

MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on: Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 7.30 p.m.
At: Marchington Village Hall

Present: Acting Chairman B. Darby, R. Parkes, G. Whitehead, A. Mann,
R. Ford, P. Nixon and Mrs. J. Crowe
Parish Clerk Mrs L. Hoptroff
Cllr. Hardwick
Mr S. Langston and another resident.

Chairman's statement

I regret to say that for the second consecutive monthly meeting I have to announce that another Parish Councillor has resigned.

A former Chairman and Councillor Mr. Chris Leedham has resigned for personal reasons. I regret him leaving; he was an enthusiastic member of our team and contributed greatly many ideas and suggestions over his three year stint.

I am aware that both former councillors have partly resigned as they were unhappy at council meetings being filmed and a video appearing on a major web site within the internet. However the new rules on open local government now apply which means parishioners can if they so wish film and record all public meetings.

Could I add that all parish councillors are unpaid and do not receive any expenses. They give their time freely and they are NOT all retired and are involved often inspecting playgrounds to reporting road surface problems. They have organized meetings about flood control and also local planning for the future as well as attending monthly meetings. They also from time to time are asked to undertake training and attend meetings at ESBC and County Council level and at times speak at them on Marchington's behalf.

We think that we need some time for the dust to settle and the coming General Elections next May make it pointless to replace these two councillors until that time. We have lost our only councillor representative from Forestside and we would love to hear from anyone there who would like to represent the residents from May of next year.

We now need to get on with the meeting.

ACTION

1.	<u>APOLOGIES:</u> None	
2.	<u>MINUTES OF MEETINGS 11th and 18th November 2014:</u> Minutes accepted. Proposed: Cllr. Parkes Seconded: Cllr. Whitehead	
3.	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:</u>	
3.1	<u>Playgrounds:</u>	
a)	<u>Silver Lane, Marchington:</u> Cllr. Darby reported on the playground, he showed the councillors pictures of green mould on the multi-play unit and the damage to the rubber handle on the rock spinner. He asked for thanks to be given to Henry for continuing to cut the hedge next to Silver Lane playground. He also circulated a picture of the metal gate at the entrance to the playground and asked if Henry could look at lifting it. Mr Langston also requested the fence be replaced. Sand bags and sand were discussed, Cllr. Mann agreed to discuss with Woolley and Wainwright and then ask Clerk to order more if needed.	Cllr. Mann Clerk

b)	<u>David Share Memorial Playground, Forestside:</u> Cllr. Whitehead reported all in order except for being very muddy.	
c)	<u>Forestside Football Pitch:</u> Cllr. Whitehead reported this was in surprisingly good condition considering the weather.	Clerk
d)	<u>Green Lane:</u> Mr. Langston asked if the stile on Footpath No.41 could be reported to SCC as in need of replacement. Clerk to action.	
3.2	<u>SCC, Highway Matters:</u>	
a)	<u>Highways:</u> Clerk reported the cobbles stones in the High Street had been reported to SCC, Highways.	
b)	<u>Neighbourhood Highway Teams:</u> The clerk reported that the crew had carried out work to clear vegetation from traffic signs in and around Marchington Woodlands and along the B5017. Cllr. Nixon stated that they had not cleaned the signs however. Cllr Nixon was volunteered to clean the signs.	Cllr. Nixon Clerk
3.3	<u>P.C. Boulter/Police Surgery:</u> The clerk reported she had invited P.C. Shepherd but had not had a response. It was hoped she would be able to attend the next meeting.	
3.4	<u>Prison Liaison Meeting:</u> The Clerk gave the dates proposed by Dovegate for the next meeting. The date of 21 st January was agreed, Paul, Brian and Andrew to attend. Clerk to confirm with Prison.	Clerk
3.5	<u>Land at Marchington Woodlands:</u> The Acting chairman read the email from Chris Mitchell, SCC. This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr. Nixon would take photographs over a period of time to forward to SCC.	
3.6	<u>BMX/Skateboard Track Committee:</u> Cllr. Ford outlined an email from the Parish Council insurance company that he had received just before coming to the meeting. This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr. Ford would discuss with an approved groundwork specialist.	
3.7	<u>Best Kept Village:</u> Nothing to report until next year.	
3.8	<u>Marchington Village Hall Committee:</u> Cllr. Crowe informed the Cllrs that they had received grants for the doors and windows which was good news. These would be undertaken next year. The next stage would be the canopy.	
3.9	<u>Neighbourhood Plan/ESBC Local Plan:</u> The clerk updated the Cllrs on the work to date, newsletter No.2. had been delivered and responses were being received. The Roadshow to be held in Marchington and the Woodlands Village Halls on 11 th December would hopefully be well attended. She ask Cllrs. to remind residents.	All Cllrs.
3.10	<u>Emergency Plan 2012:</u> This item is on hold until after the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed.	
3.11	<u>Flooding Issues:</u> The clerk reported that she had received the Invoice for the Aqua Bags and it would be paid this month. Cllr. Hardwick stated he could probably fund further bags with WASP money subject to ESBC approval.	
3.12	<u>Defibrillator in Village:</u> Cllr. Ford further updated that Cllrs. on the costs involved in having a Defibrillator installed at the village hall. This was discussed and Cllr Ford agreed to continue with his enquiries for the best solution for Marchington. It was agreed Cllr. Ford would obtain written estimates for fixing and running. Training for a few residents on CPR was also discussed this would be further discussed when Cllr. Ford had further information.	
3.13	<u>Silver Lane "Bollard":</u> Mr Langston stated he spoke on behalf of several residents of Silver Lane. He requested the Height Barrier and Gate Hinge at the first entrance to Silver Lane be covered with "Heavy Duty Boxes" that would prevent them being tampered with, and the "Bollard" that currently blocked the entrance for cars etc. be let down during the day-time. Mr Langston volunteered to drop the bollard at dawn and pull it up again at dusk. He stated the use of the "Bollard" during the daytime was discriminating against disabled people under the EQUALITY ACT 2010. Mr Langston had obtained a quote to have the "Heavy Duty Boxes" installed by "Bentlyfab" which he stated would be £220.00. Mr. Langston and the other resident of Silver Lane stated that the problem was parking during football matches as sometimes the bollard was not dropped in time for cars to park on the football field.	

This led to discussions on who actually uses the football pitches, who were key holders to the bollard, who actually owned the playing field and what the parking laws in roads are. Cllrs. stressed that the "Bollard" was put in place on the advice of a "Crime Prevention Officer" referred by the police who had removed Travellers from the playing field last year. Before spending further money on extra security for the playing field, Cllrs offered to put up "polite notices" and contact the Football Team Manager to request players to park inside the playing field on match days. Cllr. Hardwick suggested a Disability Impact Assessment could be carried out by East Staffs Borough Council to determine whether the "Bollard" was in fact a difficulty for disabled people. This was agreed by Cllrs. Clerk to contact ESBC. Cllr. Darby to contact the football team manager to arrange a meeting.

4. PLANNING:

4.1 Planning Applications Received:

a) **P/2014/01452** – Prior approval for the conversion of an agricultural building to form a dwelling on land at, Station Road, Marchington, Staffs. **The Parish Council wish to make no comment.**

4.2 **Decision Notices Received:** None

4.3 **Planning Committee Meeting Notices:** None

4.4 **Other Correspondence/Matters:** None

4.5 **Appeal Applications Received:** None

4.6 **Appeal Decision Notices Received:** None

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

6. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

December 2014

6.1 Monies received:

Grant from Community Development Fund for the Neighbourhood Plan costs (remainder of 1 st Grant)	
Grant from Community Development Fund for the Neighbourhood Plan costs (First payment of 2nd Grant).	448.00
VAT Refund.	4,032.00
	1,247.64
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£9.27

6.2 Invoices/Money Paid Out:

Clive Keble Consulting Ltd (Neighbourhood Plan)	£474.00
AET Flood Defence Ltd (Aqua Bags)	£223.20
Mr H. Hall	£217.04
Clerk Salary, Overtime and Expenses	£810.62
H.M. Revenue and Customs	£57.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,781.86

Proposed: Cllr. Parkes Seconded: Cllr. Crowe

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Forestside Footpaths and Garage Area:** The clerk reported she had received a text message from a Forestside resident complaining about the footpaths and garage areas in Forestside. A discussion arose on the substantial amount of work that had been carried out in 2011 on the ownership of the areas and the difficulties that had then been encountered in trying to get work carried out by anyone on land that was either privately owned or had reverted to The Crown. Cllr. Hardwick suggested the current MP Andrew Griffiths be contacted to see if he could help with the situation. Clerk to prepare a letter to Mr. Griffiths.

b) **Salary Increase:** The clerk reported she had received notification that a national pay award had been agreed for Clerks and requested her salary be increased in accordance with the award and the related non-consolidated payment be paid in January, pro-rata. This was agreed. Proposed Cllr. Whitehead. Seconded Cllr. Mann.

c) **Changes to the School system:** Cllr. Ford informed the meeting he had been to a School meeting with regard to the changes that could be made to the system in Staffordshire. This was discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55p.m.
Marchington Parish Council's next meeting is planned for Tuesday 13th January 2015 at Marchington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. (Please check the agenda in case there are any alterations to these details.)

SIGNED.....

DATED.....