

Marchington Parish Council
Draft Minutes of a meeting held on
9 December 2025 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr I Morgan (Chair), Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Bullock, Cllr Newstead, Cllr Lord, Cllr Prince, Cllr Mann
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); Staffordshire County Cllr Gary Hales; 5 Members of the Public;

1. The Chair welcomed all. Apologies received from, Cllr Glover, MP, Cllr Hudson.
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items.** Chairman and Cllr Mann 11b, Solar Fund application
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 11 November 2025 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Public Forum**
5. **Outside organisations reports**
 - a) MP – No new updates.
 - b) Police – An update on the PCSO review had been circulated.
 - c) Staffordshire County Council – Cllr Hales reported on his DHP meeting with Highways; Woodroffe’s Cliff - posts with reflectors will be installed to address the safety issue, no timescale has been set as yet. Local Government Reorganisation – agreement across all parties was that they didn’t want LGR for Staffordshire in any form of split.
Highways condition - The Cabinet is trying to go through the Amey contract to find a way of holding them accountable for temporary works that fail. The aim is to do whole roads together rather than one hole here and there. A list of our reports to be sent to Cllr Hales; Cllr Prince added that there are several reports on Wren Park including a new one added today. Cllr Hales mentioned that James Bailey is a good contact on these.
 - d) ESBC –no report available.
6. Clerk’s Report noted. A diversion route through Buttermilk Hill is a concern as it is not up to standard for extra traffic.
7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
 - a) **Planning Applications Received –**
 - 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 (respond by 24/11)
- *Cllr Mann advised that a neighbour strongly objected to the original design but were satisfied with this revised design on the original footprint – no objections raised.*
 - ii. P/2025/01261 - DOG AND PARTRIDGE CHURCH LANE MARCHINGTON: Installation of roof mounted solar panels to the front elevation on existing outbuilding (respond by 5/12/25) – *no objections.*
 - b) **ESBC Decisions noted –**
Approved:
 - i. P/2025/00832 - 28 Woodland Views, Marchington: Erection of first floor front and first floor rear extensions.
 - ii. P/2025/01196 - ST PETERS CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, MARCHINGTON: Felling of one Conifer tree (T2) and reduce one Conifer tree by 5 metres (T1).

Accepted on..... Signed

iii. P/2025/01210 - THE FIRS, 4 JACKS LANE, MARCHINGTON: Felling of one Leylandii tree.

- c) **Tree Preservation Orders Review** – The triangle in the Woodlands may be worth protecting. Cllr Morgan to draw up a list for a final proposal in January.
- d) **Moreton Lane Site, Draycott** – Cllr Hardwick had reported that a decision would be go to SCC if minerals were involved, they had received no application to date. MPC's concerns had been raised with ESBC's enforcement officer who was looking into it. Copy Cllr Hales in with correspondence including social media comms.
- e) **Enforcement Issues**
 - i. Stock Lane Traffic – no update.

8. Council owned property -

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

- i. Silver Lane playground:
Monthly safety report – Cllr Mann reported generally in good order.
National Grid, permission granted for tree works to clear lines.
- ii. Forestside:
Monthly playground and football pitch safety report – Cllr Morgan found to be in good order apart from moss and bracken which needs cutting back.
Cllr Prince asked when action would be taken on any recommendations for the annual inspection; it was felt items are all functional but will need replacing in time. The Solar fund could contribute to new equipment.
- iii. The Cricket Club will be open Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, raising funds for the club.
They will be using Smallwood Manor for the Junior team and friendlies.

- b) **Marchington Village Hall** – Cllr Mann reported that solicitors had drafted an agreement on the boundary issue but it was still to be finalised. Planning application for solar panels – the Borough had asked for more information. MVH will pay the fee of £298 directly.
The hall held a successful Christmas event last Thursday fundraising for the shop and church.

9. **Flooding and Environment**

- a) Tim Pickering was to liaise with Jamie Cooper re measurements/flows; Cllr Prince is chasing for a response. She had spoken to the farmer at Green Lane who was happy to assist but the ground is too wet for machinery on the land. Cllr Prince had found a river tributary map which will assist greatly in identifying flow into and around Marchington.
A resident reported on correspondence with the EA; after clearance works, the brook flow was much better. The EA had reported that tree works were planned, clearing vegetation but ultimately residents have riparian responsibilities; the resident had not seen the EA coming back annually as they claim to do.
Cllr Hayhurst reported a considerable blockage at the bottom end of Hodge Lane, side of B5017, significantly altering the level of the brook, this should be reported to the EA to clear. There is a lot of tree debris from the llama farm. Brook is flowing well at the Dingle and pools forming adequately. The middle gulley in Allens Lane is full of silt.

10. **Highways & Footpath issues**

- a) A50 Roadworks, scheduled to hand back in March.
- b) Woodlands Works, Tinkers Lane almost finished, Jan to March - Woodroffe's Cliff will close.
Concerns were reiterated that Buttermilk Hill is not suitable for the diversion.
- c) Woodroffes Cliff – already covered.

- d) Brooklea development – it was reported that water was flowing from the property entrance onto the highway. Clerk to raise with agent.
- e) Gorsty Hill triangle – applications pending full design, scope and cost.
- f) Hound Hill – tree canopy, awaiting inspection and road closure for works to be done. Cllr Hales to chase. Let Paula know Gary is also pushing for action and is aware of this.
- g) Footpath off Hall Road, Chairman to talk to owners, footpath no 39; blockage of 10-15ft.

11. Finance

- a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.
- b) Solar Fund application considered for Marchington Tennis & Bowls Club; have in the past paid for this work but the equipment will allow aeration to be carried out more frequently. Councillors resolved to approve this application.
- c) Initial Draft Budget received – Cllrs to review and advise of any further input before January meeting sign off. Match funding for playground equipment was discussed. Cllr Prince would like to see a three-year budget for long term plans for trees and play equipment. Forward budget for LGR. The last solar payment will be 2027. It was agreed to bring comments to the next meeting via Clerk.

12. Policies and Governance

- a) IT Policy was now formally adopted as circulated.

13. Photography Competition

- a) Several entries were considered with numbered entries voted on:
Photograph no. 5 of St John's Church was announced the winner with photograph 2 a close second and photograph 1, in third place. The winner will be invited to a meeting to receive a Certificate and the competition communicated in the village magazine.

14. Best Kept Village Competition

- a) 70 years anniversary; Cllr Morgan felt it was also about community spirit and involvement; Cllr Morgan to attend an upcoming presentation before any decision made on entry.

15. Correspondence and communications - noted

- a) Resident request for support in pressing ESBC Planning Officer for an update on Newfield Green Farm application – *Clerk responded*

- 16. Items requested for input onto next agenda:** Banking arrangements; SIDs (more detail on the proposal to be forwarded from Speedwatch team); Blacksmith's speed monitoring - Cllr Hales added that the data from the camera vehicle can be contested; frequency of visits was categorised by data recorded. He added that the two-camera system at Uttoxeter does work as vehicles will break for the second camera. Newborough has a SID but a lot of vehicles ignore it.

Meeting Closed at 21.29;

Next Meeting : 13 January 2025, Marchington Village Hall