

Marchington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on

12th March at Marchington Village Hall

Present: Cllr Glover, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst (Chair), Cllr Mann, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Tomkins.
Clare Nash (Parish Clerk)
12 Members of the Public

Meeting Opened at 7.30pm

Chair explained the format of the meeting regarding public participation.

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: Cllr Newstead, Cllr Bullock and Cllr Hudson (Ward Cllr)
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on items relating to the agenda were received and recorded as follows:
Cllr Morgan: Item 18 Village Festival
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2024 were approved & signed as a true record.
Proposed: Cllr Mann
Seconded: Cllr Tomkins
4. Public Forum
 - a) A member of the public spoke to the council regarding their concerns about flooding in the village on 22nd February when, although the brook did not breach the bund by the bridge in Church Lane, there was significant flooding at the bottom of the village and the road was not closed to traffic. She noted that the nature of the flooding in the village appears to be changing. She asked if the MP would be convening a Public Meeting with all agencies involved and requested that the Parish Council hold an open meeting for residents to discuss the situation prior to the Public Meeting. She noted that the 3rd pump at the sewage pumping station appears to have a significant effect on the flooding and questioned if Severn Trent have carried out any cleaning or maintenance work at the pumping station recently. In addition, she raised concerns about prison staff using the roads through the village. The CSW team have recently recorded 21 vehicles turning right out of the prison plus several more who turned left but quickly did a 'U' turn back towards the village. The chair asked for the data to be sent to the Parish Clerk for forwarding to the Prison Directors.
5. New Clerk Recruitment update. The Chair thanked the current clerk and introduced the new clerk, Siobhan Rumsby, to the Parish Council. The new clerk will take over the role on 25th March 2024.
6. Forestside – To discuss parking problems raised by residents. The Councillors discussed the lack of parking spaces on Didcot Drive and Hilsea Crescent which is resulting in cars being parked on pavements and grassed areas. It was also pointed out that it presented a problem for installation of EV charging points. It was noted that the grassed areas are owned by ESBC. Cllrs discussed the possibility for some of these areas to have concrete/plastic mesh ground stabilising reinforcement to create more parking spaces. Cllrs decided to ask Cllr Hudson (Ward Cllr) for advice on this issue. **Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Hudson.**
7. Other Organisations –To receive reports from outside organisations.
 - a) ESBC – None received.
8. Crime, Chair
 - a) Crime Report (previously circulated) – Nothing notable in the statistics. The PCSO has agreed to hold drop-in sessions for residents at Marchington Community Shop and at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall. He will advise the Clerk when arranged so that it can be promoted to residents.
9. Clerk's Report (previously circulated). Many potholes have been reported but no repairs carried out yet. The Clerk has reported the gas pipeline marker poles in the Woodlands but no action has been taken. The Chair suggested that residents also report the potholes. Concern has been expressed that the roads are unfit for the Uttoxeter Half Marathon which will be run in April. **It was decided** that the Clerk would contact Cllr Atkins (County Cllr) reference the Uttoxeter Half Marathon and the potholes to ask for assistance to get the roads repaired and copy in the MP. **Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Atkins and MP.**
10. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
 - a) **Planning Applications Received**
 - i) **P/2024/00119 - Proposal:** Prior Approval for the conversion of 3 agricultural buildings to form 2 smaller dwellings and 1 larger dwelling **Location:** Higher Stock Lane Farm, Stock Lane, Marchington Woodlands, Staffordshire,

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ST14 8PA Grid Ref: 411922 329767 **MPC Comments: Cllrs voted to object to this application.** Marchington Parish Councillors objected to this planning application and noted that local residents have voiced concerns about increased traffic in the Woodlands if this development was to be permitted. It was noted that Stock Lane is often subject to flooding and the plans do not show provision of an attenuation tank nor a plan for sewage treatment from the additional dwellings. The development would bring increased traffic to the narrow lanes, as well as noise & pollution, which is not in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. It would have an impact on the character of the rural setting, appearance of the open countryside and increase traffic danger on the single-track roads for residents, dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the farm animals which use the lane in the course of their daily lives. **Action: Clerk to submit objection and comments to ESBC.**

- ii) **P/2024/00149 - Proposal:** Reduce height of Christmas tree (T1) by a maximum of 4 metres **Location:** Church Cottage, Church Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ *For information only – MPC ‘no comments’ previously submitted.*
- iii) **P/2022/01019 – Proposal** Formation of vehicular access and installation of gates (REVISED SCHEME) **Location:** Land adjacent to Dovegate Prison, Moreton Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire Grid Ref: 414696 330528 **MPC Comments:** Cllrs voiced misgivings as to the reason for this access. The Parish Council submitted comments last year. The previous application appears to have been amended to agricultural vehicles rather than HGV’s. Councillors queried the real purpose for this access. **It was decided** that the Clerk would circulate the previous comments to Councillors for consideration and amendment prior to submission to ESBC. **Action: Clerk**
- iv) **P/2024/00223 - Proposal:** Reduce back to previous points up to one meter one Cherry tree (T1) and one Apple tree (T2) **Location:** Westbridge, Church Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ **MPC:** No Comments

b) Decisions Received

- i) **P/2024/00025 - Proposal:** Pollarding of 3 Lime trees (T5, T6 and T8) **Location:** St Annes Cottage, Bag Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 **Decision:** Permitted

c) Enforcement Issues

- i) Charnwood, update – Clerk has emailed Staffordshire County Council to request them to take action and also emailed Cllr Atkin to ask for his support in this matter.
- ii) Newfield Green Farm, update – Clerk has reported this to ESBC Enforcement and has been informed that Enforcement will advise the PC of their findings. A resident reported that an increase in traffic is already evident.

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 Mann reported that two wooden gates need to be repaired. **It was decided** that the handyman will carry out repairs. **Action: Cllr Mann to advise Handyman.** Signage also needs replacing. **Action: Clerk**
 - ii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report - Cllr Glover reported that two coping stones are missing and need replacement. The brambles need cutting back and the play areas are very mossy and slippery. **It was decided** that the handyman will carry out these jobs. **Action: Cllr Mann to advise Handyman** It was queried whether there may be a better way of securing the coping stones?
- b) Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann reported that new Trustees have been appointed including a very experienced treasurer.
- c) Cricket Club
 - i) Driveway repairs - Cllr Morgan emphasised that the PC did not need to make a decision at the meeting. Three quotes have been obtained and the PC should thank the companies for their time and explain that no decision been made yet. **Action: Clerk to write to the contractors.** The quotes were reviewed, and it was noted that there was considerable variation. Cllrs questioned if the Parish Council can afford the cost? It was explained that UCC is liable to contribute 50% of the cost and there is the possibility of contributions from other property owners that use the drive although nothing explicit is stated in the land registry. Quotes for the whole drive were not significantly higher than for patch repairs and Cllr Morgan suggested that to resurface the whole drive might be the better option. **It was decided** that another quote for resurfacing the whole drive is required and Cllrs need to speak with the adjoining property owners to ask for contributions towards the cost. **Actions: Clerk to obtain quotation; Cllr Morgan to speak with adjoining property owners.**

12. Flooding and Environment,

- a) Public Meeting with all agencies, to discuss progress, Chair. The Parish Clerk has written to the MP and explained that the Parish Council was not satisfied with the response from Severn Trent (ST) and Cllrs & residents still require a Public Meeting. The MP responded to say that she would ask for a copy of the report and will proceed with arrangements for a Public Meeting. However, an email received from the MP on the day of the PC meeting showed an unchanged response from ST. **It was decided** that the Clerk would write to the MP again and emphasise that the Parish Council are still not satisfied with ST’s response and are still keen to have a Public Meeting with all agencies present. **It was also decided** that a Working Group Meeting, led by Cllr Morgan & Cllr Mann & open to residents, was required to discuss current flooding issues ahead of the Public Meeting. **It was decided** that this WG meeting would be held on 25th March at

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10am at Marchington Village Hall. **Action: Clerk to book the village hall and publicise the WG Meeting. Clerk to write to MP.**

- b) Flooding issues on Jacks Lane & B5017. – The Chair reported that a complaint had been received about backwash from vehicles causing flooding to properties on Jacks Lane. Cllrs discussed the matter and proposed that replacement of the speed hump with speed cushions might alleviate the problem. Clearing of blocked gullies in Jacks Lane would also improve the situation. **It was decided** that the Clerk would contact SCC Highways regarding these actions and Cllr Atkins also, copying in Cllr Hudson. **Action: Clerk**
 - c) Community Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), update - Cllr Morgan reported that Uttoxeter Town Council have a similar plan and it will be useful basis for Marchington's. **Action: Cllr Morgan will continue to progress this and ask for assistance if required.**
 - d) Tree Felling on Marchington Cliff, to discuss information received from Duchy of Lancaster & Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT): The Chair reported that the Duchy have started tree planting this week, however saplings will not have much effect on rainwater run-off. **It was decided** that the Chair will write to the Duchy and include photos of the run-off at the bottom of Marchington Cliff to illustrate the problem. **Action: Chair.** The problems of the landslip on Buttermilk Hill were also noted however the land may not belong to the Duchy. **Action: – Clerk to find out who owns the land on Buttermilk Hill.** SWT also responded to the PC with useful information about the benefits of natural flood management.
13. Highways & Footpath issues
- a) Highways issues
 - i) Church Lane bridge, to discuss SCC Highways response to Parish Council concerns: The Chair reported that SCC Highways consider that the bridge is not weak and if Cllrs have concerns they should report it via the SCC website/app. **It was decided** that Cllr Glover will contact SCC Highways to ask what they are looking for. **Action: Clerk to send SCC contact information to Cllr Glover. Cllr Glover to contact SCC.**
 - ii) Bag Lane landslip. The Chair advised that this has been prioritised by SCC but still not attended to. She asked residents to report it also.
 - iii) Buttermilk Hill landslip – Chair. As above.
 - b) Footpath & Bridleway issues
 - i) Footpath 45 stile repair – to consider quotes for replacement sleeper. The matter was discussed and a resident present at the meeting offered to supply a suitable sleeper free of charge.
14. Finance, Chair
- a) To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A
 - Proposed: Cllr Morgan
 - Seconded: Cllr Glover
 - b) To review & approve updated Business Risk Assessment. **Cllrs resolved to approve** unanimously.
15. Globe Group, to consider invitation to attend their Celebration of the Possible Conference on 15th March. Unfortunately no Parish Councillor is available to attend. **Action: Clerk to send apologies.**
16. King's Portrait, to discuss if Parish Council would like to apply. The Chair explained that a portrait of the King is available free of charge to all Parish Councils. **It was decided** that the Parish Council will apply for a portrait and ask if a second one may be available for Marchington Woodlands Village Hall. **Action: Clerk**
17. Queen's Bench, to discuss. - Cllr Hayes proposed that the Parish Council could consider installing benches in memory of the late Queen in locations around the parish **Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Hudson if grant funding is available.**
18. Marchington Village Festival, to consider request for permission to use Silver Lane Playing Field. **Cllrs resolved to approve** this request providing suitable event insurance in place.
19. Correspondence and phone calls, Clerk
- a) Resident – regarding Severn Trent responses, CEAP and Clerk's Report – Clerk responded.
 - b) Resident – regarding flooding issues in Jacks Lane. Clerk forwarded to Cllrs.
 - c) Resident – phone call regarding suspicious activities in the Woodlands. – Clerk responded & contacted PCSO
 - d) Resident – regarding Conservation Area planning rules. – Clerk responded.
 - e) Resident – phone call regarding suspicious activity in the village. Clerk responded.
 - f) Treasurer of St John's Church – regarding precept grant. Chair responded.
 - g) Resident – regarding parking problems on Forestside. Clerk responded & forwarded to Chair.
 - h) Cllr Atkins – regarding Flood Recovery Grant Funding for Storm Henk – Clerk forwarded to Cllrs & resident.
 - i) Cllr Atkins – regarding changes to funding for Ukrainian Refugees – Clerk forwarded to Cllrs.
 - j) Cllr Atkins – regarding BBC Radio Stoke 'Make a Difference' awards. – Clerk forwarded to Cllrs.
 - k) Cllr Atkins – regarding Staffordshire Community Survey – Clerk forwarded to Cllrs, on website and Facebook
 - l) Cllr Hudson – regarding parking charges on Maltings Car Park – Clerk forwarded to Cllrs. *The Chair noted that Cllr Hudson had notified the Parish Council that there will now be no parking charges for parents picking up children from Thomas Alleyne's School.*

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- m) Resident – regarding Bag Lane landslip worsening. – Clerk replied and contacted SCC Highways
- n) Resident – regarding Green Lane landslip & potholes – Clerk replied & reported to SCC
- o) Marco Crispino, ESBC Street Services – re quotation acceptance for litter bins – Clerk replied.
- p) Cllr Atkins – Rural Funding Digest – Forwarded to Cllrs and Village Halls
- q) Heidi Hollins ESBC – Regarding Call for Sites – Forwarded to Cllrs.

20. Urgent items for input onto April agenda - *None*

Meeting Closed at 20.56

Date of next meeting 9th April 2024

Appendix A - March 2024					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers		
01/02/24	RBS Gold Account Interest	£61.23			
20/02/24	Transfer from Leek Account (Map lectern installation)		£600.00		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£61.23	£600.00	£661.23	
Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
29/02/24	Clerk Salary (including backpay award)	£722.40	£0.00	£772.72	2684
29/02/24	Clerk travel & expenses	£46.74	£3.58		
17/02/24	Marchington Village Hall Inv. 1730 (Hall hire for Clerk Interviews)	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00	2685
04/03/24	Marchington Village Festival 2024 Sponsorship	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	2686
15/02/24	Information Commissioners Office Annual Data Protection Fee Ref: 00818a660252	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	2687
29/02/24	Mr J Lloyd (Handyman) February Wages & Expenses	£108.89	£4.18	£113.07	2688
14/02/24	Reimburse Cllr Morgan for waterproof mobile phone covers (Amazon invoice)	£18.91	£3.78	£22.69	2689
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£1,203.94	£11.54	£1,215.48	
Bank balances as of 29th February 2024					
	Current Account	£1,000.36			
	Gold Account	£30,479.61			
	Solar Account **	£59,311.91			
	TOTAL	£90,791.88			
	** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid on 1st January £1,378.36				

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