

Marchington Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on
11 February 2025 at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr J Prince, Cllr I Glover
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); 10 Members of the Public

1. The Chair's welcomed all. Apologies were noted from Cllrs Lord, Tomkins, Mann, Newstead and Hudson.
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items. Cllr Hayhurst had declared an interest in item 7a ii. P/2024/01383 (Bagshaws) application.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 14 January 2025 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. Public Forum
 - a) A resident neighbouring Marchington Village Hall expressed concerns about any disruption to the boundary. A Japanese Knotweed van had been seen, and it was verified that this had been present toward the top of the carpark in the Malthouse land. Concerns will be passed on to the VHMC, however all are aware of the problem, and it has been treated.
 - b) A resident spoke about the provision of a grit bin in Church Lane due to black ice patches. There had not been a bin in this location for 10 years and SCC were not willing to provide one. SCC had indicated they may take on responsibility for filling if the Parish Council were to provide a bin. This would go on to next month's Agenda.
5. Other Organisations Updates and Reports
 - a) MP – monthly update from caseworker – update to follow in Flooding.
Ultrafast broadband: contact had been made with Connect Fibre and a map produced; the first wave will commence this September including Marchington village, Forestside, Marchington Cliff and Draycott, service expected to be rolled out during the 2nd quarter of 2026. Unfortunately, the West of Marchington Woodlands is within the BT Open-Zone area. There were therefore no plans for roll out to include Marchington Woodlands Village Hall and South. Residents in this location were encouraged to write to their MP for support.
 - b) Staffordshire County Council –
 - i. A response had been received regarding A50 diversion meetings – SCC were not present at those meetings and this had been queried. SCC's CEO advised that staff issues had impacted officers' ability to attend but this would be rectified for future meetings and the Community Highways Manager was willing to attend a meeting.
 - c) East Staffordshire Borough Council –
 - i. The Community & Civil Enforcement team would be in the area this week, hotspots for dog fouling and parking issues at Didcot Drive had been highlighted to the team to focus on and Cllr Morgan had offered to meet them.
 - ii. Cllr Hudson had advised that new Council Tax Rates will be set at their next meeting. The Maltings has at last been purchased by ESBC. He has looked into the planning application for The Bull and cannot see anything to object to. It may be that the Parish Council would like the Planning Dept to put conditions on.

Accepted on..... Signed

6. Clerk's Report was referred to and noted. Work still being carried out in Marchington Cliff.
7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
 - a) **Planning Applications Received –**
 - i. P/2024/01281 - Land adj to Moat Springs Barn, Hodge Lane, Marchington Woodlands: Formation of a new gated vehicle access to serve an existing agricultural operation (extension for comments to 13/2/25). *The existing gateway is very close to a domestic property opposite so turning is not easy and is looks to be rarely used due to impracticality. However, the application in its current format is incomplete and inaccurate. It was resolved to object to the application in its current format and request further information.*
 - ii. P/2024/01383 – (Bagshaws), High Street, Marchington: Listed Building application for the demolition of boundary wall fronting the highway and erection of 1.8m fence. *No comments, assuming for safety reasons.*
 - iii. P/2024/01302 - Bulls Head, Bag Lane, Marchington: Change of use of former public house (Sui Generis) to short term holiday let accommodation (Class C1) and retention of the bar and function space (Sui Generis). *Residents have approached MPC to advise that there had been no notices displayed in the vicinity, nor have they been posted to impacted properties. Clerk to raise this with ESBC Planning Officer.*
Councillors discussed the change of use from a 'disused' pub into a holiday let. Concerns raised around noise pollution, light pollution (from the car park) potential increase in on-street parking and associated disruption. Promises have been made but there is no management plan and therefore planning conditions should be made around these issues. Cllr Morgan to draft and circulate an objection asking for more information. The community asset value still remains, having been extended to 2027.
 - iv. P/2025/00122 - The Poplars, Hall Road, Marchington: Reduce one Juniper Tree to a height of 0.9m above ground level. *No comments.*
 - b) **Planning Applications ESBC Decisions –**
 - i. Consent: P/2024/00895 - Chestnut Corner, Church Lane, Marchington: Conversion of detached garage to form craft studio, raising of roof height and installation of front and rear dormers on existing garage to facilitate storage room, and erection of link glazed extension
 - ii. Consent: P/2024/01248 - Trees overhanging the Bulls Head, Bag Lane, Marchington: Partial reduction to lateral spread of crown to Atlas Cedar (T1) and Common Beech (T2) to an amount of 1m - 1.5m, trees overhanging the Bulls Head.
 - c) **Enforcement Issues**
 - i. Charnwood. Community & Civil Enforcement team visit will be shown the area; Cllr Morgan meeting them.
 - ii. Councillors had received reports of increased traffic in Stocks Lane and use of premises was highlighted. ESBC's Enforcement Officer is aware of issues and is investigating use of premises at Higher Stock Lane Farm; further detail is to be forwarded on activity at Lower Stock Lane Farm in relation to a new building and new track. Lighting is on for feeding animals, Enforcement to check they are downward facing lights and turned off at a certain time. There is no mention of lighting in the original planning consent.
Chairman to contact Cllr Hudson for assistance with enforcement matters.
8. Council owned property -
 - a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –
 - i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Bullock will provide an update in due course.
 - ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Bullock to provide an update in due course.

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AED – no updates.

Pesticides handling – online training courses had proved too costly. Football club pay for Silver Lane to be sprayed in June so they will be asked to add the car park to that area. A resident asked if spraying was Eco-friendly as bee-keepers are in the area – Cllr Morgan to check with contractors.

- iii. Update on Bridge – Cllr Morgan reported that groundworks were due to commence next week and the materials for the boardwalk had been ordered.

The Cricket Club had asked if they need to connect the bridge through the woodland path. Fencing will be taken out and hard core put down for a further 20 metres and is easily managed.

- iv. Cricket Club Rent Review – The Council discussed the upcoming rent review for the Cricket Club. Cllr Hayhurst noted the Club's ongoing contributions in managing and maintaining the grounds. While these efforts were acknowledged and appreciated, it was also noted that the terms of the lease require periodic rent adjustments in line with RPI. After careful consideration, it was proposed to implement an increase from 1 April 2025 in line the terms of the lease and current RPI. **Resolved** - All agreed.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Morgan reported on a successful well-attended Art Exhibition, which will hopefully return next year. Displays are up on the walls.

9. Flooding and Environment

The Working group had met in preparation for a subsequent positive site visit with the Environment Agency and our MP. Whilst the EA were reluctant to accept responsibility, they do have to maintain certain stretches. Flood alleviation improvements were discussed, and they are keen to redirect areas. Water butts may be given out to prevent water run-off from roofs. Dingle – discussed creation of nature biodiversity holding dam. Roadside ditches were the responsibility of landowners. Cllr Prince is liaising with Richard Rayson and the NFU to raise awareness of this. Several actions were taken away. They will look at the Fairford pinch point and will re-measure flows once issues further downstream were resolved. Car remnants have now been removed. There had been a good transition from Kate Kniveton to the new office. Feasibility study is needed to look at both tributaries. Severn Trent were not present. The EA had been clearing the brook behind Brookside Cottage before Christmas and a tree was being cleared.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

a) Highways issues

- i. Buttermilk Hill landslip – no updates from the Forestry Commission.
- ii. Woodroffes Cliff – logs have not yet been installed.
- iii. Gorsty Hill – Cllr Newstead to update next meeting.
- iv. Hound Hill – landowner to be approached regarding trees which are in danger of falling.

11. Finance, Chair

- a) The Schedule of Receipts and Payments was reviewed and authorised.
- b) Sponsorship of Marchington Village Festival was discussed, and it was resolved to sponsor this event in the sum of £250. Cllr Prince queried why this request does not fall under the S.137 precept grant. It was unbudgeted from miscellaneous funds. The sponsorship would be granted

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this year but the method for future applications of this nature warranted further discussion.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Forestside residents request for living Christmas Tree – agreed to place on next Agenda and check land ownership requirements.
- b) Draycott in the Clay PC – Permissive path Moreton Lane, Biffa site.
- c) Temporary closure of footpath at the Biffa site for clearance work and desilting ditches. Work to take place from 10 February for two weeks.
- d) SCC – regarding reinstatement of grit bins at The Square and St Peters Church, the latter was moved by the waterboard – deferred to next Agenda.
- e) Resident report regarding prison traffic – Clerk contacted HMP Dovegate.
- f) Solar Funds – report supplied to Solar Farm on projects supported.
MWVH - Update on Audio Visual project.
- g) Small Grants – letter of thanks received for continued support from St Peter’s Church.
- h) SPCA/NALC communications – noted as circulated.

13. Items for input onto next agenda:

Grit bins
Living Christmas Tree
Phone box – MP support.
Newfield Farm planning enforcement.

Meeting Closed at 21.10

Next Meeting : 11 March 2025, Marchington Hall, 7.30pm

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Marchington Parish Council -

Meeting Date

11/02/25

Schedule of Receipts and Payments

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	Total
02/01/25	Interest Gold Account	£71.67		
01/01/25	Interest Solar Account	£1,705.25		
11/02/25	Marchington Solar - Deed of Benefit payment		£5,000.00	
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£1,776.92	£5,000.00	£6,776.92

Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
11/02/25	Clerk Salary Travel and Expenses	£690.52	£1.93	£692.45	2745
11/02/25	J Lloyd - handyman	£40.00		£40.00	2746
11/02/25	Shires Weedfree Ltd (knotweed treatment - Orchard)	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00	2747
11/02/25	MPC - transfer from RBS current to Solar account	£5,000.00		£5,000.00	2748
11/02/25	Marchington Village Hall - hire fees 3.2.25	£30.00		£30.00	2749
11/02/25	Utttoxeter Cricket Club- Solar funding award for nets	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	2750
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£6,860.52	£21.93	£6,882.45	

	Bank Balance as at	31/01/25
	Current Account	£1,006.77
	Gold Account	£43,267.15
	Solar Account **	£65,822.01
	TOTAL	£110,095.93

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

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