

Marchington Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on
13th May 2025 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr H Bullock, Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr J Prince, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mann

7 Members of the Public

1. **Election of Chair and signature to Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**
Cllr Morgan was nominated by Cllr Mann seconded by Cllr Hayhurst. There being no other nominations, Cllr Morgan duly accepted the office of Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. **Election of Vice Chair:**
Cllr Hayhurst was nominated by Cllr Morgan seconded by Cllr Mann. There being no other nominations Cllr Hayhurst duly accepted the position of Vice Chair for the ensuing year.
3. **Election of Finance Officer:**
Cllr Glover was nominated by Cllr Prince, seconded by Cllr Hayhurst. There being no other nominations, Cllr Glover was duly appointed as Finance Officer for the ensuing year.
4. **Election of Marchington Village Hall MC Representative:**
Cllr Mann was nominated by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Hayhurst. There being no other nominations, Cllr Mann duly accepted the position of Marchington Village Hall Representative for the ensuing year.
5. **Apologies for Absence** were recorded from Parish Cllrs Newstead, Tomkins and Glover; Borough Cllr Hudson and Jacob Collier MP.
6. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items:** none received.
7. **Minutes:** Subject to some minor alterations referred to, the Minutes of 8 April 2025 were accepted. These would be signed as a true record following amendments upon the Clerk's return.
8. **Public Forum –**
 - a) A member of the public spoke about plans for camping pods at her Moisty Lane property. The initial idea is to have 3 camping pods on the field behind the menage accommodating 2 couples and 1 family pod to be low key and of high quality. Visitors will be able to enjoy the village and activities in the local area. Facilities would include toilets, showers and possibly hot tubs; water treatment may be included to assist with this. It would not be for stag and hen parties. The development might bring work into the village, but noise and light pollution should be considered.
9. **Policy & Governance Review:**
 - a) Code of Conduct for Councillors – adopted with no changes.
 - b) Standing orders – changes in line with NALC template adopted.
 - c) Financial Regulations – changes in line with new model regulations issued by NALC adopted.

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- d) Grant Awarding Policy – Cllrs agreed that rather than mention specific areas within the parish, for the avoidance of doubt, all parts of the parish should be referred to. Some minor amendments discussed and re-draft to be brought to the June meeting for review.
 - e) General Privacy Notice – adopted with no changes
 - f) Publication Scheme - adopted with no changes
 - g) Complaints Procedure - adopted with no changes
 - h) Retention of Documents Policy - adopted with no changes
10. The Council's Asset Register remained unchanged and was accepted. The asset value of the cricket club was to be checked. The new footbridge would be added to next years' asset register.
11. Council's and Staff subscriptions to other bodies – list reviewed and accepted subject to correcting the number of grounds maintenance visits to 14 per season.
12. Internal Auditor appointment for the year – it was resolved to appoint David Daniels.
13. Arrangements for the annual playground inspections were reviewed and two quotations considered; it was resolved that the Clerk should place an order with the Playground Inspection Company.
14. The list of ordinary meetings of the Full Council for the year were noted and accepted as circulated.
15. **Other Organisations Updates and Reports**
- a) MP – email received from Carol Pickering.
 - b) Staffordshire County Council – a message from our outgoing Cllr, Philip Atkins, had been circulated.
 - c) East Staffordshire Borough Council – no updated received.
16. **The Clerk's Report** was referred to and noted.
Wren Park – Concerns had been raised about the deterioration of the road. Some work that had been completed on the work will not last.
17. **Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:**
- a) Planning Applications Decisions – Approvals by ESBC Planning**
 - i. P/2025/00164 - Bridge Cottages, Church Lane Marchington: Raising of ridge height to detached garage to facilitate first floor extension for home office and storage and conversion of ground floor to form craft/hobby room– extension of time to respond to 15 May.
Following some discussion, it was agreed to object on the grounds of impact on the conservation area; the height of the garage roof which in the current proposal would match the height of the main dwelling; overlooking and privacy concerns due to the placement of the window on the first floor; potential harm to a nearby protected tree and concerns about the driveway and access.
 - ii. P/2025/00271 - Seven Stars Farm, Stock Lane, Marchington Woodlands: Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. No comments.
 - b) Planning Decisions, Approved by ESBC:**
 - i. P/2025/00114- Brookside Cottage, Church Lane, Marchington: Crown reduction to reduce 3 sycamore trees and two conifer trees by 2.5 metres in height and 0.5 metre to the side
 - c) Enforcement Issues**

The Clerk had written to ESBC regarding concerns that retrospective applications may never transpire and querying how long they wait to enforce – no response.

 - i) Charnwood. A letter had been sent by SCC in February 2025 advising that the wall had been built in the wrong place.
 - ii) Stocks Lane Traffic and use of premises, no update.

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iii) Newlands Farm. Planning application received and an extension requested until June.

18. Council owned property -

- a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –
 - i. **Silver Lane playground report:** Cllr Prince report was reviewed.
 - ii. **Forestside playground report:** Cllr Lord report was reviewed.
Living Christmas Tree - Clerk had written to ESBC to enquire about permission needed, no response. Cllr Morgan asked Janey about trees that would be ideal for these locations.
 - iii. **Update on Bridge:** Completed and open for use.
 - iv. **Cricket Club** – request for an asbestos report. The cricket club had been asked to get the council 3 quotes and then Cllr Bullock will bring to the next meeting.
- b) **Marchington Village Hall** – Cllr Mann reported they had applied to the Lottery Fund and Leek Building Society for solar panels for the roof. It may be possible to include 1 EV car charging point. Boundary – their solicitor is looking at a response to the neighbours.

19. Flooding and Environment

Cllr Morgan – nothing new to report and this will be chased to ensure momentum restored. Talks have taken place with County about Green Lane. Cllrs agreed it was worth writing to the new County Cllr to make him aware of the on-going issues. A new heavy weighted road closure sign was needed. Cllr Morgan, Cllr Mann and Cllr Prince to arrange a meeting with local residents.

20. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) Highways issues
 - i. Buttermilk Hill landslide – no update.
 - ii. Woodroffes Cliff – this will be taken up with our new County Councillor.
 - iii. Gorsty Hill – Cllrs Newstead had met with County Liaison Officer, [report to follow].
 - iv. Hound Hill – Site meeting with landowner, Cllr Morgan report this is still to take place.
 - v. Bridge – Dog & Partridge someone has backed into the bridge and the support has been damaged – Cllr Morgan to report via mystaffs app.

21. Finance

- a) The Schedule of Receipts, Payments and Quotations was reviewed and authorised.
The payment to Colshaw Construction was split into two cheques due to mobile banking issues for them.
Solar farm deed of benefit payments – end point to be clarified.

22. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Resident requested update on Woodroffe's Cliff risk. Clerk responded.
- b) Copy resident letter x 2 to ESBC and Cllr Atkins requesting Stubby Lane weight restriction - Clerk responded.
- c) Residents' complaints x 2 regarding Forestside football pitch grass cutting; Clerk raised with contractor
- d) Copy update received on individual's plans for Forestside Camp
- e) Solar meeting – Stowe-by-Chartley Parish request to attend the meeting on 19 May. It was agreed Cllr Bullock to respond giving apologies but asking them to include us in other meetings and actions going forward.

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23. Items for input onto next agenda:

- a) Forestside Camp – Clerk to contact Mr Payne
- b) AED Forestside. It was agreed to contact the resident for an update.

Meeting Closed at 21.09

Next Meeting : 10 June 2025, Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm

Marchington Parish Council -		Meeting Date	13/05/25		
Schedule of Receipts and Payments					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	Total	
01/04/25	Interest - Gold A/c	£53.61			
15/04/25	National Grid Wayleave	£26.79			
15/04/25	Parish Garden Rent	£40.00			
17/04/25	ESBC - 1st half Precept	£16,877.69			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£16,998.09	£0.00	£16,998.09	
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
13/05/25	Clerk Salary Travel and Expenses	£940.26	£1.93	£942.19	2765
13/05/25	J Lloyd - handyman				
13/05/25	SPCA & NALC Subscription	£321.73		£321.73	2766
13/05/25	IAE - kissing gate	£721.02	£144.20	£865.22	2767
13/05/25	Marmax Products Ltd - boardwalk	£105.00	£21.00	£126.00	2771
13/05/25	Cowlishaw Construction Ltd - bridge construction	£10,730.00	£2,146.00	£12,876.00	2769
13/05/25	Marchington Village Hall - 1/2 precept grant award	£500.00		£500.00	2761
13/05/25	Marchington Woodlands Village Hal - 1/2 precept grant award	£500.00		£500.00	2672
13/05/25	St John's Church - 1/2 precept grant award	£750.00		£750.00	2763
13/05/25	St Peter's Church - 1/2 precept grant award	£750.00		£750.00	2764
13/05/25	Perennial Landscapes	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2770
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£15,779.00	£2,405.33	£18,184.33	
	Bank Balance as at	30/04/25			
	Current Account	£1,003.56			
	Gold Account	£49,161.40			
	Solar Account **	£69,822.01			
	TOTAL	£119,986.97			
** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January					

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