

Marchington Parish Council
DRAFT Minutes of a meeting held on
14 January 2025 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr A Mann, Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr J Prince, Cllr M Lord, Cllr I Glover
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); Cllr P Atkins; 4 Members of the Public

1. The Chair's welcomed all. Apologies were noted from Cllrs Newstead, Tomkins and Hudson.
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items. Cllr Lord had declared an interest in item 7.b.i : P/2024/00463; Cllrs Mann and Morgan - 11.b Marchington Village Hall precept request.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 10 December 2024 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. Public Forum
 - a) A representative of Community Speedwatch spoke about SIDs. It was a Highways decision on suitable locations following site visits. SPCA have asked if Parish Councils can join forces to look at SIDs as a whole as a way of reducing costs. Cost was prohibitive when last considered in 2022. There is no budget for it this year so any project would be grant dependent. Solar funds cannot fund ongoing maintenance costs and solar funds are almost reaching the end of contributory payments. It is decided to lodge an interest in SPCAs parish group. Cllr Atkins advised a SID had just been installed at Watery Lane and also Ellastone PC, who may be able to provide some details of on costs. Effectiveness was also queried as CSW teams still record speeding after installation. The Blacksmiths at Birch Cross was a preferred location but a clear line of site is needed for the camera to work.

The resident also spoke about the recent flooding event at Church Lane, Silver Lane, Church Close. 2 cars had broken down and cars still coming through the roadblock. Police presence would be better as flood wardens not as effective. The resident felt the bund work had a detrimental effect. It was asked if barriers might help in the road closure. The Flood Warden Agreement is tight and was difficult to put in place. A command from the police is required to close a road with barriers but they do not return to reopen the road once water receded.

The resident reported that Severn Trent's drains are not coping – toilets became blocked and a resident had to evacuate their property. The pumping station at the sewage plant is connected; however, it is a storage tank for sewage and is not connected to surface water. Severn Trent are not responsible for flood water and the plant is not designed to take storm water.

Flood Working Group – residents are willing to help.
5. Other Organisations Updates and Reports
 - a) MP – monthly update from caseworker – there had been no response from Severn Trent but our MPs office is continually chasing them. They had written to SCC about road surfaces and the issue at Charnwood. They are also talking to Connect Fibre about superfast broadband. Residents were encouraged to approach their MP directly. We are lucky to have the Flood Warden scheme and thanks were expressed to Ian and the Flood Wardens for implementing the road closure at recent floods.
 - b) Staffordshire County Council –
 - i. Cllr Atkins advised that County's budget had increase by 1.99% overall; including 3% on social services increase. 67% of their budget goes to adult and social services with the childrens'

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budget increasing around special needs and a campaign on fostering and adoption. £50m investment on roads and backlog of repairs to be tackled. The weather has been against them as some techniques rely on dry weather. More gully emptying teams are out. The teams have to switch to gritting in cold spells. A new report tracking system is being trialled. An issue at Birch Cross had revealed a broken pipe. Separate teams are required for CCTV camera investigations; it was noted that utilities and other service providers can cause problems. Climate change grants are coming to an end.

A50 closures: these will be ongoing with major repairs due. The road will then be handed to Dept. Transport next year. Dove Bridge is being strengthened.

Flooding - Brownfield developments are taking up flood plains. Weirs and dams may help. Cllr Morgan asked about farm ditches not being cleared. SCC can enforce if ditches continue to cause flooding to houses, ie for a specific issue. Highways have the right to direct water off road onto farmland. Hedge and Ditch Rules were discussed. Advice should be sought from Staffordshire Local Resilience Forum which encourages self help and prevention measures. Cllr Atkins to find out more about the forum.

There is an Environmental Team at SCC responsible for cleaning around signs and cutting back hedges and overgrowing signage.

c) East Staffordshire Borough Council –

- i. Cllr Hudson had advised that CCF funding application were open until 31 January. Details of the Climate Action Working Group and the notification about free trees had been passed on. Cllr Newstead is in touch with Cllr Atkins about Gorsty Triangle.

6. Clerk's Report referred to and noted. Marchington Cliff is due to be inspected. A lorry got stuck and had to be towed. This prevented gritters getting to the Cliff so it had to be closed.

7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:

a) Planning Applications Received –

- i. P/2024/01248 - Trees overhanging the Bulls Head, Bag Lane: 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 (13/1/25 time extension not applicable). – *no comments*

b) Planning Applications ESBC Decisions –

- i. Refusal: P/2024/00463 - Newfield Farm, Newfield Green Road, Marchington Woodlands: Retention of use from an agricultural building for storage and distribution of marquees and associated equipment (Use Class B8) and extension of hardstanding. *Cllr Hudson has been requested to go back to enforcement.*
- ii. Consent: P/2024/00992 - Woodroffes Hall, Hodge Lane, Marchington Woodlands: 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.

c) Enforcement Issues

- i. Charnwood – our MP is chasing with SCC and ESBC.

8. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Hayhurst reported that leaves and small branches need removing. The Springies are starting to flake and chip and may need replacing next year.

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Exercise equipment needs a wash down. Our handy man has been asked to trim trees overhanging.

- ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Morgan reported that a fence panel had blown down across main entrance from a neighbouring property and needs removing. Coping stones still to be replaced.

AED – no updates.

- iii. Update on Bridge – A site meeting had taken place regarding footings and getting vehicles in without causing damage. The project is still on schedule to commence second week of February.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported that MVH are not entitled to have a brown bin. Green waste has to be disposed of elsewhere. 2026 waste will be under different scheme. Boundary issue – solicitor has found original deeds with plans of land transfer. A site visit is to take place before a case will be made.

9. Flooding and Environment

The Chairman thanked Cllr Morgan and the Wardens for all their efforts during the recent floods at all hours. Fairford and Green Lane flood at very low levels. A WhatsApp group has been set up and will work during the daytime. It is more difficult to reach people for help in the middle of the night, landlines were suggested.

A detailed response to issues raised from the Environment Agency was referred to. Suggested solutions are unaffordable and the cost of storing water was prohibitive under current Treasury rules.

The EA advised that the bund hasn't changed the flow path. Silver Lane would be the first point to flood. PFR has stopped flooding into properties. EA can support any discussion but not lead.

Cllr Mann indicated a flyer Severn Trent had posted to the Village Hall on Marchington flow research carried out – surveying performance of the sewer. A rain gauge is to be installed.

Some manhole covers had been lifted and it appeared that the sewer was blocked somewhere.

The Working Group is to be established. It would be useful to contact other local groups to compare best practices. Staffordshire Prepared and Staffs County website would also be informative to look at flood management plans.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

a) Highways issues

- i. Buttermilk Hill landslide – no updates from the Forestry Commission.
- ii. Woodroffes Cliff – logs to be installed.
- iii. Gorsty Hill – Cllr Newstead is in touch with Cllr Atkins and a site meeting is needed to look at solutions in more detail.
- iv. Hound Hill – Cllr Hayhurst to approach the landowner regarding trees which are in danger of falling.
- v. The permissive path is now open at the Biffa site.

11. Finance, Chair

- a) The Schedule of Receipts and Payments as listed in Appendix A was reviewed and authorised.

- b) 2025-26 Budget and Precept Request had been circulated.

Precept Grant requests. Cllr Prince felt the halls and churches should be supported as valuable community and historical assets. Village Halls are commercial and aim to be self-sufficient; the

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monies for the churches are for grounds maintenance. However, the budget was tight - contingency reserves are necessary, and costs are rising. After some discussion, it was resolved that:

- i. the Precept is frozen and budget accepted;
- ii. small grants – awards suggested were agreed by a majority vote;
- iii. Earmarked Reserves accepted.

Solar funding – check when these expire.

Audio visual grant for MWVH – this had not been claimed, check what the status is. Invoices were also needed for the cricket club nets claim.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Resident request for a grit bin near the Church Gates, Marchington – Clerk had referred the resident to Cllr Atkins. Cllr Atkins to enquire. There was also one by the village hall which had disappeared.
- b) SPCA/NALC communications – noted as circulated.

13. Items for input onto next agenda:

AEDs

Forestside Christmas Living Tree

Parking Didcot Drive.

Meeting Closed at 21.12

Next Meeting : 11 February 2025, Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm

Advance apologies received from Cllr Lord.

Appendix A - Schedule of Receipts and Payments

Meeting Date

14/01/25

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	
02/12/24	Interest	£80.82		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£80.82	£0.00	£80.82

Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
14/01/25	Clerk Salary Travel and Expenses	£721.48	£5.09	£726.57	2742
14/01/25	ESBC - Roadsweeping, litter and bins	£661.93	£132.39	£900.66	2743
	ESBC - Trade Refuse MVH	£106.34	£0.00		
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£1,489.75	£137.48	£1,627.23	

Bank Balance as at	31/12/24
Current Account	£1,001.21
Gold Account	£40,760.33
Solar Account **	£63,541.91
TOTAL	£105,303.45

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

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