

Marchington Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on
10 March 2026 at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm

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

1. The Chair welcomed all. Apologies received from Cllr Glover and Cllr Hales, Cllr Hudson.
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items.**
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 10 February 2026 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Public Forum** –no representations received.
5. **Outside organisations reports**
 - a) **MP** – No new updates.
 - b) **Police** – PCSO Leathers had announced he was moving to a new role. He is not being replaced at this stage as they are short of PCSOs
 - c) **Staffordshire County Council** – Local Government Reorganisation public consultation response. Cllrs agreed that they needed more information to base the decision on. However, Councillors would not like to see East Staffordshire split and therefore Option 5 would be preferred – Tamworth, Lichfield and Burton. A clearer role needs to be identified for Parish Councils. Copy response to our MP.
Councillors noted the correspondence from Cllr Hales on the ‘Roadmap to a Better Network’ – Clerk to send response asking what this looks like at the granular level, including targets for the coming year for the local area.
 - d) **ESBC** – Burton’s Hope Charity is being vacated from the current site. Any elections which had originally been postponed for this year will now be taking place. ESBC’s Planning Department have lost personnel. Cllr Hudson had called in a retrospective application for a Deep Cut Road site.
6. Clerk’s Report noted. Moreton Lane, Hound Hill pothole has re-opened. Work is scheduled in April for Wren Park. The fallen tree on Hound Hill needs investigation by the tree officer. Cllrs offered to meet the officer. It was queried if ESBC have a tree officer, whether they could be recommended to County.
7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
 - a) **Planning Applications received:**
 - i. P/2026/00134 - MARCHINGTON PARISH HALL, THE SQUARE: Installation of 16 roof mounted solar panels to the rear (west) elevation of the village hall. *No comments*
 - ii. P/2025/00864 - Moat Springs Barn Hodge Lane Marchington Woodlands: change of use of a former agricultural building to form a single dwellinghouse, with associated off-street parking and external amenity area – (response extended to 11/3). *Cllr Lord had drafted a response and recommended our previous objection comments still stand. There was a change of roof colour. The amended description was not reflected in the documents supplied. The self-build definition was not clarified. All agreed with the draft response to be sent.*
 - iii. P/2025/00144 - LOWER STOCK LANE FARM STOCK LANE MARCHINGTON WOODLANDS - Change of use and retention of 5 no. stables, menage and parking for commercial livery use for up to 5 horses - (response extended 12/3). Cllr Prince had drafted a response. *The application*

Accepted on..... Signed

lacked sufficient detail. The plans refer to retention of a stable block and continued use of 5 stables, However, the accompanying drawings show 3 stables on the plan and no identification of the menage. Cllr Prince advised there are more than 5 stables. The new gateway is not a usual field entrance, and this is not mentioned in the application. Cllrs agreed this was a commercial stud farm with no history of equestrian use. All agreed to object and recommend refusal.

b) ESBC Planning Decisions: Approved:

- 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

c) Tree Preservation Orders Review – identification and locations ongoing.

d) Enforcement Issues

- i. Stock Lane Traffic – awaiting planning decision.
- ii. Seven Stars Farm – correspondence with the land agent noted.
- iii. Moreton Lane Site, Draycott – a security van is on site. Clerk to press George Kearton for a response.

8. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks:

- i. Silver Lane playground:
Monthly safety report – Cllr Glover’s circulated report noted.
Cllr Morgan had been approached by the Zumba tutor asking for permission to hold a Wuthering Heights dance session at Silver Lane - July 26th, to celebrate this national event. It was agreed this could be held on the small football pitch. Cllr Morgan to advise; insurance and risk assessment should be in place.
- ii. Forestside:
Monthly playground and football pitch safety report – Cllr Mann’s report was relayed. The handyman will be tasked with most of the jobs noted. The football pitch is in good condition. A resident had requested the hollows in front of the goals be infilled with soil and seeded. It was estimated approximately 1 tonne of soil would be needed. Signage – there were new signs in place for dog controls orders on the playground.
- iii. Cricket Club – the first cut of the season had taken place. A Consultant had advised the Club that they don’t need planning permission for solar panels as it is off road. Two planning consultants involved with the club had agreed with this advice.

- b) **Marchington Village Hall** – Cllr Mann reported that the defibrillator installed by MPC was no longer supported. He will check the equipment and advise of any items which needed ordering for the coming year. Following this the Council will need to look into a replacement next year. Painting was almost complete. Curtains were in good condition and were being cleaned. Bookings included Serco training; MADs and private parties. The boundary dispute remains unresolved.

9. Flooding and Environment

- a) A large tree branch had fallen into the brook at Green Lane and was too large for the volunteer group to remove. Cllr Morgan will ask if for help from farmers to haul it out. Trees overhanging the brook at Church Lane by the concrete bridge, these can be cut back but landowners have ultimate responsibility.

The EA had been informed about the oil contamination.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) A50 Roadworks – no updates, close to handover.
- b) Woodroffes Cliff – location for grit bin to be found and repositioning of some existing bins has taken place. Reflector posts to be installed.
- c) Gorsty Hill triangle – flyers had been distributed the village magazine and on Facebook. There had been a lot of interest including young people offering support. Cllrs Newstead and Lord had presented the project to MWVH Committee, and they had offered to organise a fundraiser. There will be a coffee morning on 25 April to kick off fundraising. Paperwork needs to be submitted to SCC. Cllr Lord will contact the prison woodwork shop. Serco have the management contract for another 15 years – they are the main sponsor of Marchington festival. Labour help may also be possible. Any historical facts would be gratefully received. There will be regular updates in the parish magazine.
- d) Hound Hill – nothing further to report.
- e) 34 Church Lane – some works had been carried out to alleviate the safety issue which look temporary. The issues had been raised with County. A resident commented that as the property is in a Conservation area, Enforcement should take an interest for any driveway works.
- f) Hall Road – the footpath is now complete.

11. Finance

- a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.
- b) The Quotation from ESBC for bin emptying was formally accepted.
- c) A Quarterly Bank Reconciliation had been carried out by Cllr Glover.
- d) 3-year Budget forecast – work had started on the forecast, but more input was needed as to costs for earmarked projects. Cllr Morgan to obtain prices for fencing and goals at Forestside.
- e) Two quotes were presented for picnic benches for Forestside. It was agreed to accept the cheaper quote from Marmax, Clerk to order, delivery via Cllr Morgan. Ground fixings will be added.

12. Correspondence and communications

- a) Draycott in the Clay PC – Cllr Mann has responded with actions required following the flood meeting. Cllr Bullock advised she had provided feedback as a property owner to Ofwat on Severn Trent services.
- b) Emails to and from the land agent for Seven Stars Farm were noted.
- c) Resident concerns regarding an overgrown hedge at Hound Hill – Clerk had responded.

13. Items requested for input onto next agenda:

Newfield Green Farm Enforcement

Next Meeting : 14 April 2026, Marchington Village Hall

Meeting Closed: 20.43

Marchington Parish Council – Schedule of Receipts and Payments		Meeting	10/03/26		
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar	Total	
02/02/26	Interest - Gold A/c	£58.77			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£58.77	£0.00	£58.77	
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
10/03/26	Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£796.78	£1.93	£798.71	2817
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£796.78	£1.93	£798.71	
Bank Balance					
	Current Account	£1,009.85			
	Gold Account	£47,446.73			
	Solar Account	£61,461.93			
	TOTAL	£109,918.51			

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