

Marchington Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on
11 August 2026 at Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr I Morgan, Cllr J Prince, Cllr A Mann, Cllr H Bullock
Clerk S Rumsby; 3 Members of the Public

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence:** Apologies recorded from Parish Cllrs Hayhurst, Lord, Glover, Newstead and County Cllr Hales, Borough Cllr Hudson
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations on Agenda items:** none received.
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of 14 July 2026 were resolved to be accepted and signed as a true record.
4. **Public Forum** – no representations made.
5. **Other Organisations Updates and Reports**
 - a) The Local Government Reorganisation decision had placed Marchington in the South and Mid Staffs Unitary.
SPCA had requested a call for evidence. Cllr Prince gave a summary of the online briefing she had attended. Asset transfers had been discussed such as for allotments. There was no need to amend Local Neighbourhood Plan. The plan effectively still involved a 3-tier system of local authority. There may be a need to increase the precept over time to cover things that the Parish Council will have to fund. It was advisable to review all assets and a formulate a 3-year financial plan. It was not known where the executive centre would be.
 - b) Our MP had received a response from central Government indicating that there would be no change to Parish Councils' powers or responsibilities.
 - c) Staffordshire County Council – Following Cllr Hales notification regarding bin stickers, Cllr Bullock had applied but had been refused 30mph stickers – the response would be fed back to Cllr Hales.
 - d) East Staffordshire Borough Council –
 - i. Cllr Prince had attended the parish forum which was largely relaying information about the Local Plan Consultation. The Planning Policy Officer was in attendance – consultation was currently in the scoping stage. Cllr Prince had completed online as an individual. Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council. Timescales were to begin to formulate the plan then consult in 2027. It would involve circa 12000 new homes.
Climate Change was also discussed at the forum; there was a climate tool kit available for parishes, a map for litter picking areas, flowers and wildlife locations. Relaxed mowing would be adopted. The Peoples Emergency Briefing was being rolled out, it had been shown in Uttoxeter. It would likely be available online. A Screening of the Briefing would take place on 19 September at Doveridge Village Hall and 25 September – during an Expo at Uttoxeter Racecourse.
6. **The Clerk's Report** was referred to and noted. Pothole repairs on Jacks Lane had been delayed due to disputes over rights of way access. However, works at The Square and Hall Road were complete. It was confirmed that Moisty Lane gully had still not been looked at despite Amey's reports that work was complete. The issue would be escalated with Gary Hales should further flooding issues arise.

Signed..... Date

7. Planning applications, decisions, and enforcement issues:

a) Planning Applications Received –

- i. P/2024/01302 - Bulls Head Bag Lane: Change of use of former public house (Sui Generis) to short term holiday let accommodation (Class C1) (AMENDED DESCRIPTION) (response extended to 12 August)
Members noted that the previous “party house” proposal had been removed and that neighbours’ concerns had consequently reduced.
Members agreed that the preferred option would be to retain the premises as a public house. However, it was acknowledged that bringing this unused building back into use would be preferable to it becoming derelict.
Resolved: The Parish Council **objects** to the proposed change of use, with a preference for the premises to remain a public house. Should the current application be approved, Members requested that a robust and enforceable Management Plan be adhered to, including controls on noise and external activity, a curfew, no hot tub, and effective enforcement of any breaches.
- ii. P/2026/00763 - Location: WOODROFFES HALL HODGE LANE MARCHINGTON WOODLANDS: Listed Building application for external repairs and replacement of timbers to five elevations – *works were part of ongoing maintenance, no objections.*
- iii. P/2026/00803 - LOCK IRONS MOISTY LANE MARCHINGTON: Construction of a two-storey front/side extension with balcony to front elevation, part two storey part first floor rear extension, front porch, detached car port/external kitchen, detached shed for the storage of equestrian and domestic purposes, formation of a driveway and 1.3m high access gate (respond by 12/8/26) – *no objections*

b) Planning Applications Decisions – Approvals by ESBC Planning

- i. P/2026/00555 – HOLLY BANK, HIGH STREET, MARCHINGTON: Replacement of existing conservatory roof and frames
- ii. P/2026/00663 - LAND AT JAMES HOUSE JACKS LANE MARCHINGTON: Felling and removal of one Ash tree
- iii. P/2026/00683 - MARCHINGTON CRICKET CLUB, JACKS LANE, MARCHINGTON: Remove damaged branch - T1 Willow. Lombardy Poplars - T2 T3 T4 crown raising

c) ESBC Planning Decisions:

Refused:

- iv. P/2025/01228 - BROOKLEA BUNGALOW, UTTOXETER ROAD, NETHERLAND GREEN: Erection of a replacement dwelling (self-build)

d) Housing Needs Survey – it was agreed not to pursue this as it was felt that developers may exploit any evidence found.

e) Walton Homes Development – A member of the Bowls Club had raised with Cllr Prince that debris from the Ash trees was falling onto the Bowls Club pitch. There were concerns of Ash die-back and potential for larger branches or trunks falling onto the land. The Bowls Club should approach Walton Homes directly. It was noted the development’s existing buildings are unsafe, there is no planning permission relating to the site. It was agreed that Cllr Morgan would contact Walton Homes to enquire what their intentions are with the site.

8. Council owned property -

a) Play areas and outdoor park areas safety checks –

- i. Silver Lane playground report: Cllr Mann summarised his report. The benches need treatment.
- ii. Forestside playground report: Cllr Prince reported that the area was all nicely mown and free of litter. The safety matting was showing signs of age. The new picnic table was in place and looked good alongside the football pitch.

Signed..... Date

- iii. Cricket Club – Cllr Bullock advised there were 5 weeks left of the season; they would have an extra team next year. A tree near the scoreboard which had previously been cut back was showing signs of fungi return – Cllr Morgan will investigate. Dog walkers were still crossing over the pitch. They were often off the lead and dogs could escape the path under the mesh fence. Signage purchased was awaiting fixings. The footpath had been trimmed. The Club had received a grant from ESBC of £1.5k for a new roller.
- b) Marchington Village Hall – Cllr Mann reported that bookings were very busy. There had now been an agreement in principle regarding the boundary issue with a neighbour. This had enabled the sale of the property to proceed to completion. Sports Staffordshire had approached the Committee regarding use of the hall as an emergency centre. Cllr Man had attended an excellent seminar on counter-terrorism strategy and picked up useful tips on calming down aggressive situations.

9. Flooding and Environment

The flow meters had been installed in the north and south tributaries of Marchington Brook. These will be monitored for any changes. Severn Trent had confirmed that no issues had been found at the Dog & Partridge section according to their evidence of late 2024/early 25. Ben Hall and Patrick Shipley had begun some clearance at Green Lane just up from the bridge, after the Orchard. The Parish Council acknowledge and thank them for their ongoing assistance. Severn Trent had been seen in the village inspecting stopcocks.

10. Highways & Footpath issues

- a) Highways matters
 - i) Gorsty Hill triangle – fundraising monies had been deposited; an update was required for the licence application. The central tree was 4.5m circumference. Bulbs and wildflowers will be planted.
 - ii) Hound Hill – no further update.
 - iii) 34 Church Lane – no further update.

11. Finance

- a) Schedule of Receipts and Payments - authorised as listed.
- b) Fencing Quotation Silver Lane play area – a price had been received for replacing with metal fencing in the region of £15k. Two other quotes will be sourced including composite material – Cllr Mann to obtain quotes.
- c) The first quarter bank reconciliation checks had been carried out by Cllr Glover along with a Quarterly Budget Review as circulated. Figures were reviewed and amended. It was thought grant funding may be available for the fencing.
A quote for tree work at Silver Lane was referred to - Cllr Morgan to verify the work that was needed.
- d) 3-year Forecast – this would be looked at upon Cllr Glover's return.

12. Correspondence and phone calls – all noted.

- a) Cllrs noted the resident correspondence concerning the felling of a Walnut tree at St Martins
- b) Resident Request for an update on the permissive path between Forestside and Silver Lane. Cllr Hayhurst had circulated an update advising that paperwork will be submitted in September, following reconfirmation of the landowner's approval.
- c) HMP Dovegate report of staff driving through village – the prison had sent an apology, spoken to staff and reiterated the need to minimise traffic through the village by using designated routes. It was reported that prison vehicles were still being seen in the village including a white mini-van

Signed..... Date

with a prison officer and one passenger.

Our Speedwatch coordinators had a new team member, and the application form would be sent to Michelle Shaker copying in the Parish Clerk. Some obsolete Speedwatch signs were to be recycled.

A permanent sign may be needed on the B5017.

13. Items for input onto next agenda:

a) 3-year financial plan.

Meeting Closed at 21.19

Next Meeting : 8 September 2026, Marchington Village Hall, 7.30pm

Marchington Parish Council -

Meeting Date

11/08/26

Schedule of Receipts and Payments

Date	Monies received:	£	Solar A/c	Total
01/07/26	Interest - Savings A/c	£64.42		
27/07/26	Gorsty Hill Funds	£475.00		
	TOTAL OF RECEIPTS	£539.42	£0.00	£539.42

Date	Invoices/Money to be paid out:	Net	Vat	Total	Chq No.
11/08/26	S. Rumsby - Clerk Salary, NI Travel and Expenses	£746.68	£2.43	£749.11	2840
11/08/26	Perennial Landscapes	£460.99	£92.20	£553.19	2841
11/08/26	Zurich Insurance Renewal (LTA)	£1,055.32		£1,055.32	2842
11/08/26	J Lloyd - Handyman	£352.00		£352.00	2843
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£2,614.99	£94.63	£2,709.62	

Bank Balance

Current Account	£1,007.45
Gold Account	£53,152.52
Solar Account	£61,461.93
TOTAL	£115,621.90

Signed..... Date