

# Marchington Parish Council

## Minutes of a meeting held on

### 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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  
5 members of the public

#### Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Hudson.
2. To receive & record Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on items relating to the agenda. Cllr Mann Items 12 d) iii) & v); Cllrs Bullock, Hayhurst and Morgan Items 9 c) i), ii) & v)
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved & signed as a true record.

Proposed – Cllr Glover  
Seconded – Cllr Tomkins
4. Public Forum
  - a) A member of the public expressed disappointment that the public had not been allowed to ask questions during the discussions on the Bagshaws development & flooding at the December meeting whereas previously this has been allowed. Since the Parish Council meetings are very busy the resident requested separate PC meetings to discuss flooding in the village. Chair responded that the PC has tried to be accommodating, the public are always permitted to speak in the Public Forum & Chair can use discretion to allow public participation during the debates, however the meetings in Nov and December were exceptionally busy and there was not sufficient time for public participation during the debates on agenda items. **Action: Clerk to send comments submitted on the Bagshaws development to resident.**
  - b) Member of the public commented that previous experience suggested that public were allowed to participate in debates. He suggested that speed cushions instead of a ramp might prevent flood water accumulating and slow traffic down in Jacks Lane.
5. Other Organisations –To receive reports from outside organisations.
  - a) ESBC – The proposed changes & increases to parking charges are to be debated by ESBC committee. Parish Cllrs considered that the proposed changes are discriminatory, the use of parking Apps will increase the cost and will discourage visitors to the borough. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would contact Cllr Hudson to express these views. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr Hudson sent thanks to the flood wardens and Parish Cllrs for their hard work during the recent flooding incidents in the village.
6. Crime, Chair
  - a) Crime Report (previously circulated). Crimes seem to have increased in the area but appear largely associated with the prison. It was noted that the PC does not have a relationship with the new PCSO. **Action: Clerk to contact PCSO**
7. Clerk’s Report (previously circulated) was accepted, and no questions were raised.
8. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
  - a) **Planning Applications Received** – None
  - b) **Decisions 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 **Decision:** Permitted. Cllrs discussed the decision, and **it was resolved** that Clerk would write to ESBC Planning Dept. to express the Parish Council’s disappointment with the planning decision. **Action: Clerk**
  - c) **Enforcement Updates**
    - i) Charnwood – Emails received from ESBC Planning Dept. indicate that they have withdrawn the planning application P/2022/00581 and referred the matter to SCC Highways because the wall is on their land. The Chair noted that ESBC are ignoring the fact that it has been built without planning permission and the cameras continue to present a privacy issue. Cllr Hudson has offered to take up the matter with ESBC Planning Officers. Cllrs discussed this and **it was resolved** that the Clerk would send the relevant information to Cllr Hudson and email ESBC to advise them that the Parish Council considers that ESBC should take action against the owner. **Action: Clerk**

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Date:.....

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 not received. Cllr Hayhurst apologised. Cllr Morgan will carry out an inspection as soon as possible and send to the Clerk. **Action: Cllr Morgan**
    - ii) To consider quotations for the testing and/or repair of the swing - Cllrs considered the quotes received and **it was resolved** to appoint DSK Ltd to replace both the post and the crossbar at a cost of £995 + VAT. Subsequently it was decided that Clerk should ask if there is guarantee on the timber post/beam and circulate this information to Cllrs. If no/very limited guarantee the decision will be reconsidered at the Feb meeting, otherwise clerk to proceed with the order. **Action: Clerk**
    - iii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report. Cllr Morgan reported that the floor is mossy but otherwise all ok. The coping stone has been replaced.
  - b) Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann – Canopy project nearly finished only the lime mortar to do in the spring when warmer weather.
  - c) Cricket Club report,
    - i) Councillors considered the Pavilion Bar opening hours proposed by UCC (previously circulated) and **it was resolved** to approve these. (Cllrs Bullock, Hayhurst and Morgan did not vote) **Action: Clerk to advise UCC.**
    - ii) Drainage issue, update - Cllr Morgan reported that a local contractor has carried out a preliminary investigation into the soakaway it appears that the pipe has sunk, possibly cracked. Cllrs considered two options for repair. Option 1. Fill it in and top with Type 1 - Cost £250.00; Option 2: Dig out more extensively and put a new pipe in. Cost approx. £2000. Cllrs discussed. Previous experience suggests difficult to get other contractors to quote and the work needs to be done to make safe. **It was resolved** to approve option 1. (Cllrs Bullock, Hayhurst and Morgan did not vote)
    - iii) The Chair informed the Parish Councillors that the operation to cut back the overhanging hedge on the driveway has been booked for 17<sup>th</sup> January and the owner has been informed. Cllr Morgan will be available if necessary. **Action: Clerk to provide Cllr Morgan’s contact details to contractor.**
    - iv) To consider tree work proposed by UCC at the Cricket Ground – Cllrs discussed the proposals submitted by UCC and it was considered that more detailed information was required before a decision could be made. **Action: Clerk to contact UCC for this information.**
    - v) To consider a rent review. The Chair explained that the solicitor has clarified the rules on this. The rent review was discussed by the Cllrs, and **it was resolved** that the rent should be increased in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement. **Action: Clerk to write to UCC to advise them of this decision**

10. Flooding and Environment, Chair

- a) To discuss the conclusions of the EA report into the effects of Storm Babet on Marchington village - Cllrs discussed the report and were content with the conclusions reached and the actions proposed to follow.
- b) To discuss the development of a Community Flood Action Plan. Templates provided by the EA have been circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Morgan and Cllr Mann volunteered to progress development on this. **Action: Cllr Morgan & Cllr Mann.** The Chair informed the Cllrs that the local MP, Kate Kniveton, has contacted all the relevant authorities with regard to convening a public meeting and the PC will keep everyone informed if a date is arranged.
- c) To consider purchase of waterproof phone protectors for Flood Wardens. It was decided that Cllr Morgan will get prices for Cllrs to consider at the February meeting. **Action: Cllr Morgan**
- d) Cllr Morgan circulated a report on the recent high water events in Marchington and the effect on flooding in the village. He noted that, if the recent flood defences not been carried out, on every occasion the road would have needed to be closed. A scheme whereby residents could ‘adopt a drain’ was suggested and discussed.

11. Highways & Footpath issues, Chair

- a) Highways issues
  - i) A50 Roadworks diversion – it was decided that the Chair, Cllr Glover and Cllr Mann will attend the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January with National Highways and the contractors.
  - ii) To discuss options for reducing speed in the village. – Cllrs discussed briefly. The Chair will mention that more CSW volunteers in the Parish Mag. **Action: Chair.** It was suggested that speed cushions might help? 20isPlenty stickers on bins were discussed but noted that mostly bins are not kept next to the road. Due to time pressures, it was decided that this issue will be discussed at a future meeting. **Action: Clerk to add to agenda**
- b) Footpath & Bridleway issues –
  - i) Footpath 46 – to discuss condition and decide if action necessary. A resident has volunteered to resolve the issue therefore no action required currently.

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Date:.....

12. Finance, Chair

- a) To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A
  - Proposed Cllr Bullock
  - Seconded Cllr Morgan
- b) To consider, agree and approve the Parish Council budget for year 2024-25 (by show of hands). The Chair explained that the PC is budgeting for extra works required and inflationary increases & therefore needs to reduce non-essential expenditure and increase income. Proposed to increase the precept request by 7.5% noting that this is the first increase in nearly a decade. It was noted that it is necessary for the PC to keep six months running costs in the general reserve and also noted that reserves for elections are not required this year. Cllrs discussed the proposed budget. It was queried why the PC pays for the trade refuse at Marchington Village Hall? It was decided that Cllr Mann would discuss this with the MVH trustees. **Action: Cllr Mann**  
Following these discussions, Councillors voted to approve the budget. **Resolved – all in favour.**
- c) To consider, agree and approve the Parish Council Precept Request for year 2024-25 (by show of hands). The Chair proposed to increase the Precept Request to £32,084 – **Resolved – all in favour.**
- d) Precept Grants – To vote on Chair’s recommendations for a grant (by show of hands) *On the decision of the Chair this was discussed prior to Item 12. b).* Cllrs discussed the precept grants recommended by the chair. It was noted that the churches are largely unable to increase their income whereas the village halls can raise their charges. It was decided to amend the distribution of the £5,000 total budgeted Precept Grant
  - i) St John’s Church, Marchington Woodlands - The Chair proposed to award a grant of £1500– **Resolved - all in favour.**
  - ii) St Peter’s Church, Marchington – The Chair proposed to award a grant of £1,500 to St Peter’s Church – **Resolved - all in favour.**
  - iii) Marchington Village Hall - The Chair proposed to award a grant of £1,000 to Marchington Village Hall – **Resolved - all in favour.** (Cllr Mann did not vote)
  - iv) Marchington Woodlands Village Hall – The Chair proposed to award a grant of £1000 to Marchington Woodlands Village Hall – **Resolved - all in favour.**
  - v) Marchington Tennis and Bowls Club – The Chair proposed not to award a grant to Marchington Tennis and Bowls Club – **Resolved - all in favour.** (Cllr Hayhurst, and Cllr Mann did not vote).
- e) To confirm that the installation cost (£600) of the Map Lecterns to be met from the Solar Fund. **Resolved – all in favour.**

13. New Clerk Recruitment update. The Chair confirmed that the position has been advertised. Potential dates for interviews were discussed.

14. Handyman – To consider request for wage increase of £2/hour. The Chair proposed that provided the handyman signed the contract (previously approved) the wage increase should be approved. **Resolved – all in favour.** **Action: Clerk to write to handyman.**

15. Correspondence and emails, Clerk

- a) Resident – confirming the decision of the PC to cutback the overhanging hedge at the Cricket Club drive.
- b) Landowner at Houndhill – regarding the permissive footpath application. – reply received.
- c) Evans Property Group – regarding the permissive footpath application.
- d) Kate Kniveton MP – regarding a public meeting to discuss flooding issue with EA, ST and SCC
- e) Kate Kniveton MP –response from Secretary of State for Levelling Up re Baldwins Gate – forwarded to Cllrs.
- f) Cllr Atkins – re. survey on the provision of social care in Staffordshire– forwarded to Cllrs and posted on Facebook.
- g) Cllr Atkins – re Flood Recovery Framework Grants – forwarded to Cllrs & residents affected by flooding.
- h) East Midlands Airport Future Airspace – Information on Q & A sessions – forwarded to Cllr Mann.
- i) Resident – advising the date of the operation to cutback the overhanging hedge on the Cricket Club drive.
- j) Naomi Perry (ESBC) – Regarding P/2022/00581 Charnwood. – Forwarded to Cllrs.
- k) David Ward (ESBC) – Regarding P/2022/00581 Charnwood. - Forwarded to Cllrs.
- l) Resident – Regarding ESBC decision on P/2023/01047 Church Close – Clerk replied.
- m) Handyman – Request for wage increase. – Forwarded to Cllrs.
- n) Cathy Kompfner (EA) – regarding report into effects of Storm Babet. – Forwarded to Cllrs.
- o) Cathy Kompfner (EA) – regarding Community Flood Action Plans – Forwarded to Cllrs.
- p) Resident – regarding Charnwood wall – Clerk has updated.
- q) UCC Secretary – regarding proposed opening hours – forwarded to Cllrs.

16. Urgent items for input onto February agenda

Position of Finance Officer

**Meeting Closed: 9.55pm**

Signed:.....

Date:.....

## Date of next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Appendix A - January 2024					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers		
01/12/23	RBS Gold Account Interest	£74.50			
	<b>TOTAL OF RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£74.50</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		
Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
31/12/23	Clerk Salary (including backpay award)	£723.40	£0.00	£781.13	2665
31/12/23	Clerk travel & expenses	£53.58	£4.15		
31/12/23	Handyman wages & expenses	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00	2666
19/12/23	Marchington Village Hall Inv. 1705 (Hall hire for Flood Warden Training)	£72.00	£0.00	£72.00	2667
21/12/23	Marchington Village Hall Inv. 1706 (Hall hire for A50 Meeting)	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00	2668
21/12/23	ESBC Inv 773714 (Emptying Litter Bins period 1/1/24 to 31/03/24)	£607.83	£121.57	£729.40	2669
21/12/23	ESBC Inv 773619 (Trade refuse at MVH period 1/1/24 to 31/3/24)	£97.63	£0.00	£97.63	2670
12/12/23	Reimburse Cllr Morgan for contribution to Flood Warden for replacment mobile phone	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	2671
31/12/23	Reimburse Jane Hilton for plants & bulbs	£68.50	£0.00	£68.50	2672
	<b>TOTAL OF PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£1,759.94</b>	<b>£125.72</b>	<b>£1,885.66</b>	
* These cheques will not be posted to MVH until after the meetings have been held.					
Bank balances as of 31st December 2023					
	Current Account	£1,000.38			
	Gold Account	£33,964.48			
	Solar Account	£59,157.55			
		<b>£94,122.41</b>			

Signed:.....

Date:.....