

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

Present: Cllr I Morgan (Chair), Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Mann, Cllr Glover, Cllr Lord, Cllr Newstead
Siobhan Rumsby (Parish Clerk); County Cllr G Hales; 7 Members of the Public;

1. The Chair welcomed all. Apologies received from Cllrs Janette Prince, Helen Bullock.
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items.** None received.
3. **Resolved** - The Minutes of 12 August 2025 were accepted to be signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Public Forum** – A representative of the Forestside residents queried the permissive path from Forestside via the Trig point, Hound Hill to Silver Lane, the subject of a petition received. Landowners' permission has been obtained for a permissive footpath from the barracks site; Evans have agreed people can access through the hedge. The current definitive footpath is no longer practical. Cllr Hayhurst to complete paperwork for the permissive path. The layout of the plan was described. Once approved, the Ramblers will install a style at MPC's expense. Permission is at the farmer's discretion and can be revoked at any time.
5. **Outside organisations reports**
 - a) MP – brief updates received on Aston Bridge works and flooding remedial works. Cllr Hales requested to be copied in with updates.
 - b) Police – Report on stats in the Crown Ward were noted and appreciated.
Community Speedwatch – B5017 monitoring; the site request for the end of Jacks Lane was not suitable as there are no houses, footpath or footfall. The Church car park gates were also requested and permission granted. Mobile cameras were requested at Jacks Lane (there may be an issue with parking) and the Blacksmiths which looks feasible.
Safer Roads Partnership – Cllr Hales confirmed he will be meeting the Deputy PCC and will mention it to see if a camera van would be possible and to establish the process for requesting a van. Prison traffic stats had been collated and sent to the prison. More volunteers for CSW were required.
 - c) Staffordshire County Council – Charnwood wall – Cllr Hales had discussed this at his last DHP meeting. SCC Officers advised there was no objection to the cameras as these were not facing properties. They also confirmed they do not see a major problem with the location of the wall being on highways land as the property drives come down to the road and other properties had done the same. SCC had written to say the wall should be moved back but if left, the property owner would have to accept full responsibility and liability for it. Cllr Glover queried the boundary issue; however, it was suggested as there is no footpath, the boundary is at the road. Cllrs were not aware of any other properties encroaching on the boundary with a construction and maintained that the wall is still too high. There is a limited time for the landowner to respond before enforcement.
Gorsty Hill Triangle – Licences will be paid for by SCC to enable BPC to plant the area. Cllr Newstead and Lord were meeting our Highways Liaison officer on 19/9 to formulate a plan.
Local Government Reorganisation – Cllr Hales advise the previous administration had put a proposal forward. The next deadline is the end of November for a decision next summer. Cost savings and feasibility were considered. Stoke on Trent may lose its city status. A Cabinet meeting on 17 September to view will be live-streamed. A different proposal had been released today differ

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showing an east/west Staffordshire split rather than the former north/ south. Cllr Mann had attended East Staffs BC forum. Transfer of assets and debts discussed. The debt will be split by areas in that unitary. The cost of the reorganisation is estimated at circa £30bn for Staffordshire alone. The authorities will run in tandem during a 12-month transition period. County Elections will take place.

- d) ESBC – no reports received.
- 6. Clerk's Report referred to and noted. Allens Lane - a dam needs to be put in to stop silt coming down and blocking the drain, this could be a working party project. The landowner may be able to help to keep topsoil back from the field.
- 7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:
 - a) **Planning Applications Received –**
 - i. P/2025/00684 - Woodroffes Hall, Hodge lane, Marchington Woodlands: Application under Section 19 of the Planning (Listed Building/Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to vary Condition 2 of Listed Building Consent P/2024/00992 for the conservation and repairs to the timber frame - South side east gable - installation of steel brackets to engineers detail; South gable - Removal and replacement of decayed bressummer, installation of steel brackets, remove and replace concrete panels with lime plastered insulated panels; window lintel - install steel reinforcing plate to engineers detail amendments to include removal of all cementitious infill panels to south elevation – respond by 6/9/25 – *Cllr Lord commented this was essential work and due process had been followed – no objections.*
 - ii. P/2025/00847 - Laundry Cottage, Bag Lane, Marchington: Felling of one European Willow tree – respond by 29/8/25 – *no objections but Cllrs would like to see a replacement tree planted.*
 - iii. P /2025/00832 - 28 Woodland Views, Marchington: Erection of first floor front and first floor rear extensions – response by 12/9/25 – *no objections.*
 - iv. P/2025/00840 - Thorn Tree Farm, Allens Lane, Marchington: Demolition of existing Sunroom to facilitate the erection of replacement Oak Framed Sunroom and relocation of oil tank – respond by – 20/9/25 – *no objections.*
 - v. P/2025/00850 - Thorn Tree Farm, Allens Lane, Marchington: Listed Building application for demolition of existing Sunroom to facilitate the erection of replacement Oak Framed Sunroom and relocation of oil tank - respond by – 20/9/25 - *no objections.*
 - vi. P/2025/00851 - Woodford Cottage, Moisty Lane, Marchington: Demolition of the existing rear two-storey and single-storey elements and associated outbuildings to facilitate the erection of a two-storey side and rear extension with Juliet balcony, installation of a first floor side window and formation of a parking area – *no objections.*
 - b) **ESBC Decisions –**
 - i. P/2025/00685 - Chestnut Corner, Church Lane, Marchington: Crown lift and side reduction of one Oak tree to provide a 2-metre clearance (T2 of TPO 414) – *Approved.*
 - c) **Tree Preservations Orders Review –** MPC working party to walk around conservation area, matching against recent tree survey. Cllr Hayhurst would be available Jan/Feb. Cllr Mann and Glover to assist.
 - d) **Enforcement Issues**
 - i. Cllrs discussed the best protocol for approaching property owners before escalation to enforcement; prompted by the appearance of downlights on grade II listed building. Cllr Hayhurst maintained that the planning portal is available to help property owners establish if permission is needed. Writing to properties owners regarding any of the enforcement issues would just delay the process. Cllrs Newstead agreed that owners have a responsibility if living in a listed building to adhere to the rules. It was felt that a quiet word rather than escalation

may sometimes be appropriate. It was suggested that a formal protocol is not necessary as the burden of responsibility is on the homeowner and the Borough enforcement team. Retrospective planning permission was becoming more frequent. A resident commented a neighbouring house in the conservation area opposite the community shop had dug up gardens which had caused flooding and subsidence threats. Evidence has been forwarded but the resident was being told it was a civil/community matter. A site meeting would be beneficial.

- ii. Charnwood – County Cllr Hales already covered.
- iii. Stock Lane Traffic – retrospective application for Higher Stocks Lane still to be determined; no further update on Lower Stocks Lane.

8. Council owned property -

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

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Lord provided a verbal report. Replacement bench – in hand; log seating bench still needs repairing; picket fence needs replacing in part; pedestrian gate needs attention; springy seat is rough and needs monitoring. Matting is lifting in parts. Our handyman has made new batons for fencing;
- ii. Forestside: Cllr Hayhurst's report referred to. The hedging from a property in Hillsea Crescent is blocking the footpath; it was agreed to write to ask them to cut this back; paintwork on the rainbow area is flaking, needs stripping back and repainting; grass looks good; football field; a sign has been put on the dog poo bin about fly tipping. Pegs for goal nets to secure to ground requested; All agreed to expenditure up to £20; receipt to be sent to the Clerk. Christmas tree – awaiting response from ESBC; clerk to chase AED – Costings, placement and funding opportunities required.
- iii. Cricket Club: a tree surgeon had looked at the options and quotations were considered. It was now agreed to accept option 2 - crown reduction of the diseased tree for safety reasons, permission needed from ESBC. It was agreed that no contribution was expected from Cricket Club as this was an MPC liability.

- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported that they are still awaiting permission for solar panels. Boundary matters; no further news from solicitors.

9. Flooding and Environment

- a) Cllr Morgan reported that brook clearance working party including at least 6 people, would commence work over the next fortnight.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

a) Highways issues

- i. A50 Roadworks. Project to be handed over in March 2026.
- ii. Woodroffes Cliff – Cllr Hales referred to the issue in his DHP meeting. There is a sheer drop from verge of some 30ft into the ravine; trees used to provide protection. Cllr Hales to readdress this as he was not aware of the extent of the drop. A lump of clay which is now overgrown could deteriorate into the road. Cllr Hales advised on the Community Fund - apply through website, up to £2,500 per annum per County Cllr. Deadline is the end of November. Amey contract - value for money is being scrutinised. Performance management feedback now being administered.
- iii. Gorsty Hill triangle – already covered.
- iv. Hound Hill – canopy work awaited.

- v. Church Lane Grit bin – MPC to purchase, SCC to fill and maintain. Purchase Costs to be established. Check with Cllr Hales that County will maintain it.
- b) Permissive Path Project – covered.

11. Finance

- a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.
- b) Online banking – application underway.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Resident report of tree overhang in Silver Lane green space – Cllrs to inspect. Cllr Morgan contacting landowner.
- b) Duchy of Lancaster – final phase of works on Woodroffe's Cliff. Clerk to reply to Duchy asking them to reinstate the bridlepath as it was.
- c) Footpath off Hall Road, new signage had appeared. The path is blocked, with walkers having to go into private property garden. Footpath will be assessed and clearance discussed with neighbouring property.

13. Items for input onto next agenda:

- a) Footpath off Hall Road

Meeting Closed at 21.30

Next Meeting : 14 October 2025, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Marchington Parish Council - Schedule of Receipts and Payments

Meeting Date 09/09/25

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar Transfers	Total
01/08/25	Interest - Gold A/c	£63.13		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£63.13	£0.00	£63.13

Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
09/09/25	Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£1,107.77	£72.75	£1,180.52	2786
09/09/25	Perennial Grounds maintenance contract Inv 10009	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2787
09/09/25	Marmax Products Ltd	£571.00	£114.20	£685.20	2788
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£2,139.76	£279.15	£2,418.91	

Bank Balance as at 30 May 2025

Current Account	£1,006.87
Gold Account	£37,696.16
Solar Account **	£61,799.59
TOTAL	£100,502.62

**** NOTE: Solar account Bank Interest paid annually on 1st January**

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