

Marchington Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bicknell, Cllr Bullock, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Mann, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Nixon,
Cllr Roberts, Cllr Tomkins.
Cllr Hudson 8.40pm to 10pm

Clare Nash, Parish Clerk
6 Members of the Public

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for absence received – None
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – Cllr Morgan is on Marchington Festival Committee – no vote on Item: 15
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023 were signed as a true record. Proposed: Cllr Hayhurst
Seconded: Cllr Nixon
4. Public Forum
5. Marchington Woodlands Permanent Agenda Item – Fire brigade have been checking hydrants. **Action Cllr Hayes to let Clerk know if any missed out.**
MWVH committee enquired if permission is required from SCC Highways to plant bulbs in the verge outside the village hall?
Action: Clerk to contact highways and let MWVH know.
6. Forestside Permanent Agenda Item - None received
7. Other Organisations – Reports received from outside organisations.
 - a) **ESBC** – *(This item took place after Item 10)* Cllr Hudson reported that ESBC Council Tax will be set at the Full Council meeting on 20th February. ESBC disappointed that did not get any of the levelling up fund from central government but will apply for Levelling Up 3 Funding. He notified the PC of a Village Enhancement Scheme which will run from 6th Feb – 12th April, fund of £750K over 2 years. Grants available for projects to enhance the villages – no match funding will be required. **Action: Cllr Hudson to send details when available.** Cllr Hudson reminded Cllrs that the Maltings Development consultation is ongoing & opinions are being sought from local residents. Referring to item 20. on the agenda he advised that it will be necessary to check with SCC Highways.
 - b) **Staffordshire Police** – previously circulated. Cllrs expressed concern about thefts of farm vehicles. Cllrs have heard that a new inspector responsible for rural policing is hoping to try a different approach.
8. To consider planning applications and receive planning decisions review planning appeals and enforcement issues.
 - a) Planning Applications Received –
 - i) **P/2022/00581 - Proposal:** Retention of a boundary wall and fence and CCTV Cameras
Location: Charnwood, Silver Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LL **Comments:** MPC strongly objects to this proposal on the grounds that there is no requirement in this area for a high fence & security cameras and has gathered evidence to support this.
 - ii) **P/2023/00039 - Proposal:** Reduction in height of conifer hedge to 3m, crown reduction in height to 3m to 2 Yew trees on embankment of rear garden, felling of 3 Hawthorn trees on embankment in rear garden. **Location:** 31 Woodland Views, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8NF **Comments:** MPC is concerned that this proposal could affect the stability of the bank and reduction in height of yew trees is possibly too severe.
 - iii) **P/2022/01434 - Proposal:** Installation of a flood door on the front elevation. **Location:** Church House, Church Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ **Comments:** MPC strongly supports this proposal. The property is subject of frequent flooding and the house opposite has a similar flood door.
 - iv) **P/2023/00013 - Proposal:** Conversion of existing garage into additional living accommodation with associated link extension. Front, and rear extensions to main dwelling, addition of a gable with Juliet balcony to rear, dormer to the principal elevation and raising of the ridge level to accommodate a loft conversion and external alterations to include cladding. **Location:** The Orchard, Allens Lane, Marchington, ST14 8LA **Comments:** MPC objects strongly to this proposal on the grounds of invasion of privacy to neighbouring properties, insufficient parking for a large house, potential for property to become an HMO with increased parking issues & objects to the principle of retrospective planning permission.
 - v) **P/2023/00025 - Proposal:** Prior Approval for the conversion of an agricultural building and part of an agricultural building to a Flexible Commercial Use (Class E) **Location:** Dove Fields, Station Road, Draycott in the Clay,

Staffordshire, DE6 5GX **Grid Ref:** 415403 331179 **Comments:** MPC has no objection to this planning proposal provided increased traffic will not affect the public footpath and assuming all environmental issues are considered.

- vi) **P/2023/00084 - Proposal:** Change of Use from Children's Care Home (C2) to Residential Care Home for one person between the ages of 16-25 (Class C2) **Location:** 1 Apple Tree Cottage, Smallwood Manor, Uttoxeter Road, Netherland Green, Staffordshire, ST14 8NS **Comments:** No comments
- vii) **P/2023/00076 - Proposal:** Change of Use from Children's Care Home to Residential Care Home for one person between the ages of 16-25 **Location:** The Lodge, Smallwood Manor, Uttoxeter Road, Netherland Green, Staffordshire, ST14 8NS **Comments:** No comments
- viii) **P/2023/00085 - Proposal:** Change of Use from Children's Care Home (C2) to Residential Care Home for one person between the ages of 16-25 (Class C2). **Location:** 2 Apple Tree Cottage, Smallwood Manor, Uttoxeter Road, Netherland Green, Staffordshire, ST14 8NS **Comments:** No comments
- ix) **P/2022/01309 – Amendment to Proposal:** Conversion and alteration of existing outbuilding to form a holiday let. **Location:** Outbuilding at, Dog and Partridge, Church Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ **Comments:** MPC objects to this proposal on grounds of safety (front door opens directly into Church Lane), effect on roadside parking in Church Lane and lack of rain water drainage.

a) Decisions Received –

- i) **P/2022/01230** - Retention of 2 portable cabins and flue for use as a staff canteen with associated covered outdoor seating area. Location Marchington Industrial Estate, Stubby Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LP **Decision:** Permitted
- ii) **P/2022/01336** Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling and detached garage on with all matters reserved land adjacent to Frostfields, Silver Lane, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8LL **Decision:** Delegated report – Refused.
- iii) **P/2022/01364** Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the continued use of Smallwood Manor as a C2 Residential Institutions. **Decision:** Lawful
- iv) **P/2022/01124** - Retention of 4x roof lights and replacement windows. Brookside House, Church Lane, Marchington, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 8LJ **Decision:** Permitted

b) Enforcement Updates – None

9. Uttoxeter Maltings Development Consultation - Chair reminded everyone of the opportunity to view the proposals at Uttoxeter Town Hall.

10. Council owned property – Reports received & actions required.

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks -

- i) Silver Lane playground monthly safety report, Cllr Mann – Fence has been vandalised, it will be repaired along with the replacement posts by the handyman. Water hydrant trip hazard noted by the kissing gate – to be fixed by handyman.
- ii) Forestside playground and football pitch monthly safety report, Cllr Tomkins. All ok. Football pitch grass is growing.
- iii) Silver Lane Playing Field & dogs – Dog wardens have visited and spoken to dog walkers. If a continuous problem, PC may look at making it a 'dogs on leads only' area. Professional dog walkers are advertising lead free walking in Marchington. **Action: Cllr Bullock to send clerk information so clerk can ask dog warden to contact them.**

- b) Marchington Village Hall, Cllr Mann reported that the planning application for the replacement canopy has been passed subject to certain things. VH committee is fund raising for this currently.

Cllr Hudson arrived at 8.40pm

c) Cricket Club

- i) Tree survey - quotes have been obtained from 4 companies, much variation in price. **Action: Clerk to check references and contact St Peter's Church & Tina at UTC for advice.**
- ii) National Grid - requesting consent to access Cricket Club ground to trim trees, clerk requested more information. **Action: Clerk to forward when received.**

- d) Rents for Cricket Club & Parish Garden - Following a discussion, it was decided that professional advice is required on the CC lease. **Action: Cllr Hayhurst.** Parish Garden is being well maintained and no need to review rent.
- e) TTTV Meeting - Cllr Morgan recently attended an open meeting for grant recipients & heard about bumblebee walks/ community walks which may be of interest to residents.

11. Flooding, Chair

- a) Closing the Gap - done
- b) Gully clearing – Many blocked gullies have been reported by clerk & residents, but SCC gully crews are 5 months behind and it looks like it will be mid-end April before they will get to Marchington. Pressure from MPC has escalated a few to the 'AdHoc' list and these will be done sooner.

12. Fibre Broadband – Karen Perrins reported that 10th Feb was the date for the scheme to be put forward but heard today that Marchington scheme has not been put forward. Very disappointing. MP has convened a meeting on 10th March with all parties to discuss options. Draycott in the Clay is in the same position. PC has talked to LilaConnect and is awaiting response.
13. Finance, Chair
To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A
Proposed – Cllr Bullock
Seconded – Cllr Nixon
14. A Parish Council grant fund to encourage village celebrations for the King's Coronation (similar to the Platinum Jubilee Fund) was discussed. It was proposed to set aside £1000 of funding and to encourage residents to apply. Vote taken: 8 Councillors voted for the proposal.
15. Sponsorship of £250 for Marchington Village Festival has been requested from the Parish Council. Vote taken: Unanimous for the proposal (Cllr Morgan had no vote)
16. Parish Council Elections. Chair informed everyone that nominations must be in by 4pm on 4th April. Photo ID will be required for these elections. Marchington Parish Council is warded and requires 7 Councillors from the village/Forestside and 2 Councillors to represent the Woodlands (set by ESBC) Clarity is required on the rules for standing as Councillor. **Action: Clerk**
17. Internal Auditor – the previous internal auditor has retired and Parish Council is looking for another suitably qualified person to carry out this role in a voluntary capacity. If no-one is found it will have to pay for this service.
18. The costs, benefits & design of noticeboards for playing fields were discussed. It was decided to get more quotes. **Action: Clerk**
- 19. Highways and Footpath issues**
- a. Highways issues
- i. Flooding & pothole on B5017 at Birch Cross – Despite representations by the PC & residents to Cllr Atkins, Cllr Hudson and our MP no action has yet been taken to address the flooding nor to repair the pothole and the traffic lights have been removed by SCC Highways. Cllrs expressed their anger & frustration at the situation and concern that a fatality could occur here. The pothole is scheduled for repair 17th February however the pothole opposite Stocks Lane will not be repaired at the same visit. Cllrs expressed incredulity. Cllr Hudson agreed to lend his support to this. **Action: Clerk to send photos to Cllr Hudson.** Flooding issue remains, however. Cllr Hudson explained that all areas of the county have issues and finance is limited. SCC Highways contact believes that the problem is a blocked ditch in Stocks Lane and blocked gully under the road leading to it. PC has been informed that ditch clearing is scheduled for 15th March and will be followed by gully clearing. **Actions: Clerk to email Cllr Atkins and senior SCC Highways Director; Cllr Hudson to send Clerk senior contacts at SCC Highway; Clerk to send details to Cllr Roberts.**
- ii. Chevron at Birch Cross – still not done despite Clerk chasing up. Reports of recent accidents on the cliff, Chevrons knocked down here. **Action: Clerk to report.**
- iii. CSW signs & speed indicator signs – ongoing
- iv. Potholes – SCC say Hound Hill will be fixed soon.
- b. Footpaths, Clerk
- i. Footpath reinstatement -To receive an update, Cllr Hayhurst - moved to March meeting.
20. Chapel Triangle, fence proposal to be discussed, Cllr Nixon – moved to march meeting.
21. HMP Dovegate, Chair
- a. Invitation to attend Industries Open Meeting on 28th February 2023 – Cllr Nixon offered to attend
- b. Meeting with Prison Director. – Cllr Morgan & Cllr Mann to attend.
22. Correspondence, Clerk
- i) Resident – regarding planning boundary in Marchington
- ii) Environment Agency – Re: Flood Risk Activity Permits for the proposed footbridge – none required.
- iii) Residents – re B5017 flooding and pothole.
- iv) Cllr Atkins – re B5017 flooding and pothole.
- v) Consultation on Staffordshire Division Boundaries –
- vi) SCC Boundary Changes – Briefing via Teams on 16th February at 6pm
23. Urgent items for input onto the 14th March 2023 meeting

Meeting ended 10pm

Date of Next Meeting – 14th March 2023

Appendix A - February 2023					
Date	Monies received:	£			
03/01/23	Interest	£38.76			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£38.76			
Invoice Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No
19/01/23	MidMC Computers (Microsoft 365 Business annual subs + setup)	£265.88	£53.18	£319.06	2581
31/01/23	Clerk salary	£568.40	£0.00	£630.54	2580
31/01/23	Clerk travel and expenses	£60.48	£1.66		
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£894.76	£54.84	£949.60	
	As of 31st January 2023				
	Current Account	£1,006.06			
	Gold Account	£35,292.79			
	Solar Account	£55,763.16			
		£92,062.01			
	Solar Account Transfers				
Note: Quarterly inspection of accounts carried out in January by Cllr Hayes					
Identified that VAT cannot be claimed for defibrillator spares for MWVH (in January 2023 payments)					