

Marchington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on

14 May 2024 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr A Tomkins, Cllr S A Newstead, Cllr D Hayes, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr H Bullock
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk)
8 Members of the Public

1. It was **resolved** by unanimous decision to elect Cllr Bullock to the position of chairperson, Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed before the Clerk
2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: Cllrs I Glover, A Mann
3. It was **resolved** unanimously to elect Cllr Ian Morgan to the position of vice-chairperson, Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed before the Clerk
4. It was **resolved** unanimously to elect Cllr Glover to the position of Finance Officer in his absence.
5. It was **resolved** unanimously to elect Cllr Mann to the position of Marchington Village Hall Representative in his absence.
6. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on items relating to the agenda were recorded: none received.
Cllr Bullock declared active member of Uttoxeter Cricket Club.
7. The following policies were reviewed and adopted:
Standing Orders; Code of Conduct for Councillors; Privacy Policy; Consent to Retention of Personal Data; General Privacy Policy; Publication Scheme; Media Policy; Disciplinary Procedure.
Financial Regulations – deferred to future meeting to incorporate NALC 2024 amendments.
8. The Council's updated Asset Register (previously circulated) was reviewed and adopted.
9. Arrangements for the Council's Insurance Cover (previously circulated) were approved. New quotes to be sourced from June for the following year.
10. The Council's eligibility for General Power of Competence was reviewed. With two thirds of Councillors duly elected at the last uncontested Election and now having a qualified Clerk, the Council declared its General Power of Competence status.
11. The Council's and Staff's subscriptions as circulated were approved. It was queried whether it was beneficial to be members of both NALC and SPCA. Both were approved but SPCA would be monitored over the course of the next year as there had been staffing difficulties affecting the service.
12. Arrangements for ordinary meetings of the Full Council for the next year were approved as circulated.
13. It was **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes circulated as a true record of the meeting held on 9 April 2024.
14. Public Forum
 - a) Member of Public – A representative of Uttoxeter Cricket Club (late arrival 8pm) was present to answer any questions on the application for cricket nets at Marchington Cricket Ground. Apologies were noted for the lack of communication for the planning application which had been delayed for a report. The two-lane net training facility would be open for use by all – arrangements to be made via the head groundsman outside of normal training sessions. Approximately 50% of funding, (some £19k) had been raised out of a total required of £35k. The ground is to be raised. Once planning permission is granted, the club can apply to Sport England for funding. There is also the possibility of a Cricket Board loan and 0% finance from the nets supplier if needed.
15. Forestside – no updates on the parking issue resolution.
16. Other Organisations – no further reports received.
17. Clerk's Report (previously circulated) - pot hole priorities in the Woodlands had been sent to Cllr Atkins, clerk to chase for feedback.

Signed, Chairman.....

Dated

18. **Solar Fund application no. 24/25-01** Applicants were in attendance and gave a brief overview of their new under 5s playgroup. Funding was required for outdoor storage for toys, tough trays for activities, craft resources, crockery and cutlery etc for refreshments. The group would charge £2 per adult. After due consideration it was **resolved**, that the application was approved unanimously subject submission of receipts for expenditure and any other funding sourced.

19. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions, review planning appeals and enforcement issues.

a) Planning Applications Received

- i. P/2023/01202 - Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott In The Clay: Erection of a general purpose agricultural building (ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT) – *No comments.*
- ii. P/2023/01203 - Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott In The Clay: Prior Approval for the conversion of an agricultural building and part of an agricultural building to a Flexible Commercial Use (Class B8 Storage and Distribution) AMENDED DESCRIPTION – *no objections - Cllrs felt this would assist rural economy.*
- iii. P/2024/00311 - Marchington Cricket Ground, Jacks Lane: Installation of fixed training nets facility *response extended to 17/5/24 – no comments – the Cricket Club will contact the Parish Council when remaining trimming tree work scheduled.*
- iv. P/2024/00422 - Threefields, Church Lane: Felling of apple tree in rear garden (T1) and conifer tree (T2) in front garden – *no objections but request replace trees with native species. A Resident remarked on another 300-year-old tree which was felled in the conservation area, but the applicant was not asked to replace the specimen.*

b) ESBC Planning Decisions Received

PERMITTED:

- i. P/2024/00223 - Westbridge, Church Lane: Reduce back to previous points up to one meter one Cherry tree (T1) and one Apple tree (T2)
- ii. P/2024/00182 - Uttoxeter Cricket Club, Jacks Lane: prune back to remove interference on playing area by up to 4.5m three Field Maple trees and one Beech tree (204, 212, 213, 204-2), by up to 6.5m two Common Ash trees (204-1, 210), by up to 2m one Horse Chestnut tree (204-3), by up to 9m one Common Ash tree (211)
- iii. P/2024/00183 - 17 Windmill Drive: Erection of a front infill extension, part two storey part single storey rear extension, first floor side extension, installation of a roof light on front roof slope, cladding and rendering and alterations to the fenestrations.
- iv. P/2024/00119 - Higher Stock Lane Farm, Stock Lane: Prior Approval for the conversion of 3 agricultural buildings to form 2 smaller dwellings and 1 larger dwelling – *Cllr Tomkins was surprised that there is no indication of a sewage treatment plan, and it appeared our previous comments had been ignored. It was also commented that if bats were encountered, all work should be stopped yet no bat survey had been stipulated.*

REFUSED

- v. P/024/00281 - Yew Tree House, High Street: Prune back to the previously pruned position by up to 3 meters one Horse Chestnut tree (T1), prune back to the previously pruned position by up to 3 meters and cut back two lower branches to provide clearance to the lawn and drive by up to 4 metres one Horse Chestnut tree (T2) (TPO 330)
- vi. *Bagshaws land – a brief outline of a meeting between Marchington Cllrs with Lisa Bird and Naomi Perry, ESBC – Cllrs were concerned how this refusal would affect Marchington’s Neighbourhood Plan – 5 developments had been permitted but since lapsed. 20 are allocated in Marchington. Naomi had advised this decision does not affect the Neighbourhood Plan. It was preferred to keep the frontages and convert the two barns as two houses, brick stitching was mentioned. There was no indication of pushing the house back but instead, keeping to the same footprint. This raised concerns that the site line would not be safe as it is for exiting vehicular traffic. A big extension to the black and white building would not be allowed. The applicants have 6 months to appeal.*

c) Enforcement Issues

- i) Charnwood – no further updates with SCC
- ii) Newfield Green Farm – no further updates, clerk to chase ESBC Cllr Hudson

20. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks -

- i) Silver Lane playground report: as circulated from Cllr Mann, fencing to be repaired to contain livestock. Wooden posts due. Signage at play area to be looked at. Cllr Hayes to produce next month’s inspection report.
- ii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report: as circulated from Cllr Glover - 2 coping stones to be replaced and brambles to be cut back from barracks, both tasks for handyman. Cllr Hayhurst to produce next month’s inspection report.

b) Marchington Village Hall – new committee members keen and willing.

c) Cricket Club – Chairman to endeavour to arrange more regular meetings with the committee. The condition of the drive is worsening. Establish cost and split of contributions (50/50 was mentioned). Patching is slightly cheaper. We have received quotes for £5k and a course of action will be presented to the next meeting. Clerk to send quotes to Chair.

Signed, Chairman.....

Dated

- i) Pedestrian bridge – club members want wider bridge for equipment start engagement with club– footbridge use but disabled friendly.

21. Flooding and Environment

- a) Public Meeting with all agencies, to discuss progress. Cllr Hayhurst reported that 80 people attended our MP’s forum including several Marchington Parish Councillors. Residents bought new issues to address which Severn Trent, the Environment Agency and Staffordshire County Council will be looking into, each agency to address 2 objectives each. Our MP will reconvene a follow up meeting in a few months. It was commented that the road to Uttoxeter would be an easier fix. Pumping station issue, representative of Severn Trent will forward this to the correct personnel to deal with. The drain by the llama farm is blocked. Whilst our MP will lead on a briefing to residents it was agreed Clerk to ask for breakdown of the objectives set. Any residents who could not attend should contact Kate Kniveton’s office. A resident asked if MPC will maintain contact with Cathy Kompfner and Mark Swain – objectives to be established. A resident asked about responsibility for the brook section from the Dog & Partridge bridge to the river. Cllr Morgan to clarify. Photos taken of the dams will be sent to the Clerk and MP.
- b) Flooding issues on Jacks Lane & B5017 – the suggestion of road cushions to alleviate flooding had been forwarded to Cllr Atkins, no response. Drains are being cleared including the one opposite the Dog & Partridge. A resident was unhappy about comments made in the Chairman’s recent report in the newsletter which she interpreted as residents having to help themselves to alleviate floods.

22. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) Highways issues
 - i) Bag Lane landslip – road now reopened but will be monitored.
 - ii) Buttermilk Hill landslip – ongoing – Cllr Hayhurst had spoken with the Duchy, the wood either side is not owned by the Duchy or the Forestry Commission. A Land Registry Title search will determine ownership, thought to be possibly Bagot’s Park.
 - iii) Prison Traffic – CSW report log received and meeting arranged with Dovegate. Report back at next meeting. 3 prisoners had been seen in the village looking for help with public transport.
- b) Footpath & Bridleway issues
 - i) Footpath 45 stile repair - the bridge at the rear of the Church installed by the Ramblers had washed away. Cllrs thought this was the landowner, Ben Hall’s responsibility.

23. Finance, Chair

- a) Payments as listed in Appendix A - authorised

24. Queen’s Bench – Cllr Mann in process of putting application together for CCF Funding. Planning permission may be needed or at the very least a County Highway’s Licence to Plant.

25. Correspondence and phone calls

- a) Cllr Atkins – details of Community Fund 2024 circulated.
- b) Copy resident correspondence to Kate Kniveton re dangerous trees Green Lane
- c) JTFS student request for 3 days work experience of an environmental nature – Clerk to respond in negative.

26. Urgent items for input onto next agenda –

Report on meeting with Naomi Perry, ratify at next meeting.
Prison meeting report
Resident in Woodlands interested in Co-option, knowledge of flooding and civil engineering.
Apologies received in advance for June meeting from Alan Tomkins.

Meeting Closed at 21.15

Next Meeting : 11 June 2024 7.30pm, Marchington Woodlands Village Hall

Signed, Chairman.....

Dated

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	
02/04/24	RBS Gold A/c interest	£58.53		
04/04/24	HMRC VAT claim	£2,628.64		
12/04/24	National Grid Wayleave payment	£26.57		
12/04/24	Parish Garden Rent	£40.00		
19/04/24	ESBC Precept 1/2	£16,488.00		
22/04/24	ESBC Grant transfer to solar account	£1,000.00		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£20,241.74	£0.00	£20,241.74

Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
30/04/24	Clerk Salary	£608.40	£0.00	£671.83	2965
30/04/24	Clerk travel & expenses	£63.17	£0.26		
30//4/24	Mr J Lloyd (Handyman) April Wages & Expenses	£104.83	£0.00	£104.83	2696
30/04/24	Perennial Landscapes - April grounds maintenance	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2698
02/05/24	SPCA & Nalc Subs	£305.00		£395.00	2697
29/04/24	SPCA - Training course I. Glover	£90.00			
14/05/24	Marchington Woodlands Village Hall	£500.00		£500.00	2699
14/05/24	Marchington Village Hall	£500.00		£500.00	2700
14/05/24	St Peter's Church PCC	£750.00		£750.00	2701
14/05/24	St John's Church PCC	£750.00		£750.00	2702
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£4,132.39	£92.46	£4,224.85	

Bank Balance as at	30/04/24		
Current Account	£1,003.09		
Gold Account	£48,801.29		
Solar Account **	£59,311.91		
TOTAL	£109,116.29		

** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January £1,378.36

Signed, Chairman.....

Dated