

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

Present: Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr J Prince, Cllr I Glover, Cllr Lord, Cllr Tomkins, Cllr Mann, Cllr Newstead
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); 9 Members of the Public

1. The Chair welcomed all. There were no Apologies.
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items. Cllr Morgan had declared an interest in item 11c, Sponsorship of Marchington Village Festival.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 11 February 2025 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. Public Forum
 - a) A resident spoke about dog walkers in Silver Lane park. The resident had witnessed 9 dogs off their leads and her young grandson was approached by 3 dogs with no action be taken by the owner. One lady had 6 dogs with her. With reports of dog attacks in news and a 3-year-old being injured by a dog in Bramshall Park, the resident was concerned. Cllr Tomkins cautioned on considering any prohibition on dogs off lead and enforcement was difficult. Any dogs in the fence played area, the owners should be reported as this has a Public Space Protection Order.
5. Other Organisations Updates and Reports
 - a) MP – no update.
 - b) Staffordshire County Council – Cllr Atkins annual report had been circulated. Libraries have received more funding.
 - c) East Staffordshire Borough Council –
 - i. Public Space Protection Orders review: it was agreed to keep the existing orders in place.
 - ii. The Community & Civil Enforcement team had been in the area for 3 days. Cllr Morgan had met with them and was impressed by their diligence. Contact Cards were issued for reporting incidents. Dog walkers can be prosecuted, if the dogs are out of sight of the handler they would not be in their control. Witnesses to this were encouraged to take photos, if able, along with any other details and report to the Civil Enforcement officers. The visit included Gorsty Hill triangle. They also looked at parking at Forestside, but it was difficult to establish responsibility for the various pockets of land. Photos were taken of the issues. Cllr Bullock to put contact details in the parish magazine.
6. Clerk's Report was referred to and noted. Works are scheduled for Marchington Woodlands. White lines have been painted on Marchington Cliff.
7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
 - a) **Planning Applications Received** –
 - i. 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). *All agreed a Management plan is needed. Due to the density of housing nearby, conditions around timings, noise levels and parking were paramount. A*

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feasibility of the venue was also required. Cllr Morgan's circulated response was summarised and all agreed for the Clerk to submit this response.

- ii. P/2024/01293 - Threefields, Church Lane: Erection of a single storey front/side extension and first floor balcony to the rear elevation, alterations to fenestrations and installation of timber cladding. *No comments*
- iii. P/2025/00117 - Gable Cottage, High Street, Marchington: Overall crown reduction up to 30% on two Sycamore trees (T1 and T2) - *No comments*
- iv. P/2025/00117 - Gable Cottage, High Street, Marchington: Overall crown reduction up to 30% on one Silver Birch tree (T1) and one Sycamore tree (T2) (AMENDMENT TO TREE SPECIES) -*No comments*
- v. P/2025/00161 - Marchington Parish Hall, The Square, Marchington: Felling of Three Sorbus Trees - *No comments*
- vi. P/2025/00114 - Brookside Cottage, Church Lane, Marchington: Crown reduction to reduce 3 sycamore trees and two conifers trees by 2.5 metres in height and 0.5 metre to the side – *No comments.*

b) Enforcement Issues

- i. Charnwood. No updates.
- ii. Stocks Lane Traffic and use of premises – two properties were under investigation by the enforcement officer.
- iii. Newlands Farm – Some traffic monitoring appeared to have taken place.

8. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Mann's report had been circulated. Our handyman had pruned branches back; the grass was in good order and the area was litter free. Equipment all functioning - some moss cleaning still required.
- ii. Forestside: Cllr Mann's playground report had been circulated. No issues, equipment cleaning needed. Access path - a new fence has been put up adjacent to the playground. Half a panel on the right-hand side is still there but was not causing an obstruction. Coping stones have been installed. Football pitch and nets all look good.
AED – Cllr Lord had sent some prices on a solar powered heated cabinet for info. Wind power also discussed. Cllr Tomkins would like to identify the scope of what is needed. A Forestside resident works at the FA where some battery-operated AEDs had been supplied in error - they are being refurbished, and he has asked for Marchington to be considered. Marchington Industrial Estate - Hortons had responded positively to a plea for funding of equipment and on-costs. A suitable location was discussed. The resident had approached a neighbour at the rear of Arborfield Road. They were happy to have the equipment sited on their property wall. Any funding raised from Hortons can be used to fund the cabinet, batteries, pads, any training required. There are 7 people trained on the estate.
Living Christmas Tree request - The resident sited reasons for having a living tree as opposed to the fake tree; reducing carbon footprint; issues with stability of a fake tree. He had priced up living trees at £140 including delivery for a 7ft tree. A Licence to plant will be required along with permission of the landowner, ESBC. Idea to be raised with Cllr Hudson and enquire about accessing Community CCF Fund. Cllr Morgan suggested the same for Marchington Village Hall, possibly where the trees have been removed, he will talk to Jane. It might be more difficult at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall but they will be asked if they want one.
Request for Sean Gadsby memorial plaque. It was agreed in recognition of his community efforts; a small plaque may be installed on the post to the field to read 'Sean Gadsby Memorial

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Trail'. Resident to arrange this.

Removal of fence panel on footpath: confirmed the fence panel is not causing an obstruction.

- iii. Update on Bridge – Cllr Morgan reported that plastic element is on its way and will be a week's work once arrived. Bridge is scheduled to be in place in time for the start of the cricket season.

- iv. Cricket Club

Rent Review – the calculation had been revisited by Cllr Morgan. All agreed to the increase as re-calculated. **Resolved** - All agreed.

A Litter Pick is to be held on 6 April to fundraise for the nets.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported on healthy list of bookings including a jazz night, touring theatre, parties, dog first aid and MADS. The solicitor for the Trustees had sent a letter to the neighbouring property and it was hoped to have a face-to-face discussion. The neighbours had carried out investigations and dispute the boundary, they were disappointed not to have had an opportunity to talk directly to the Trustees.

9. Flooding and Environment

- a) Meeting with school: Cllrs Mann and Morgan had met with a senior teacher, contact numbers had been exchanged and they will be approached in the event of a flood warning.
- b) Responses from NFU – following a flood meeting with our MP, the NFU agreed to contact landowners to advise of their ditching responsibilities. Unfortunately, Richard Rayson had not provided wording, but Cllr Prince had lifted the relevant information from the SCC website, so a letter will be going out shortly.
The EA want to re-train on Flood Resilience equipment. Residents had received letters. There were no updates from Severn Trent on maintenance works being carried out. A visit to the pumping station was discussed. Cllr Morgan to chase Kevin for an update. The Working Group were awaiting a date to revisit.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) Highways issues
 - i. Buttermilk Hill landslip – no updates from the Forestry Commission. There was a large clay pile causing concern.
 - ii. Woodroffes Cliff – logs are not to be installed due to liability issues. A suggestion for relocating grit bins may assist. Clerk to ask Sam Griffiths to move the grit bin to the bottom corner.
 - iii. Gorsty Hill – Cllr Newsted reported that the white lines have been repainted. A Woodlands Working Party was suggested, and Cllrs Newsted and Lord would engage in this.
 - iv. Hound Hill – awaiting response from the landowner, other trees need cutting back.
 - v. Church Lane – the provision of a grit bin - costs to be researched. It had been removed from the church gate corner. SCC had advised that if MPC pay for a bin, they will fill it.
 - vi. Fairford bends – 3 sheep spotted but Cllrs were not aware of sheep in those fields. Cllrs felt there was not enough concern to raise with the landowner as the field is empty.

11. Finance

- a) The Schedule of Receipts and Payments was reviewed and authorised.
- b) Sponsorship of Marchington Village Festival was further discussed and resolved to sponsor - gold package.

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- c) Working Group considered to look at process behind grants and supporting village groups. Cllrs Glover, Prince and Bullock appointed to this task.
- d) MWVH Grant – request received to use A/V funding for Wifi equipment; due to the strict terms and conditions of the funding award, Cllrs felt they need to re-apply.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) The Clerk had responded to a Poplars Park resident regarding funding defibrillator equipment. MPC is attempting to find funding for equipment to be installed at Forestside.
- b) Former resident update circulated on his recycled textures business plan at Marchington Barracks.
- c) BT phonebox – Clerk had circulated the good news that BT will be keeping their telephone service at Marchington Square. Cllr Mann thanked the Clerk and for her quick response on a vandalism issue and all involved for efforts in saving the telephone service. There was no facility for coins or cards and the service appeared to be free calls at present. The box had been repainted recently and a resident offered to repaint the box again when needed.
- d) SPCA/NALC communications – noted as circulated.

13. Items for input onto next agenda:

Hedgerows B5017, at the Industrial Estate – Cllr Prince advised these will need cutting when appropriate as they are overgrowing onto the verge and path. Clerk to contact Highways Liaison.

Meeting Closed at 21.00

Next Meeting : 8 April 2025, Marchington Hall, 7.30pm

**Marchington Parish Council -
Schedule of Receipts and Payments**

Meeting Date 11/03/25

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	Total
03/02/25	Interest - Gold A/c	£71.29		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£71.29	£0.00	£71.29

Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.	Approved
11/03/25	Clerk Salary Travel and Expenses	£697.72	£1.93	£699.65	2751	
11/03/25	J Lloyd - handyman	£221.08		£221.08	2752	
11/03/25	Information Commissioner's Office	£52.00		£52.00	2753	
11/03/25	Marchington Festival - Sponsorship	£250.00		£250.00	2754	
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£1,220.80	£1.93	£1,222.73		

Bank Balance as at	28/02/25
Current Account	£1,004.32
Gold Account	£36,368.44
Solar Account **	£70,822.01
TOTAL	£108,194.77

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

Quotation Renewal		New Quarterly w/e/f 1/4/25	Last year Quarterly	Approved
		Net	Net	
ESBC	Bin emptying at Silver Lane, Didcot Drive, Forestside	679.8	661.93	

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