

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

Present: Cllr I Morgan (Chair), Cllr J Prince, Cllr Mann, Cllr Newstead, Cllr Glover, Cllr Lord, Cllr Bullock
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); 7 Members of the Public;

1. The Chair welcomed all. Apologies received from Cllrs Alan Tomkins, Julia Hayhurst, Gareth Hales, Philip Hudson, and our MP.
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items.** None received.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 10 June 2025 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. Public Forum – nothing received.
5. MP – Cllr Prince to query the funding of £5000 which was stated to be for training on flood equipment, all agreed this could be put to better use on flood defences. Aston Bridge - the parapets were being repaired but concerns remained about cracks in the structure.
Staffordshire County Council – the bridge over the brook at the Dog & Partridge had been inspected and works raised. It was reported that the water is out at Woodroffes Cliff.
ESBC – Cllr Morgan advised the changes to the 2-tier system would not be realised until 2028.
Staffordshire included 13 local authorities; one plan had already been rejected by central government.
Cllr Hudson is monitoring the situation at Newfield Green and Stocks Lane farms.
6. Clerk's Report referred to and noted. It was noted some reports were now over a year old and Cllrs Morgan and Glover offered to re-inspect and advise on any changes.
Hound Hill – Cllr Morgan is liaising with one of the landowners. Unstable trees are a concern, and the tree canopy is overhanging the road completely. The issues had been reported to Highways and a tree inspector will be attending. The road will need to be closed to carry out any works to the trees.
7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
 - a) **Planning Applications Received –**
 - i. P/2025/00621 - The Cottage, Bag Lane, Marchington: Felling of three Sycamore trees (T1, T2 & T3) – response time extended to 9 July – *Cllrs could see no valid reason for the felling of the protected trees and therefore object to the application preferring the option of having the trees appropriately trimmed and managed by a qualified tree surgeon.*
 - b) **Enforcement Issues**
 - i. Charnwood – no response to further enquiry.
 - ii. Cllr Hayhurst reported plant pots on the highway, details to be forwarded to the Clerk to report.
Community Enforcement had not been in the area following their last visit. Conservation area issues were still evident. A resident mentioned a lawn which had been dug up. Issues to be followed up with Community Enforcement and Cllr Hudson.
 - iii. Stock Lane Traffic - traffic monitoring had been taking place at the junction; query with David Ward and Gareth Hales.

Accepted on..... Signed

8. Council owned property -

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

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Morgan's report summarised.
A top board on the multi-play unit needed attention as it was lifting up.
Picnic Bench replacement; this had been demolished at the festival and a replacement was recommended. Cllr Morgan to obtain costs, through to be circa £120 each. Cllr Bullock to enquire re cricket club bench prices.
- ii. Forestside: Cllr Bullock to forward a report.
Living Christmas Tree request – following the Borough Councils concerns about tree maintenance, it was thought a specialist tree surgeon could be employed by MPC if required.
AED - funding to be sourced.
- iii. Cricket Club: it was reported the car park is being used more now that the bridge is in place.
The Club are looking at Smallwood for junior teams' winter play, but the site required a lot of work. It may be possible to get disability grants from ESBC and the FA. Nets are constantly in use. Cllrs to meet with the club regarding the area behind the Poplars and agree use.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported on bookings - the Jazz event was a low attendance. Along with quizzes, talks, dog first aid, MADS, the venue continues to offer wide ranging activities. The Committee are looking into Lottery grant funding for solar panels. Planning/Conservation area permission would be needed.
A neighbouring resident raised concerns regarding ongoing boundary discussions. It was noted that the matter is currently being handled by solicitors, and a proposed way forward will be shared with the Parish Council. Historical evidence, including aerial imagery, had been referenced in relation to the dispute. Residents expressed concern over the impact of the issue and the process being followed. A meeting with residents is to be arranged next week to discuss next steps. The Council aims to follow due process to safeguard community interests.
Another resident advised that the security light had been left on and is disturbing their property. This will be addressed.

9. Flooding and Environment

- a) Cllr Prince advised that further information was awaited from the EA. She will be chasing this along with the funding from our MP.
A resident asked about farmers clearing ditches. It was confirmed information had been sent to farms but MPC have no enforcement powers. This kind of work is generally carried out later in the year.
It was reported our flood wardens had a new recruit who may also join Speedwatch.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

a) **Highways issues**

- i. A50 Roadworks were on schedule. Richard Rayson to be chased for further signage.
- ii. Woodroffes Cliff – Clerk had pressed Sam Griffiths for a decision on the placement of grit bins; a meeting is pending for a decision on this.
- iii. Gorsty Hill triangle – Cllr Newstead and Cllr Lord were working on a scheme and will liaise with Sam Griffiths. SCC works are scheduled between Gorsty Hill and Wren Park.
- iv. Hound Hill – item discussed at (6)

11. Finance

- a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.
- b) Migration to .gov.uk website and emails. One quote received, Clerk to chase for others.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Resident report of noise disturbance at Industrial Estate – Clerk referred to EHO.
- b) Barton Parish Council were looking for a coordinated response to rural housing developments, and importance of better impact assessments. Marchington has its Neighbourhood plan which hadn't been rejected so far. The brownfield land at the Industrial Estate could be targeted. Developers appeared to be taking advantage of changes at SCC. It was suggested to contact SPCA for their approach as the issue appeared to be bigger than just EBSC planning processes.

13. Items for input onto next agenda: none received.

A Resident enquired about SIDS. Grant funding will be needed.

Meeting Closed at 20.42

Next Meeting : 12 August 2025, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Marchington Parish Council - Schedule of Receipts and Payments		Meeting Date	08/07/25		
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	Total	
02/06/25	Interest - Gold A/c	£69.18			
27/06/25	Solar Deed of Benefit Payment Marchington Solar Farm	£5,000.00			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£5,069.18	£0.00	£5,069.18	
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
08/07/25	Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£728.42	£1.93	£730.35	2776
08/07/25	Handyman - May	£142.91		£622.66	
08/07/25	Handyman - June	£479.75			2777
08/07/25	Perennial Grounds maintenance contract Inv 9692	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2778
08/07/25	Michael Johnson Tree Surgery Inv 302	£660.00	£132.00	£1,264.00	
08/07/25	Michael Johnson Tree Surgery Inv 302	£393.33	£78.67		2779
08/07/25	ESBC - Roadsweeping and litter picking 778124	£679.80	£135.96	£924.96	
08/07/25	ESBC - trade refuse collection 778296	£109.20			2780
08/07/25	Marchington Parish Council - transfer to Leek B.S. Solar fund	£5,000.00		£5,000.00	2781
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£8,654.40	£440.76	£9,095.16	
Bank Balance as at 30 May 2025					
	Current Account	£1,006.72			
	Gold Account	£36,525.38			
	Solar Account **	£69,822.01			
	TOTAL	£107,354.11			
** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January					

Accepted on..... Signed