

Meeting of Marchington Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on
14 July 2026 at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Prince, Cllr A Mann, Cllr I Glover, Cllr M Lord
Clerk S Rumsby; 4 Members of the Public

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence:** Apologies recorded from Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Newstead, Cllr Hudson
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items:** none received.
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of 9 June 2026 were resolved to be accepted and signed as a true record.
4. **Public Forum** – no representations received.
5. **Other Organisations Updates and Reports**
 - a) The Local Government Reorganisation decision was expected later in the week. Our MP had written asking for clarity around parish councils.
 - b) Staffordshire County Council – Cllr Hales had been chasing and escalating roadworks; dates for speed camera deployment had been circulated.
 - c) East Staffordshire Borough Council – planning meeting scheduled.
6. **The Clerk's Report** was referred to and noted.
Cllr Hales and escalated Houndhill tree works and potholes, locations to be confirmed.
7. **Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:**
 - a) Planning Applications:**
 - i. P/2026/00591 - THE FIRS BAG LANE MARCHINGTON: Following demolition of existing building, construction of a part single storey and part two storey self-build dwelling and associated works. Respond by 22/6/26 (extension requested to 16/7) – *no objections*
 - ii. P/2026/00630 - THREEFIELDS CHURCH LANE: Application under Section 73 to vary condition 2 (plans) attached to P/2024/01293 for the erection of a single storey front/side extension and first floor balcony to the rear elevation, alterations to fenestrations and installation of timber cladding to amend the roof design to the front elevation, the balcony to the rear elevation, as well as alterations to the approved openings and fenestrations (extension requested to 16/7) – *no objections*
 - iii. P/2026/00663 - Location: LAND AT JAMES HOUSE JACKS LANE MARCHINGTON: Felling and removal of one Ash tree. (comments by 2/7, extension request rejected) – *no objections*
 - iv. EN0110037 – pre-application (scoping) for Castle Way Energy - A solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station of over 100MW and associated development comprising Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), substations, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. The proposed development plans to connect to the National Grid at the existing Willington 400kV substation. – *no comments*
 - v. P/2026/00683 - MARCHINGTON CRICKET CLUB JACKS LANE MARCHINGTON: Remove damaged branch - T1 Willow. Lombardy Poplars - T2 T3 T4 crown raising – *no comments*

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- vi. P/2026/00696 - PORTERS FARM HIGH STREET MARCHINGTON: Construction of two-story extension – *no objections*
- b) ESBC Local Plan Consultation 2043 – July/August – Cllr Prince asked for the information to be recirculated.
- c) **ESBC Planning Decisions:**
Approved:
i. P/2026/00444 - SEVEN STARS FARM, STOCK LANE, MARCHINGTON WOODLANDS - Erection of 1.8m high wall, 2.0m high pillars, fence and metal gates
- d) **Enforcement Issues**
i. Moreton Lane site – Cllr Morgan reported on a site meeting held on 9 July with Richard Evans (Wilshees) and representatives of Draycott in the Clay Parish Council.
Richard Evans provided an overview of Wilshees' management of the site and confirmed that there are no proposals for a cement works, dispelling recent rumours.
He explained that Wilshees generally considers three potential uses for its land:
 - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), including woodland planting to offset the environmental impact of its operations;
 - Agricultural use, primarily grassland management; or
 - Commercial use, such as storage, although this would require significant site preparation.
Due to the former WWII concrete roads and uncertainty over what lies beneath the site, BNG and/or agricultural use are currently considered the most likely options.
Other matters discussed included:
 - The site is opened annually for relatives of those affected by the 1984 plane crash.
 - Security measures include CCTV, alarms, drone surveillance and an early warning system linked to the prison.
 - Richard Evans advised that 9 acres of farmland are for sale, although members noted this had previously been advertised as 4 acres.
 - The gates, fencing, concrete works and turning circle all have the necessary planning permission.
 - A trench and mound are believed to have been created as part of preparations for agricultural use.
 - An agricultural building will be used to store equipment.
 - Richard Evans offered to respond to any future concerns raised by residents, with enquiries to be coordinated through the Parish Clerk.- ii. Newfield Green Farm – awaiting decision on the Appeal.
- iii. Dog & Partridge holiday let – ESBC Enforcement required evidence of the suspected breach and for any observations from residents to be reported directly.

e) Tree Preservation Orders - The following trees had been highlighted to ESBC for protection:
A Hornbeam on the triangle at the top of Green Lane; a Black Poplar in Silver Lane playing field; a Lime tree on the Gorsty Hill triangle.

8. Council owned property -

- a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –
- i. Silver Lane playground report: fencing needs replacing; a gate post had suffered some damage during the festival, and the height barrier was hit.
 - ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Bullock reported that the football pitch looked good. There are new nets attached with cable ties and pegs. The playground looked generally good but there are a few issues:
 - The bench near the brick wall is broken at the back and rotten. New picnic tables were awaiting installation to replace this, and one at the football area. The rotten seat should be

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removed by our handyman. The new noticeboard needs some finishing – bolts, lock and varnish.

- There are a few large holes in the playground which should be filled to avoid trip hazards.

iii. Cricket Club – permissive path needs highlighting as walkers are still coming through the pitch with dogs and cutting across as a shortcut. The Parish Council can and should temporarily close the path at least once per year.

Local farmers also complain of dog walkers not sticking to public footpaths and leaving dog mess. Farmers should report incidents to Community & Civil Enforcement.

b) Marchington Village Hall – prison staff training was now complete. Solar panels had been installed. A new screen had been installed on the stage.

Boundary issue – Cllr Mann believed an agreement was imminent. The neighbour advised he had not received any written information. An agreement had been signed and was in the hands of MPC's solicitors to be sent to the neighbours' solicitors.

9. Flooding and Environment

The Chair met with Jon Atkey and Kathy Ryan regarding Flood Resilience measures. The group visited a resident's house to see how the equipment has been working. Measures include the use of air bricks, flood doors and gates. It would be established who has receiving funding and how money had been spent. Some equipment is not taken up; any surplus funds can be re-directed. Re-training in how to use the equipment had been requested. The original supplier of the flood gates was no longer in operation. A resident suggested flood wardens need training to assist more vulnerable people.

Residents were frustrated that works and investigations done were not fed back to them. Clerk to check actions on the camera investigations in 2024.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

a) Highways issues

i) Woodroffes Cliff – bollards work scheduled for the autumn, potholes still present.

ii) Gorsty Hill triangle – the tree girth was to be measured for the bench to be built.

iii) Hound Hill – Cllr Hales had escalated tree works.

iv) 34 Church Lane – no further update.

v) A Resident asked about police camera vans – Cllr Hales had notified of cameras to be deployed and had specified one outside the Dog & Partridge which should be the Blacksmiths Arms on the B5017.

11. Finance

a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.

b) Bank account - the community account at Lloyds was no longer available to Parish Councils, an application was now underway for accounts to be transferred to Unity Trust Bank.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

a) ESBC – Cllr Prince would be attending the Parish Councils' forum on 21 July

b) ESBC – the request for representation on the Standards Committee was noted.

c) Cllr Mann advised members of details of our former Councillor, Alan Tomkins, funeral. Chairman to send condolences.

d) Reports of prison vehicles in the village had been forwarded along with an instance of abusive language being heard. Any further instances of ASB should be reported to the police.

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13. Items for input onto next agenda:

- a) Items relating to Moreton Lane; Newfield Green; Dog & Partridge; Woodroffe's Cliff could all be removed from the Agenda.
- b) Finance: 3-year forecast – Earmarked projects need to be costed; quotes for fencing at Silver Lane play area to be obtained.

Meeting Closed at 20.43

Next Meeting : 2026, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Marchington Parish Council -		Meeting Date	14/07/26		
Schedule of Receipts and Payments					
Date	Monies received:	£	Solar A/c	Total	
01/07/26	Interest - Savings A/c	£70.09			
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£70.09	£0.00	£70.09	
Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
14/07/26	S. Rumsby - Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£857.75	£2.43	£860.18	2835
14/07/26	Perennial Landscapes	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2836
14/07/26	DSK Engineering - Cross Trainer repair	£295.00	£59.00	£354.00	2837
14/07/26	ESBC - Trade Refuse	£113.88		£964.70	2838
	ESBC - Roadsweeping & Litter	£709.02	£141.80		
14/07/26	J Lloyd - Handyman	£630.61		£630.61	2839
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£3,067.25	£295.43	£3,362.68	
Bank Balance					
	Current Account	£1,005.13			
	Gold Account	£55,978.10			
	Solar Account	£61,461.93			
	TOTAL	£118,445.16			

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