

**Marchington Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on**  
**10 September 2024 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr A Mann, Cllr D Hayes, Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr I Glover, Cllr S A Newstead  
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); 5 Members of the Public

1. Chair's Welcome and record of apologies. Apologies received from Cllr A Tomkins
2. No Declarations of Interest, Dispensations on items relating to the agenda were received.
3. It was **resolved** that the Minutes of 13 August 2024 were accepted to be signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
4. Public Forum  
No comments received.
5. Other Organisations
  - a) Staffordshire County Council – none received.
  - b) East Staffordshire Borough Council –
    - Marchington's Draft Emergency Plan was discussed – Cllr Morgan recommended adding in electricity outages as this had happened recently and can cause problems particularly for vulnerable residents. The document should be reviewed every year as contacts will change frequently. Permission to be sought for contact details. Councillors were asked for any input into this working document. Sudbury surgery details to be added.
6. Clerk's Report referred to and noted.
7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
  - a) Planning Applications Received –**
    - i) P/2024/00627 - Barns Hill Farm, Stock Lane, Marchington Woodlands: Erection of a lean-to agricultural building for the storage of hay bales, straw, machinery / tooling.  
*- no objections*
    - ii) P/2024/00723 -The Firs, Bag Lane, Marchington: Demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate the erection of a single storey side extension, erection of a chimney breast & flat roof canopy to the front elevation, loft conversion to include a flat roof dormer and Juliet balcony, installation of rooflights and alterations to fenestration on all elevations to include new and replacement windows  
*- no objections*
  - b) ESBC Planning Decisions Received and noted –**
    - PERMITTED**
      - i) None received
    - REFUSED:**
      - ii) P/2024/00746 - Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott In The Clay: Prior notification for the erection of a general purposed agricultural building

**c) Enforcement Issues**

- i. Charnwood – ESBC Enforcement were awaiting a formal SCC objection as the wall was on the highway. Cllr Morgan to attempt to obtain a contact for SCC Highways Councillor from either Cllr Atkins or Cllr Hudson. Councillors will consider entering into a formal complaints process if the matter remains unresolved.

**8. Council owned property -**

**a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –**

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Morgan’s report referred to and actions listed. The football corner posts had rotted, and these are being repaired. A gate bolt is bent and needs replacing. A missed cap on the multi play equipment is to be fitted. Postcrete is needed to anchor the new noticeboard.
- ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Newstead’s report referred to. The grass had been mown. The tiled area under equipment is deteriorating. Dizzy disc - surface is slippery. Coping stones have been acquired and will be installed. Plyboard needs replacing for notices. Equipment needs cleaning of moss. Football nets are partly unattached. The gates to the grounds were open and a mechanism loose. These large gates are not MPC responsibility.
- iii. Update on Bridge – Cllr Morgan had spoken to designer and will come back with proposal. Weight bearing to be considered. The Bison design is preferred and this can be built in winter.
- iv. Community Orchard – Cllr Morgan advised that whilst our contractor keeps paths clear, the infill areas are in need of work. Nettles need cutting back; this job is more work than volunteers can cope with and they do not have the right equipment. It was suggested £300 for one day’s work strimming and removal of arisings – our contractor could do as one off job. Cllr Hayhurst felt a group of volunteers with equipment could be found. It was agreed to price up and Cllr Glover to establish if any budget surplus could cover it – Cllrs to vote next month.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported that bookings were going well. MAD are using the hall plus a training course, parties and a beer festival all booked in. The canopy has been painted on the underside and frontage to be done.

- c) Cricket Club – Cllr Bullock had reminded them about the drive. They have money for the nets but no excess funds for the drive. Temporary repairs have held so far. The hedge is beginning to overhang the drive again. It was agreed to write to the neighbouring property formally.

**9. Flooding and Environment**

- a) Report on visit to pumping station – Cllr Morgan referred to his circulated plan of the pumping station and described 3 fully automated pumps. A route map had been provided showing underground holding tanks which control the flow. Pumps have increasing rates of pressure into the same pipe travelling towards the prison. Pipes can only take so much pressure so unlikely they would be able to be turned up. 2 additional automatic pumps are on a separate system for storm water. During a flood, they pump from the pumping station back towards the brook which unfortunately may already be a flooded area. The system is cleaned every 6 months. There seemed to be no explanation for surges and quick receding. Our MP has a case worker attending the A50 meeting so Cllrs will try to get him on board.
- b) Communication with schools on road closures, meeting to be arranged. Cllr Morgan will follow up on a contact he has.

## 10. Highways & Footpath issues

### a) Highways issues

- i. Buttermilk Hill landslip – A new contract is to be pursued – the surface has worsened and a cyclist has had an accident. Gabions would help.
- ii. A50 closure – Cllrs Morgan and Mann to attend meeting in Draycott with Balfour Beatty. The work is scheduled to be complete by 28 September. The previous diversion route is unavailable due to SCC roadworks. Some HGVs are exempt from weight limit restrictions. Details of previous agreement to be forwarded to Cllrs Morgan and Mann ahead of the meeting.
- iii. Kissing Gates project – Cllr Morgan briefed that it had previously been agreed to fund from solar monies 2 x gates, one at the cricket club and one at Silver Lane. Two others had been proposed one by the Church and one on Green Lane. However, Cllr Hayes had pointed out there were some in the Woodlands which could be considered. The Ramblers Association had advised of an opportunity for them to obtain funding from the Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund and the gates will meet their accessibility criteria. The Ramblers Assoc. can access part funding and can install the gates free of charge. As the fund finishes in November and then restarts, it was suggested getting all 4 gates done and the Woodlands gates could be looked at in next year's round of funding. Round stock proof gates are preferred by farmers. The gates required would be 3 round stock proof, and 1 flat = £1400 plus VAT. Materials can be provided f.o.c. and the work will be signed off to standard. Cost would be split 50/50 between the funding available to the Ramblers Association and the Parish Council so cost to the Parish Council is £865 (inc VAT) for the four gates. **Resolved** all agreed to go ahead with 4 kissing gates in principle up to a spend of £700 plus VAT.

11. Dovegate Prison Traffic – the follow up meeting arranged with the Governor for 23 September – traffic to be discussed and original planning conditions. Foul water can be mentioned in the light of the pumping station information. Artworks also to be reviewed. Cllr Morgan and Glover to attend.

## 12. Finance, Chair

- a) The Schedule of Receipts and Payments as listed in Appendix A was reviewed and authorised. Online banking discussed.
- b) Councillors noted the successfully audited AGAR and agreed dates for publication of Notice of completion.

13. Queen's Bench – CCF funding now unavailable. Cllr Hudson to be approached about the Ward Enhancement Programme but in principle, it was agreed to fund the project from the solar account in total.

## 14. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Resident query regarding Green Lane potholes – *Clerk responded*
- b) Copy resident correspondence with Balfour Beatty regarding A50 closures.
- c) Resident concerns re A50 closures
- d) Resident complaint regarding Forestside pitch grass cutting – *Clerk responded*

15. Urgent items for input onto next agenda –  
Staffing matters under closed session.

**Meeting Closed at 21.11**

**Next Meeting : 8 October 2024, Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm**

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	
	<b>TOTAL OF RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
31/08/24	Clerk Salary	£608.40	£0.00	£1,080.09	2720
31/08/24	Clerk travel & expenses	£405.00	£66.69		
31/08/24	Mr J Lloyd (Handyman) Wages & Expenses	£216.00		£216.00	2721
13/09/24	Perennial Landscapes - grounds maintenance Inv 8438 & 7991	£921.98	£184.40	£1,106.38	2719
	<b>TOTAL OF PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£2,151.38</b>	<b>£251.09</b>	<b>£2,402.47</b>	

Bank Balance as at	30/08/24
Current Account	£1,008.99
Gold Account	£35,319.37
Solar Account **	£63,541.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£99,870.27</b>

\*\* NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January

15-Aug Notification from Leek Building Society - reduction in interest rate from 2.85% to 2.60% (Gross AER)