

Marchington Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on
12 November 2024 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr A Mann, Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr I Glover, Cllr S A Newstead, Cllr A Tomkins
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); Cllr P Hudson; 10 Members of the Public

1. Chair's Welcome and record of apologies. Apologies were noted from Cllr P. Atkins
2. Declarations of Interest, Dispensations on items relating to the agenda. Cllrs Morgan and Mann declared an interest in item 5.(a)(ii) regarding the Village Hall application for a precept grant.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 8 October 2024 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. Co-option of Councillor to fill casual vacancy. In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2), Councillors agreed that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which may involve the disclosure of personal information and is subject to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) considerations, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting. **Resolved** - Item to be discussed at the end of the meeting for this purpose.
5. Public Forum
 - a) Representatives spoke on behalf of the following Precept Grant Applications received.
 - i. Marchington Woodlands Village Hall
The hall plays an important role as the only public space apart from the church. Maintenance costs are the main expense which include mandatory safety checks, repairs and decoration. The Paddock is being used more and the facilities benefit a cross section of the community.
 - ii. Marchington Village Hall
The Treasurer remarked on similar expenses, including maintenance of some £3k per year. £26k had been spent on the canopy. Projects have been the top kitchen redecoration and maintenance of grounds and toilets. The main hall is to be redecorated. The grant award is greatly appreciated.
 - iii. St Peter's Church
Expenditure is largely on grass, hedges and tree maintenance in the churchyard, costing some £3.2k. This figure does not include imminent work on the lime trees of circa £1k. They are very grateful for any amount awarded.
 - iv. St John's Church
Whilst support is appreciated; the lower award for the current year had meant contractors work had to be reduced and the contract was not renewed. New contractors have increased charges. £2.5k is sought – the minimum projected spend being £3.5k.

The Chairman advised that decisions on grant awards will be made in January once the council budget had been finalised. Representatives of three of the groups left the meeting.

- b) Resident representation made on ESBC's introduction of brown bin collection fees – the resident was disappointed that this has not been discussed in Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council had received no feedback from the consultation. Petitions were in circulation. This is an ESBC decision, and no parish councils were consulted. Charges are likely to be in place from next April.

Accepted on..... Signed

6. Other Organisations Updates and Reports

- a) Our MP is in communication with the multi-agencies on flood defences. He is going through the file for Marchington and had visited a resident.
- b) Staffordshire County Council –
 - i. Cllr Atkins had forward a report with an update on Gorsty Hill. Costs of works to the triangle were estimated at £5k; County are willing to match fund by a sum of £2.5k. Cllrs thought the cost was high. Hard standing would need to be removed. Posts could be done and funds raised for seeding and planting. Cllr Morgan felt a study into the costs and order of works should be made. Cllr Hudson could contribute if there were any funds left from his budget. It was suggested funding from the solar account. However, a member of public may need to apply and this would be championed by a Councillor. It was agreed to find out more information from Cllr Atkins as to breakdown of costs and who would commission the work. Also look into solar fund criteria and process in more detail. Give way markings have been eroded.
 - ii. Charnwood - It had been confirmed by SCC that the wall had been built on the highway verge; one option would be for SCC to transfer their land. Planning permission would still apply.
 - iii. Roadworks as scheduled had been advertised.
- c) East Staffordshire Borough Council –
 - i. Brown bin tax - Cllr Hudson advised that the public consultation had been well publicised on social media and the website. The consultation had been criticised for listing a choice of charges but no choice to pay nothing. A better consultation had been suggested but votes in favour were defeated. Charges would likely be £40 per bin. ESBC do not envisage an increase in fly tipping.
 - ii. Maltings – the deal had still not gone through; they may have another buyer. ESBC have spent a lot on architects but do not own the Maltings. He was asked to approach the potential buyer.
 - iii. Mike Ackroyd had passed away and Gerry Holmes appointed in the By-election.
 - iv. An Extraordinary meeting had been set for 25 November, but no agenda issued yet.
 - v. Planning - There was no decision on the Newfield Farm planning application. The Council have a new cabinet member for planning.
A Resident asked if there was any further information on the Bagshaws development – the Parish Council would be informed of any developments.

7. Clerk's Report referred to and noted. Residents were encouraged to report highways defects on the app or online.

8. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:

a) Planning Applications Received –

- i. P/2024/00992 - Woodroffes Hall, Hodge Lane, Marchington Woodlands, Staffordshire, ST14 8PE: Listed Building Consent for the conservation and repairs to the timber frame - South side east gable - Installation of steel brackets to engineer's detail; South Gable - Removal and replacement of decayed bressummer, installation of steel brackets, remove and replace concrete panels with lime plastered insulated panels; West wall window lintel - Install steel reinforcing plate to engineer's detail – *no comments*

**b) ESBC Planning Decisions Received and noted –
PERMITTED**

- 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;
- 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,

Accepted on..... Signed

installation of rooflights, alterations to fenestration on all elevations to include new and replacement windows and installation of render to the existing property

- iii. P/2024/00994 - 31 Woodland Views: Re-pollard back to historic pollard points of two Salix Matsudana trees.

c) Enforcement Issues

- ii. Charnwood – Sam Griffiths had advised that the County’s asset management team were investigating this matter. An update from Cllr Atkins had indicated that the land had been identified as Highways land and options would be considered. Councillors agreed to press for an update on any decision made as this was holding up the process relating to the breach of planning. Cllr Hayhurst to draft a response and will also enquire which other properties have been built on highway land in the vicinity.

9. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Glover’s report referred to. The wooden bench is broken next to the timber trail. Toddler swings – one is lopsided, top beam weathered. Springies – seats delaminated but no sharp edges. Mini football pitch, post is leaning but solid. A clip has broken on the netting. Surfaces - moss and wet leaves are making it slippery. Annual Inspection had been circulated. Cllr Glover to look at the detailed annual inspection.
- ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Bullock reported coping stones missing – work is to be done. The path at the entrance to the playground is overgrown, handyman to weed-kill. Dog mess is prevalent. Gates don’t close which are Evans responsibility. Annual Inspection had highlighted moderate risk items which were discussed. Cllr Bullock to look at the detailed full report. AED – Cllr Tomkins was researching this further. Electric supply is difficult but solar power will be investigated. Cllrs Tomkins and Bullock to review and a full report to be brought to the next meeting.

Ground contractors – feedback to be provided by Cllr Morgan.

- iii. Update on Bridge – Cllr Morgan had submitted the design invoice which was agreed to be paid.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported on bookings. The neighbour dispute is in the hands of solicitors. Due to clashes with MAD rehearsals, it was proposed that the 3 Council meetings in the Woodlands Village Hall of April, August and October be changed to April, August and November. Resolved, all agreed.

It was remarked that seating at the Woodlands Village Hall Council meeting should be positioned closer to proceedings for audibility.

- c) Christmas Trees x 3– Chairman to check if Forestside were happy to have one.

- d) The Cricket Club is being used as changing facility for football over the winter months.

10. Flooding and Environment

The School not been back in contact despite numerous attempts to arrange a meeting. Chairman to contact the Chair of Governors.

Tank at pumping station – Cllr Morgan relayed that the extra storage tank was used as a preventative measure for sewerage in times of flood.

11. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) Highways issues
 - i. Buttermilk Hill landslip – no updates.
 - ii. Pot-holes - Hall Road has been marked out but some have been missed. Church Lane is closed.

12. Dovegate Prison

Planters had been sent for displays both village halls and two for Forestside. Check with Forestside if anyone willing to maintain them. A date had been set for the Art Exhibition - 6 February at Marchington Village Hall Committee to run the event. Any sales will be donated to charity. A Geo Amey vehicle had been spotted reversing out of the closed Church Lane, details passed to HMPS. CSW had logged a prison worker vehicle speeding.

13. Finance, Chair

- a) The Schedule of Receipts and Payments as listed in Appendix A was reviewed and authorised.
- b) 2nd Quarter Bank Reconciliation and accounts check – Cllr Glover had completed a review and all in order. Signature changes were in hand at Leek B.S. and RBS.
- c) The Local Government Pay Scales had been agreed for the year 1/4/24 to 31/3/25. Clerk’s back pay to 1 April authorised.
- d) Online Banking was still being investigated.

14. Superfast Broadband – a resident of Woodlands was disappointed this had not been mentioned to our MP. Connect Fibre will update us when they are starting work in Marchington Woodlands and Draycott.

15. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Draycott in the Clay PC – SID data had been shared along with a request for speed awareness action on the Marchington Industrial Estate route.
- b) SPCA – Promotion of the new Staffordshire History Centre had been shared. A consultation phase had been entered into with respect to the possible reintroduction of remote meetings provision. Hedgerow regulations consultation; changes to Employers’ NI Contributions were noted.
- c) Resident enquiry regarding the use of Silver Lane fields for a marque wedding venue. Councillor felt there were too many issues around Health and Safety and insurance. Village events organised by the Festival committee were covered. It was suggested the Paddock at the Woodlands Village Hall may be more suitable.

16. Items for input onto next agenda.

AED

Bulbs receipts for village planting would to be added to next month’s schedule of payment.

Open Part of the Meeting Closed at 21.10.

A closed session followed to discuss item (4) and it was **resolved** that two candidates would be co-opted onto the Council. Meeting Closed at 21.30.

Next Meeting : 10 December 2024, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Accepted on..... Signed

Oct-24	Appendix A - Schedule of Receipts and Payments				
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers		
01/11/24	Interest	£84.29			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£84.29	£0.00	£84.29	
Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
31/10/24	Clerk Salary	£608.40	£0.00	£691.28	2727
	Clerk travel & expenses	£80.95	£1.93		
12/11/24	Perennial Landscapes - grounds maintenance Inv 8710	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2728
12/11/24	Play Inspection Company Ltd	£270.75	£54.15	£324.90	2729
12/11/24	Ideal Design Solutions	£850.00	£170.00	£1,020.00	2730
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£2,271.09	£318.28	£2,589.37	
	Bank Balance as at	01/11/24			
	Current Account	£1,005.48			
	Gold Account	£46,439.51			
	Solar Account **	£63,541.91			
	TOTAL	£110,986.90			
** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January					

DRAFT

Accepted on..... Signed