023

Appendix A - October 2023					
Date	Monies received:	£			
01/09/23	RBS Gold Account Interest	£68.20			
22/09/23	ESBC Precept Payment (2nd half)	£15,297.08			
26/09/23	Transfer from Solar to Gold Acc. For cost of Silver Lane Noticeboard	£1,070.47			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS (less solar transfers)	£15,365.28			

Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
30/09/23	Handyman wages & expenses	£154.98	£1.60	£156.58	2637
30/09/23	Clerk Salary (Inc overtime)	£710.50	£0.00	£878.99	2638
30/09/23	Clerk travel & expenses	£147.84	£20.65		
30/09/23	MPB Contractors - Inv. No 08/2023	£126.00	£0.00	£126.00	2639
30/09/23	Perennial Landscapes Ltd - Inv. 7042	£530.12	£106.02	£636.14	2640
27/09/23	Marchington Village Hall - Inv. 1679 (Hire charge for meeting with MP)	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	2641
21/09/23	Marmax Products Ltd - Inv. 048156 (Map Lecterns)	£1,020.00	£204.00	£1,224.00	2642
18/09/23	PJR Creative Inv. PJRC622 (Map lectern graphic design)	£2,045.50	£0.00	£2,045.50	2643
28/09/23	ESBC Inv. 772977 - Trade refuse at MVH (Period 01/10/23 to 31/12/23)	£97.63	£0.00	£97.63	2645
28/09/23	ESBC Inv. 772776 - Roadasweeping & litter bins (Period 01/10/23 to 31/12/23)	£607.83	£121.57	£729.40	2644
30/09/23	Marchington Village Hall - 2nd Half of Small Grant Payment	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	2646
30/09/23	Marchington Woodlands Village Hall - 2nd Half of Small Grant Payment	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	2647
30/09/23	St John's Church, Marchington Woodlands - 2nd Half of Small Grant Payment	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	2648
30/09/23	St Peter's Church, Marchington - 2nd Half of Small Grant Payment	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	2649
30/09/23	Marchington Parish Council - Transfer to Solar Account (Green Lane Payment)	£4,230.00	£0.00	£4,230.00	2650
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS (less Solar Transfers)	£9,460.40	£453.84	£9,914.24	

As of 30th September 2023				
	Current Account	£1,005.79		
	Gold Account	£49,462.97		
	Solar Account	£57,993.05		
		£108,461.81		

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Date:.....