

Meeting of Marchington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on

9 June 2026 at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Hayhurst, Cllr J Prince, Cllr A Mann, Cllr I Glover, Cllr M Lord, Cllr S A Newstead
Clerk S Rumsby; County Cllr G Hales (late arrival 7.40pm); 3 Members of the Public

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence:** Apologies recorded from Cllr Bullock, Cllr Hudson
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items:** Cllrs Lord, Prince, and Hayhurst had declared an interest in items 7b)i, 7b)ii and 7b) iii.
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of 12 May 2026 were accepted and signed as a true record.
4. **Public Forum** – no representations received
5. **Other Organisations Updates and Reports**
 - a) **MP** – Cllr Morgan had attended the Local Government Reorganisation Forum with our MP. Most Parishes were keen to bid for asset transfers. There were no assets within Marchington. ESBC have not provided any information on libraries or other assets. Central Government had rejected options proposed for Staffordshire split and will provide a decision on 16 July. Shobnall PC raised concerns as they had vacancies for 5 Councillors – this was perceived as a risk as Councillors may not be happy with the uncertainties around taking on further duties. Cllr Morgan to raise these concerns with our MP.
 - b) **Staffordshire County Council** – it was noted some potholes were being done, but markings for others were fading.

Cllr Hales arrived. He reported that Jacks Lane was to be done next. The Pothole Pro machine was scheduled for Stock Lane 5/6 October; Houndhill, The Square and Hall Road all scheduled for 14-18 Sept; Cllr Hales advised that 1400 repairs per month were being done. Cllr Prince remarked that Marchington Cliff was still outstanding and posed a high risk of accident.

Cllr Hales advised that Six Lane Ends was being addressed with a new lane system. Cllr Hayhurst recalled that the Duchy of Lancaster had offered to assist with the installation of an island a few years ago, but this was not taken up.

Anthony Screen, the Community Safety & Resilience cabinet member, was looking at a road safety scheme for rural areas. Speeding was acknowledged as a problem across all villages. Driving tests every 5-10 years was suggested.

Cllr Hayhurst commented that Hall Road is a safety hazard and should have been given priority over Windmill Drive.

The supervision of Amey was queried including how priorities were determined. Cllr Hales advised that if repairs fail within 5 years, they have to return to fix at no further cost. The current Amey contract was discussed, the circumstances in which it had been entered into and a possible future approach to highways management should there be a change in Government. Category 1 defects, deeper than 4 inches have to be repaired. Cllr Hales offered to pass all comments raised to cabinet.

Local Government Reorganisation – an update was due later that week with a decision from Central Government expected mid-July before Westminster breaks up. The lack of information is hindering preparations.
 - c) **East Staffordshire Borough Council** – a brief update from Cllr Hudson was relayed.

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6. The Clerk's Report was referred to and noted.

Website and use of devices – the new website was now live, and the old site had been cancelled. The Clerk had obtained a refund of some charges made for the old website during the overlap. Use of devices was discussed prompted by issues with setting up the new email accounts.

7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:

a) Planning Applications Decisions – Approvals by ESBC Planning

- i. P/2026/00444 - SEVEN STARS FARM STOCK LANE MARCHINGTON WOODLANDS: Retention of 1.8m high wall, 2.0m high pillars, fence and metal gates; *it was agreed to object on the same points as previously made to the enforcement officer.*
- ii. P/2026/00555 - HOLLY BANK HIGH STREET MARCHINGTON: Replacement of existing conservatory roof and frames. *No objections.*

b) Appeals:

- i. P/2025/00407 - Barn at Newfield Green Farm Marchington Woodlands: APPEAL AGAINST A REFUSAL for retention of use from an agricultural building for storage and distribution of marquees and associated equipment (Use Class B8) and extension of hardstanding.
- ii. Newfield Green Farm – APPEAL AGAINST ENFORCEMENT NOTICE for the alleged unauthorised storage of non-agricultural item in agricultural building. *Comments by 18/6/26*
It was agreed to review the statement of appeal and comment on any inaccuracies.

c) Tree Preservation Order 481 – Giant Redwood, Birch Cross Farm House, Birch Cross, Marchington. *No objections.*

d) ESBC Planning Decisions:

Approved:

- i. P/2026/00307 - YEW TREE HOUSE HIGH STREET MARCHINGTON: Crown reduction in height by no more than 1m and 0.5m from the sides of the leylandii hedge
- ii. P/2026/00220 - BIRCH CROSS FARM HOUSE BIRCH CROSS: Formation of new agricultural access, erection of 1m high access gates and post and rail fencing, on Moisty Lane
- iii. P/2026/00096 - SMALLWOOD MANOR FARM, UTTOXETER ROAD, NETHERLAND GREEN: Erection of a roof over existing open air muck store
- iv. P/2026/00358 - GRANGE VIEW, HIGH STREET, MARCHINGTON: Replacement of conservatory roof E1, E2, E3

b) Enforcement Issues

- i) Seven Stars Farm – a retrospective planning application had been lodged.
- ii) Moreton Lane – no further updates
- iii) Newfield Green Farm – Appeals were in process.
- iv) Dog & Partridge Outbuilding – historical planning permission was for a holiday let use but now thought to house a long-term resident. It was agreed to report the matter to enforcement as a contravention of planning use. The designated parking space was not being used but the occupant of the property had recently begun to use the allocated space. This may prompt a change of use application.

c) Tree Preservation Orders Cllr Morgan's list identifying trees to be protected had been circulated. All agreed to apply for TPOs for all.

8. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –

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- i) Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Glover's report was referred to. No immediate dangers, moss needs treating.
 - ii) Forestside playground report: Cllr Newstead's report was referred to. Nets need replacing. Two gates to camp still not closing, the far gate is coming off its hinges. The two picnic benches are to be installed. It was thought best to try to gauge local opinion as to the exact location adjacent the football pitch.
 - iii) Cricket Club – A quotation had been received for tree works. All agreed Clerk to accept.
- b) **Marchington Village Hall** – Serco training was underway and weekend parties; the boundary issue was not resolved but MVH's solicitor believes a solution is now in sight.

9. Flooding and Environment

Cllrs Morgan, Prince and Mann had attended a meeting with Severn Trent's Flood Liaison Officer. Queries were raised. Leaflets were supplied which have been distributed. Cllr Prince was chasing Alex at Trent Valley regarding the brook monitoring at the north and south tributaries for flow information.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) Highways issues
 - i) Woodroffes Cliff – no further updates; potholes need repair, bollards scheduled to be installed in October.
 - ii) Gorsty Hill – Cllr Newstead advised that she is awaiting contact from the prison for confirmation of assistance from them. They have a fun day coming up and staff training was taking place. Cllr Hales offered to chase progress on the Licence to Plant.
 - iii) Hound Hill – Cllr Hales' response chasing his team for updates had been circulated. A Senior Tree Officer had been asked to visit the location.
 - iv) 34 Church Lane – George Kearton had responded to the Clerk's chasing email, advising that he had asked the Community Highways and Road Safety Team to update us.

11. Finance

- a) Annual Governance and Accountability Return – 2025-26:
 - i. Explanation of Significant Variances – Noted and approved
 - ii. Year end Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payment account – noted and approved
 - iii. Earmarked Reserves – it was noted the reserves were slightly higher than the recommended guideline and this would be addressed in this financial year.
 - iv. Internal Audit Report (p. 3, AGAR) – noted and approved
 - v. Council's response to the Annual Governance Statement (p. 4, AGAR), considered and approved.
 - vi. Accounting Statements (p. 5, AGAR) – considered and approved.
 - vii. Notice of Appointment of date for the exercise of public rights – noted and approved for publication.

Further work needs to be done on the 3-year forecast to ensure reserve levels are comfortable and remain within guidelines. Prices to be obtained for identified projects.
Some equipment at Silver Lane needed repair.
- b) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed. Lloyds Banking to be progressed.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Resident correspondence regarding boundary issue – referred to solicitors

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- b) Copy responses to Draycott in the Clay PC Requests for Information, EA, Staffs Wildlife Trust, SCC & MP
- c) ESBC Democratic Services– information regarding redaction of Cllr addresses from Register of Interest.
- d) Hopton & Coton PC requesting recommendation for door supplier – Clerk responded.
- e) Resident further correspondence regarding A50 traffic diversions on B5017; Cllr Hales had responded. Spoken to team and looked at issue B5017 was not marked as diversion route. Satnav will direct through shorted route. Work due to finish on 20th. Police need to enforce the route.

13. Items for input onto next agenda:

- a) No items suggested.

Meeting Closed at 20.47

Next Meeting : 14 July 2026, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Marchington Parish Council -		Meeting Date	09/06/26		
Schedule of Receipts and Payments					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar A/c	Total	
01/05/26	Interest - Savings A/c	£59.53			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£59.53	£0.00	£59.53	
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
09/06/26	S. Rumsby - Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£743.23	£2.43	£745.66	2827
09/06/26	Marchington Village Hall	£600.00		£600.00	2828
09/06/26	St Peter's Church	£850.00		£850.00	2829
09/06/26	St John's Church	£850.00		£850.00	2830
09/06/26	Vision ICT	£605.00	£121.00	£726.00	2831
09/06/26	Perennial Landscapes	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2832
09/06/26	J Lloyd - Handyman	£269.48		£269.48	2833
09/06/26	DSK Engineering - Cross Trainer repair	£295.00	£59.00	£354.00	2834
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£4,673.70	£274.63	£4,948.33	
Bank Balance					
	Current Account	£1,009.46			
	Gold Account	£60,748.01			
	Solar Account	£61,461.93			
	TOTAL	£123,219.40			

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