

# Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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The meeting of Marhamchurch Parish Council was held on the above date at 7:30pm, in Marhamchurch Sunday School Rooms.

## **Councillors Present:**

Chairman Cllr Perry, Vice-Chair Cllr Edwards, Cllr Biddick-Bray, Cllr O'Sullivan, Cllr Polkinghorn.

**Also in attendance:** County Councillor Nicky Chopak & Clerk E Hawkins.

6 members of the public were present for the meeting. Chairman Cllr Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## **Record and Approve Apologies.**

**26/25**

Cllr Burnett sent his resignation.

## **Confirm Minutes from the 20 January 2026 and ratify all decisions taken therein.**

**26/26**

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and ratify all decisions made at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Polkinghorn. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 4 in favour. 1 abstained due to not being at the meeting. Vice-Chairman signed them as a correct record.

## **Declarations.**

**26/27**

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interest in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) Cllr Perry declared an interest in Agenda Items 19. LMP & 20 (ii) & (iii) Cemetery matters.
- (iii) No new declarations.

## **Dispensations.**

**26/28**

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda:
  - (i) Dispensation noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- b) To review new dispensations requests.
  - (i) New dispensation request from Cllr Perry re Cemetery reviewed and approved for 4 years. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.

## **Matters Arising – for report only.**

**26/29**

- (i) None.

## **Public Open Session.**

(To receive statements, questions, and answers from the public on an agenda item)

**26/30**

Item 16: Marhamchurch Village Hall (MVH)

Chair of MVH updated that MVH is facing significant financial issues and is requesting support from Parish Council. Independent survey completed by Cllr Tom O'Sullivan was hugely helpful and appreciated but need to get results. Chair of MVH expressed disappointment that no support has been forthcoming from

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/03/2026

the Parish Council. Clerk updated that a letter of support had been drafted and email contact had been made on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan but with no response. Clerk happy to send through letter of support but was seeking clarification of what funds MVH were applying to. It was agreed to discuss this matter further under the relevant Agenda item.

### **Correspondence.**

**26/31**

Circulated via email.

- (i) Community Area Partnership Meeting scheduled for 9 March at The Parkhouse Centre with a focus on Youth.

### **Planning.**

**26/32**

a) **Decision Notices/Updates:**

b) **Planning Applications/Appeals:**

*Any late planning applications received will be discussed but not decided under this section.*

- (i) **PA25/08403** | Construction of two storey dwelling to include enclosed private amenity and parking with removal of condition 5 of decision notice PA23/03104 | Land South West Of The White House Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and unanimously resolved to make No Comment on the matter. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Edwards.

- (ii) **PA26/00368** | Change of use of agricultural land to a secure dog exercise field, including proposed field shelter, agricultural-style perimeter fencing, use of existing access and provision of informal parking. | Field At Hele Bridge Pinch Hill Marhamchurch Bude.

Following a review of the application it was unanimously agreed to submit a comment of No Objection. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray.

- (iii) **PA25/08517** | Permission in Principle for the construction of dwellings (min 5, max 9) | Land East Of Park Farm Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch Bude.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and unanimously resolved to make No Comment on the matter. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Edwards.

- (iv) **PA26/00818** | Non Material Amendment in relation to Decision Notice PA22/02484 dated 8th December 2022 for the removal of the green roof element from the sloped roof above the living space to eight luxury villa units in the northern field known as the Hillside Villas | Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and unanimously resolved to make No Comment on the matter. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan.

### **To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action**

**26/33**

a) Chairman.

Attended the Community Area Partnership Meeting in December with a focus on Housing.

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Trewin development issues in Old Orchard Close seem to have been addressed.  
Loose tiles in Village Shop Public Conveniences.  
Road Closure along Hobbacott Lane – information in Noticeboard and on website.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

Budget – There is a £13m shortfall. Still significant and anticipated cuts are expected. Budget was published last week and no alternative proposals. 4.99% Council tax rise. Cornwall Council no longer subsidising flights from Newquay to London. Cornwall Council received no rural funding grant.

Community Area Partnership Housing Meeting, held in December, was well attended. Another face-to-face meeting scheduled for 9 March, with focus on 'Young People' at The Parkhouse Centre. 'Planning' CAP meeting hoped for Autumn.

Bus Operator changes, there is a new provider which may mean timetable changes.

School exclusion discussions – Cornwall Council have no authority if school is an Academy Trust. However, they do when children are excluded. Aware of some issues re Launceston comprehensive school.

Slurry Pit issues / concerns at Hackthorne Farm have been raised with Enforcement. Responses are likely to be slow as there is 1 Enforcement Officer for all North Cornwall. Concerns raised by members of public who are directly affected. Cllr Chopak encouraged concerned residents to keep PC updated and monitor ongoing issues. To be added to agenda for next meeting.

c) Playpark.

No updates.

d) The Clerk.

No updates.

**The Hele Valley Trail**

**26/34**

Clerk updated the following:

- (i) Clerk updated that she had registered with the Rural Payments Agency, which is the first step required to succeed the English Woodland Grant scheme. A CRN number has been circulated to all Cllrs and kept on file. Advice from RPA was that it is best practise to have additional contacts listed on the account. It was agreed that Cllr O'Sullivan and Cllr Polkinghorn should be added. They will have to register themselves and Clerk will forward link.

Cllr Polkinghorn has reviewed the Woodland Scheme Contract and noted there are some matters to be addressed. She provided a report which was given to all Cllrs. A copy is available on request.

- (ii) Signage – needs to be finalised and actioned as deadline of 31 March 2026 is looming.
- (iii) Maintenance – there is Ivy and brambles which need removing as it is detrimental to the trees. It was suggested that grass cutting should only be done once a year at the end of September.
- (iv) Forestry Commission Inspection – Clerk has received no contact from Woodland Officer. To follow up.

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- (v) Request from public to remove the barbed wire from around the old metal fencing, on the river embankment - Council are happy for it to be removed. Volunteers can assist. No plan of action yet due to heavy rainfall.
- (vi) Other Matters – query was raised on reporting of incidents on site. Sign to be installed to state users use the area at their own risk. Clerk would expect reports of maintenance issues, but not necessarily reports of slips or trips.  
Meeting with Whalesborough Resort Director – Cllr O’Sullivan, Cllr Polkinghorn & Clerk met with Manager at The Weir to discuss what support they may be able to offer. They are happy to promote the walk in their welcome packs to guests and potentially assist with events to fundraise. Positive meeting.

**The Christmas Tree Committee Grant.**

**26/35**

Cllr O’Sullivan updated that he had spoken with a committee member who confirmed that they were not in desperate need for a grant in this financial year, so it was agreed that no budget to be set for this financial year.

Clerk expressed concerns about showing bias towards 1 charity by putting a budget in the Precept annually for 1 charity. To be reviewed next year.

**Digital and Data Compliance Update.**

**26/36**

Clerk reminded Cllrs to log into their new account and start using it.

**Possibility of devolving car parks to the relevant Town & Parish Councils.**

**26/37**

A short discussion was held around the risks associated with this. Lack of evidence around ownership of the Viewing Point North Carpark, Widemouth.

**Viewing Point North Carpark, Widemouth.**

**26/38**

Historical information re attempts to instal parking meters was circulated to Cllr Chopak by the Clerk. Cllr Chopak has submitted an objection to carparking charges at Viewing Point North carpark.

**Community Chest Grant 2026.**

**26/39**

Clerk advised she submitted an application for funds to purchase a bench for HVT.

**Update following meeting with Marhamchurch Parish Council & Marhamchurch Village Shop Ltd.**

**26/40**

Cllr O’Sullivan, Cllr Biddick-Bray and Clerk attended a meeting with MVSL Committee Members on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to review the Contract. The Committee advised they are happy with the contract and did not request any amendments.

It was resolved to update the contract with current date, new contacts and to make no amendments to the contract. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Polkinghorn. 4 voted in favour. 1 against. Clerk to action.

**Marhamchurch Village Hall (MVH)**

**26/41**

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Cllr O'Sullivan provided update of the results of the survey he conducted in the Parish. 151 surveys returned of 348 delivered. He updated there was huge support overall for the hall. Chairman of MVH requested help from The Parish Council. Clerk to re-send letter of support to Chairman of MVH to support their Expression Of Interest bid to the Community Infrastructure Levey Fund. Cllr O'Sullivan volunteered his full support on an individual basis to Chairman of MVH. Discussion held around the survey conducted by Cllr O'Sullivan, as some members of public thought it was a Council led survey.

## **Code of Conduct Complaints 26/42**

### **1. Code of Conduct Complaint Decision Notice CCN084/25/26: against Cllr O'Sullivan.**

(i) To note the decision notice as above in which no finding was made; it was determined that other action should be directed in order to resolve the matter.

(ii) To pursue the recommended course of action (independent arbitration) and to incur costs to engage the services of Sarah Mason - CALC contractor.

It was agreed to obtain quote from CALC – Clerk to follow up with CALC again.

### **2. Code of Conduct Complaint Decision Notice CCN113/25/26: against Cllr Biddick-Bray.**

(i) To note the decision notice as above in which the complaint was rejected. Noted.

### **3. Code of Conduct Complaint Decision Notice CCN114/25/26: against Cllr Perry.**

(i) To note the decision notice as above in which the complaint was rejected. Noted.

### **4. Publishing Decision Notices CCN084/25/26, CCN113/25/26, CCN114/25/26.**

To resolve whether to publish the above on the parish council website.

It was resolved to publish the above notices on the parish council website. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 4 in favour. 1 against.

## **Local Maintenance Partnership 26/27 & South West Coast Paths Cutting Local Partnership 26/27. 26/43**

Marhamchurch Parish Council have been offered the local path maintenance contract again for the year 2026/2027. It was agreed that MPC accept this and advertise for tenders on the website and Noticeboard.

Marhamchurch Parish Council have also been offered the South West Coast Paths Cutting Local Partnership 26/27. It was agreed that MPC does not accept this and request that Cormac continue to manage this.

## **Policy Reviews 26/44**

### **(i) Freedom of Information Policy**

Clerk had circulated draft policy ahead of the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the amended policy. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan. Clerk to action.

### **(ii) Cemetery Conditions & Procedures.**

For further review.

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**(iii) Cemetery Safety Inspection.**

Clerk to obtain quote for professional inspection. Bude-Stratton Town Council provided a contact.

**Quarterly Finance Check 1 October 2025 – 31 December 2025.**

**26/45**

Completed and noted by Cllrs.

**Finance & Legislation.**

**26/46**

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£2730.31) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.
- b) To note Income & Bank Balances as per the schedule. Noted.
- c) To note Bank reconciliations. Noted.

**Parish Matters – Agree action and authorise associated expenditure.**

**26/47**

None.

**Urgent Matters raised with the Chairman since the Agenda was published.**

**26/48**

None.

**Date of next meeting and note items from Councillors for the Agenda.**

**26/49**

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> March | Hackthorne Farm Slurry Pit concerns. | Financial Impact Statement

**Meeting closed at: 9:22pm**

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) Act 1960 S1(2) & S1(6)**

During the meeting it may arise that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential or special nature of the business to be transacted and the press and public will be instructed to withdraw.

When this arises, the Chair will recommend to consider passing the following resolution: "to resolve that in view of the confidential or special nature of the business to be discussed, the public are excluded and instructed to withdraw."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/03/2026