

Marchington Parish Council
Draft Minutes of a meeting held on
13 January 2026 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr I Morgan (Chair), Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Newstead, Cllr Lord, Cllr Prince, Cllr Mann, Cllr Glover
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); 6 Members of the Public;

1. The Chair welcomed all. Apologies received from, Cllr Bullock, MP, Cllrs Hudson and Hales.
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items.** Declarations from Cllrs Morgan and Mann - Village Hall finance item; Cllr Lord – item 7b)iii) Newfield Green Farm
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 9 December 2025 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Public Forum** – A Certificate was presented to the photography competition winner, E. Whitaker.
5. **Outside organisations reports**
 - a) MP – No new updates.
 - b) Police – Staffordshire Police had issued a new directive not to issue monthly reports but instead to signpost people to their website where crime stats were accessible.
 - c) Staffordshire County Council – Cllr Hales had reported that SCC were investigating Moreton Lane. A list of outstanding highways works had been updated. Wren Park is to be revisited. Cllr Morgan reported that SCC’s Pothole Pro Machines only prepare areas for filling later with tarmac.
 - d) ESBC –no report available.
6. **Clerk’s Report** - noted. A new bin has been requested for Hobb Lane. Hall Road was still particularly concerning as a priority. It was agreed that a firm response should be issued to Cllr. Hales’ email of 12 January, as Councillors were dissatisfied with both the reply received and the report provided. Patrick Allen to be copied in. Wren Park has been a longstanding issue, with tyres being damaged daily and the hazards considered a serious risk to public safety. Residents were encouraged to raise their concerns directly with Cllr. Hales as well. If no satisfactory action, the matter will be escalated to a higher level
7. **Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:**
 - a) **Planning Applications Received** –
 - i. P/2025/01387 - WOODROFFES HALL HODGE LANE MARCHINGTON WOODLANDS: Listed Building application for repairs and conservation to timber frame and Infill panels on the North and West Elevations – *no objections*
 - b) **ESBC Planning Decisions:**

Approved:

 - i. P/2025/00773 - 11 Windmill Drive, Marchington: Erection of first floor side extension over existing garage and conversion of garage to form living accommodation

Refused:

 - ii. P/2025/00271 - Seven Stars Farm, Stock Lane, Marchington Woodlands: Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension
 - iii. P/2025/00407 - Barn at Newfield Green Farm 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.
 - c) **Tree Preservation Orders Review** – Cllr Morgan to forward list to the Clerk.

Accepted on..... Signed

- d) **Moreton Lane Site, Draycott** – George Kearton, SCC’s Planning Regulation Officer, was investigating; he is liaising with enforcement who had met with landowner in December.
- e) **Enforcement Issues**
 - i. Stock Lane Traffic – no update on the two equestrian sites.
 - ii. Seven Stars Farm – the wall and gates had been built without consent and were believed to breach planning regulations. The planning application for the development of the site had been refused. The wall is close to the highway on a dangerous bend and adjoins a prominent footpath. Residents had questioned the height of the installation. It was agreed to highlight to ESBC Enforcement.

8. Council owned property -

a) **Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks:**

- i. Silver Lane playground - Monthly safety report: Cllr Hayhurst’s report to follow.
- ii. Forestside - Monthly playground and football pitch safety report – Cllr Newstead’s report had been circulated. The football nets were in poor order. The small gate to the camp is not shutting, this is Evans’ responsibility and should be reported to them.
- iii. Cricket Club – Cllr Hayhurst reported that dog walkers are using the cricket pitch, coming over the bridge. There was a concern that a footpath was being created over the cricket ground. Permanent signage is needed stating that this was not a public right of way, access to cricket club only; and consider fencing to channel pedestrians towards the correct footpath.

- b) **Marchington Village Hall** – Cllr Mann reported on bookings – along with steady regulars, the hall was hired for a family Christmas lunch; a funeral wake, a family christening. Quotes are sought for the main hall internal decoration.

9. Flooding and Environment

- a) Cllr Prince; Cllr Gary Hales had been alerted to lack of response from Jamie Cooper. Andrew Brett had picked it up who is putting together a works package to deliver flow sensors - Marchington is being considered with locations identified. B5017 flow, debris was reported on the roadside. Alex Knight, Flood Drainage Engineer from Staffordshire County Council is organising investigating that stretch of the brook which can only be accessed from the highway side. It was worth putting the Severn Trent Flood Officer in touch with the landowner.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) A50 Roadworks – no updates.
- b) Woodroffes Cliff – posts are to be installed, date unknown. The road is currently closed.
- c) Gorsty Hill Triangle - A licence to plant to be completed, along with a scope of works. The carriageway requires reinstatement with kerbs. Works will involve SCC Highways alongside MPC planting and landscaping. Cllrs will liaise with MWWH to distribute flyers at the Valentines event to encourage community involvement. Local skills (e.g. a carpenter) will be sought to help with bollards, a bench and noticeboards; the prison woodworking shop may also be approached.
- d) Hound Hill – tree canopy to be chased.
- e) Footpath off Hall Road – outstanding.
- f) Speed Indicator Devices – Councillors discussed their effectiveness and placement, agreeing the Blacksmith’s site was unsuitable due to road bends. Several councillors felt the devices offered limited benefit for their cost, as drivers tend to ignore them over time. There was broader support for using a police mobile speed camera and the Speedwatch team, with the view that enforcement would be more effective. It was noted that data from mobile cameras could be shared with highways to support further action. All agreed not to pursue a SID but campaign for police mobile camera.

11. Finance

- a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.
- b) Draft Budget & Precept request –
 Councillors discussed the need to increase the precept due to a tight surplus and upcoming costs, including possible playground refurbishments. Recent solar funding applications had been for small amounts and the Councillors discussed the possibility of changing the criteria. Cllr Hayhurst felt the solar fund was a one-off windfall that should not cover routine village maintenance. It was noted that significant funding would be required for Forestside play area refurbishment, potentially supported by grants and match funding. Local Government Reorganisation could also increase future costs to MPC. A three-year financial plan, including proposed use of solar funds, will help determine the precept requirement going forward.
 The budget and precept increase with options of 0%; 5% and 10% were considered. It was resolved by a majority to accept the budget with an increase to the precept of 5%. A 3-year plan including a playground project to be formed before the year end.
 Grants were agreed as proposed with the award to Marchington Village Hall altered to £1200.

12. Correspondence and communications - noted

- a) Grit bin Church Lane. Following SCC's stance not to fill the bin at Church Lane it was agreed to move it to Woodroffe's Cliff. Clerk to contact SCC to ensure the bin will be filled.

13. Items requested for input onto next agenda:

- a) Charnwood if and when any updates received.
- b) 34 Church Lane - excavation

Next Meeting : 10 February 2026, Marchington Village Hall

Meeting Closed: 21.40

Marchington Parish Council -		Meeting Date	13/01/26		
Schedule of Receipts and Payments					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar A/c	Total	
01/12/25	Interest - Gold A/c	£60.05			
01/01/26	Interest - Solar A/c		1,333.33		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£60.05	£1,333.33	£1,393.38	
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
13/01/26	Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£754.80	£4.93	£759.73	2809
13/01/26	ESBC - Inv 779557 - Trade Refuse	£109.20		£924.96	2810
13/01/26	ESBC - Inv 779598- Sweeping & Litter bins	£679.80	£135.96		
13/01/26	M. Johnson	£458.33	£91.67	£550.00	2811
13/01/26	M. Flavell	£399.99		£399.99	2812
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£2,402.12	£232.56	£2,634.68	
Bank Balance					
	Current Account	£1,008.56			
	Gold Account	£48,450.28			
	Solar Account	£61,861.92			
	TOTAL	£111,320.76			