

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

Present: Cllr A Mann, Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr S A Newstead, Cllr A Tomkins,
Cllr J Prince, Cllr M Lord
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); 7 Members of the Public

1. The Chair's welcomed all and especially to the two new Councillors who were introduced to the Council. Apologies were noted from Cllr Glover and Cllr Hudson.
2. Declarations of Interest, Dispensations on items relating to the agenda. None declared at this time.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 12 November 2024 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. Public Forum
 - a) Councillors heard about plans for a change of use proposal at the Bulls Head. A planning application will soon be lodged. The property is not viable as a wet led pub business. The owner plans to rent out the entire property out for private use to holiday makers or local family gatherings. There are no major structural changes aside from some accessibility improvements and a change to the old kitchen. Private gatherings or villagers could open it as a pub for short periods, say during the festival. There was no comment from councillors until plans come through for consultation. Holiday renters would bring their own alcohol.
 - b) A representative of Community Speedwatch spoke about SIDs. MPC were asked to reconsider acquiring a SID through Solar funding at Blacksmiths Arms at Birch Cross. Cllr Hudson was looking into it but they had received no further news. CSW has an impact on the speeds but flashing SIDs would remind drivers they are speeding and have an additional positive impact. Cllr Hudson may have information on how they do positively impact speeders. Councillors felt that the Birch Cross location is problematic due to the bends in the road, the SIDs need a clear line of sight to record the speed. It was agreed to ask Draycott in the Clay for further information; check the solar fund criteria and the cost benefit in having a SID.
5. Other Organisations Updates and Reports
 - a) Our MP had been consulted about Superfast Broadband. Carol Pickering had written to Connect Fibre and SCC asking for an update. Cllrs noted that our MP had mentioned Marchington on the topic of flooding brought up in Parliament.
 - b) Staffordshire County Council –
 - i. There were no changes to this ward on the boundary review.
 - c) East Staffordshire Borough Council –
 - i. Derbyshire are charging people to use tips if they live in Staffordshire. Staffordshire will likely now do the same so residents were warned that proof of address ID may be required to use this service.
 - ii. Removal of public phone box and opportunity to adopt. BT have given notice of removal of the phone and we have until 17 February to advise whether we wish to adopt the box. It is listed as a heritage asset and is in the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Mann was against removing the phone. Cyber warfare is a threat and our infrastructure is vulnerable. In the case of a crisis, mobiles may not work so the phone is useful. The second (silver) phone box was removed

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some years ago from Scounslow Green. If BT do remove the phone, Councillors agreed MPC should adopt the box, we have already spent some £200-300 repainting it. The electricity supply would need to remain for lighting. It was commented that prisoners may have to use it on release. **Resolved** my majority to oppose the removal of the phone but if removed, to adopt the box.

- iii. Consultation on legislation to allow remote meetings and proxy voting. Costs for equipment needed to facilitate hybrid meetings were estimated in the region of £4-7K and this could be prohibitive unless grants were available. It was agreed Councillors to respond to the consultation as individuals.
- iv. ESBC have renamed a meeting room and have restructured some committees.

6. Clerk's Report referred to and noted. Weather has impeded dealing with any potholes. All were encouraged to report, the office email can be used as the return address for recording purposes.

7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:

a) Planning Applications Received –

- i. Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Plan 2022-2038. There was still a huge demand for aggregate for HS2 necessitating new sites to be looked at. The proposals may affect the Sudbury bridge. A quarry on other side of Dove may impact flooding and traffic management. or HS2. MPC has already commented last year; Clerk to re-send link to all Councillors to check where the areas are.
- ii. The Newfields Farm application has been refused. They may appeal. The Chairman has asked about enforcement of the issues raised prior to the application.

b) Enforcement Issues

- i. Charnwood – no further updates

8. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Tomkin's report referred to the mini football pitch, nets were loose at the rear. The rocker spinner is getting stuck and needs oiling. Branches were overhanging on coming through the stile from the Cricket pitch. Handyman to attend. Annual Inspection. Cllr Glover had provided an analysis of the report with no urgent actions requiring attention. Next year's budget may need to factor in repairs.
- ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Mann will inspect tomorrow and forward report. Annual Inspection - Cllr Bullock had reviewed any items of risk. The chain links to the swings are worn and need replacing, cost to be budgeted. Weed spraying – Cllr Mann to speak to the neighbouring property about overgrowth. Any spraying sanctioned by MPC would need a qualified PA1 / PA6 certificate holder. Cllr Prince thought online courses were available. AED – Cllr Tomkins and Cllr Bullock to meet on new year to discuss further. The site position will be difficult, as mains connection would be best. Solar panels could be unreliable. The box would need to be accessible and vandal proof. Regular inspections have to be carried out. A homeowner would need to agree. It was suggested Trent & Dove could be approached to incorporate the box onto their property. Cllr Morgan has some contacts at Forestside so a meeting could be arranged.
- iii. Update on Bridge – Cllr Morgan no costings available yet. 2nd week of February could be earmarked for a start date providing costs worked out for the January meeting and depending on ground conditions.

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- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported that the boundary issue is ongoing with solicitors. He proposed that Marchington Parish Council pick up the cost of the Village Hall’s brown bin collection £35 per annum. Cllrs Mann and Morgan declared an interest were excluded from the vote. With one abstention, it was **resolved** not to pay for this cost.
- c) Queen’s Bench – the clerk had completed the Licence to Plant application and site plan prepared. Once progressed, the wording on the plaque to be determined prior to ordering.

9. Flooding and Environment

No updated from multi-agencies. Cllr Bullock suggested to help ourselves, a working group of volunteers from the community could be formed to clear drains and areas which may cause blockages. Cllr Hayhurst had cleared some gullies on Bag Lane due to flooding. Drains are not being cleared by Highways due to lack of funds. Ditching may help. Water runs off the fields washing mud in. Dry ponds would prevent some of this with leaky dams. Some ponds could be dug out. It was agreed to form a working group and call out for volunteer help. Clearing the dams in the brook have been helpful. All agreed to the working group consisting of lead Councillors I Morgan, A Mann, J Hayhurst and A Tomkins. Group to meet to discuss ideas. Farmers can do ditch clearing and it was best to approach them personally.

Fallen tree on Hound Hill. Several Elm and Ash are diseased meaning more trees will likely fall around the quarry area. Clerk to forward contact details of the land-owner to Cllr Hayhurst.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

a) Highways issues

- i. Buttermilk Hill landslip – no updates from the Forestry Commission.
- ii. Woodroffes Cliff – the hazardous drop at the road edge had been highlighted to County Highways and the Duchy but no response as yet. Cllr Hayhurst to mention to Naomi tomorrow.
- iii. Gorsty Hill – Cllr Atkins had provided a breakdown of costs. Cllrs wondered why we were being asked to pay for road markings and carriageway repairs. We can pay for seeding. As the wooden posts get removed it had been suggested stone boulders could be placed. However, these may be a road user risk at an intersection. Cllr Newstead to liaise further with Cllr Atkins.

11. Finance, Chair

- a) The Schedule of Receipts and Payments as listed in Appendix A was reviewed and authorised. Christmas Trees – there was a suggestion to plant Christmas trees rather than purchase each year. Cllrs felt it would be very costly to find living trees at a decent height.
- b) 2025-26 Budget arrangements, a date had been set for the RFO to meet with Cllrs Bullock, Morgan and Glover to go through an initial draft budget for presenting at the January meeting.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) The Clerk had responded to the resident about smoke coming from the Industrial Estate advising them to get in touch with Environmental Health Department at ESBC
- b) Everyone Health mobile units drop in sessions, details had been passed on to the both village halls.
- c) The Light up Green campaign and road safety project were noted.

13. Items for input onto next agenda: Trees on Hounds Hill; Flood Alleviation Working Group; Budget and Precept Request 2025-26; AEDs

Meeting Closed at 21.07.

Next Meeting : 14 January 2025, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

| Nov-24 Appendix A - Schedule of Receipts and Payments | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| Date | Monies received: | £ | Solar Transfers | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | TOTAL OF RECEIPTS | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | |
| Invoice Date | Invoices/Money to be paid out: | Net | Vat | Total | Chq No. |
| 10/12/24 | Clerk Salary Travel and Expenses | £874.43 | £1.93 | £876.36 | 2731 |
| 10/12/24 | J. Lloyd | £55.54 | | £55.54 | 2732 |
| 10/12/24 | Staffordshire County Council - Licence to Plant | £205.00 | | £205.00 | 2733 |
| 10/12/24 | Marchington Village Hall | £500.00 | | £500.00 | 2734 |
| 10/12/24 | Marchington Woodlands Village Hall | £500.00 | | £500.00 | 2735 |
| 10/12/24 | St Peter's Church | £750.00 | | £750.00 | 2736 |
| 10/12/24 | St John's Church | £750.00 | | £750.00 | 2737 |
| 10/12/24 | J. Hilton - Planters | £63.00 | | £63.00 | 2738 |
| 10/12/24 | The Moorlands Primary Federation - Peter Pan Playgroup | £425.15 | | £425.15 | 2739 |
| 10/12/24 | MidMC Computer Services | £155.88 | £31.18 | £187.06 | 2740 |
| 10/12/24 | Alan Mee - Christmas Trees | £430.00 | | £430.00 | 2741 |
| | TOTAL OF PAYMENTS | £4,709.00 | £33.11 | £4,742.11 | |
| | Bank Balance as at | 01/12/24 | | | |
| | Current Account | £1,006.11 | | | |
| | Gold Account | £44,869.51 | | | |
| | Solar Account ** | £63,541.91 | | | |
| | TOTAL | £109,417.53 | | | |
| ** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January | | | | | |

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