

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 18th February 2025

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 Hunter, Cllr O’Sullivan, Cllr Proudfoot.

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

3 members of the public were present for the meeting.

Cllr Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Record and Approve Apologies.

25/23

Cllr Waterhouse sent her apologies – on holiday. Cllr Grigg sent his apologies – at another meeting. It was resolved to approve the apologies. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. Unanimous.

Confirm Minutes from the January 2025 meeting and ratify all decisions taken therein.

25/24

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2025. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 4 in favour. 2 abstained due to not being at the meeting. Vice Chairman signed them as a correct record.

Declarations.

25/25

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interests in Agenda item 9c: Playpark & item 12: Cemetery.
- (ii) No new declarations.

Dispensations.

25/26

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda:
 - (i) Dispensation noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda item 9c: Playpark & 12: Cemetery.
- b) To review new dispensations requests.
 - (i) No new dispensation requests.

Matters Arising – for report only.

25/27

Cllr O’Sullivan wished to have it noted that he stands by the comments he made at the last meeting, and in the public domain.

Public Open Session.

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

25/28

None.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 18/2/2025

Correspondence.

25/29

Circulated via email.

- (i) North Cornwall CAP Meeting 31 March 2025. 6.30pm Camelford. Specific invite as recipient of Community Chest Grant. Cllr Perry said he hopes to attend.

Planning.

25/30

a) **Decision Notices/Updates:**

- (i) PA24/08332 | Construction of 1 dwelling in lieu of Class Q | The Old Mill Burns Hall Sharlands Road Marhamchurch Bude. Withdrawn.
- (ii) PA24/08765 | Listed Building Consent for the restoration and extension of existing curtilage listed building to form agricultural storage and workshop facility | Woodknowle Farm Sharlands Road Marhamchurch. Approved with conditions.

b) **Planning Applications/Appeals:**

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

- (i) None received.

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action

25/31

a) Chairman.

Thank you to Vice Chair for Chairing the last meeting at short notice.

Thanks to all involved in the removal of the Revel Hut from Revel Field. Thanks to Mark Dennis for the loan of the fencing.

Thanks to all involved in clearing the fallen tree at Hele Valley Trail recently, and thanks to Cllr O'Sullivan for organising the working party.

Flagged issue of light in the old telephone box. Chair and Clerk to liaise.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

Household recycling Centres may be closing 2 out of 7 days pw.

Significant fly tipping issues in Launceston and Bude areas.

Elections – timetable circulated. Cllr Chopak confirmed she is standing again.

A39 overnight closures 3rd-22nd March – reminder. Due to this closure Cllr Chopak won't be able to attend the next meeting.

'Local Plan' Call for Sites info sent out by Cornwall Council. Comments to be provided by 19th March. Encouraged to provide comments.

c) Playpark.

- (i) Apology Letter

Confirmation that £105.50 has been received from family of son involved in the incident.

Young person and his father met with Cllr Perry to deliver the apology letter. Both were very apologetic. Cllr

Signed: _____Chairman. 18/2/2025

Perry read out the apology letter:

To all the people in Marhamchurch

My name is XXX and the fire in the playpark was my fault. I want to say how sorry I am for what I did. I know this has upset a lot of people but please know I did not do it on purpose. I was sat at the bench burning little twigs on the top of the bench, then I realised that the bench itself was starting to burn. I tried to put it out but it got bigger so I ran home to get water to put it out, but by the time I got back the whole bench was on fire. I know what I did was very stupid and entirely my own fault. I have been doing jobs for my Mum and Dad and Grandparents to save money to get a new bench.

Again, I am really sorry for the damage my thoughtless actions caused and for the upset I caused everyone.

From XXX

It was agreed that the apology letter should be put in the Noticeboard for residents to see, with personal details redacted. Clerk to notify parents of plans.

It was flagged by a Cllr how disappointing it is to see that vandalism is still occurring in the village.

(ii) Purchase of replacement bench.

Quotes for 3m recycled A frame plastic bench circulated:

1. Earth Anchors - £846.80 (inc delivery)
2. NeoTimber Plastic Furniture £1012.00 (inc delivery)
3. NBB Recycled furniture £1302.00 (inc delivery)

It was proposed to purchase bench from Earth Anchors. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Hunter. Unanimous. Clerk to action.

(iii) Playpark bark quotes.

Langleaves £60 per bag

MAC - £60 per bag (no VAT)

Agreed to purchase through MAC bark as have used them historically. Clerk to order 6 bags for delivery, once top soil has been sorted. Cllr Perry to liaise with Fraser and Mark Dennis.

(iv) Working party volunteers and lead Councillor.

Clerk happy to monitor and conduct weekly safety inspections if no working party to be formed.

Cllr Perry happy to continue to monitor too.

d) The Clerk.

Another busy month juggling normal duties and those of the Hele Valley Trail. Finding it challenging.

Worked additional 9.5 hours and requested to claim 6.5 as TOIL from Weds to Fri this week. Rest to be paid. This reduces additional contributions for MPC and clerk. Ensuring hours are tracked on MPC or HVT matters.

Attended Elections Training on 6th Feb – informative and useful.

- Cornwall Council will call the election on Friday 14th March. They are the authority for elections, not the Parish or Town Councils. Clerk to direct anyone interested in standing to their website for information.
- Pre Election Period is from 14th March – 1st May, during this time no new decisions or projects can be made. Current Cllrs have to be mindful about use of photographs or hire of halls to promote their campaigns. Pre-existing projects can continue.

Signed: _____Chairman. 18/2/2025

- Deadline for submission of papers is Weds 2nd April. Nearest venue is Truro. These will need to be delivered in person by candidate or representative – it is NOT Clerks role to deliver nomination forms.
- Specific dates for notices to be posted which Clerk will action when required.

Clerk has been liaising with Systems manager of Easy PC as have identified some historical issues. One being the Grant from Neighbourhood Plan which was not entered correctly on Easy PC. Another query is relating to HMRC credit not entered on Easy PC system accurately. Both things are being addressed but taking up Clerks time.

Hele Valley Trail.

25/32

- (i) To approve the Heritage Lottery Fund grant application.

It was resolved to approved the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant application. Proposed Cllr O’Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Hunter. All in favour.

It was also noted that the Clerk has delegated authority to submit further grant applications between meetings, in order to expedite the process. These will always be ratified at the next meeting and Cllrs will be kept updated.

- (ii) Initial Project Meeting Update / Feedback.

The meeting went positively. Cllr O’Sullivan did excellent job in responding to the questions asked. Further paperwork / forms to be completed.

- (iii) To consider any further possible funding options.

Community Levelling Up Programme (CLUP Year 4) Noth Cornwall CAP area to be submitted by deadline of 28th February. Clerk to action as priority.

- (iv) Update regarding Crowdfunding & decide when to launch.

Discussions were held regarding this, and it was agreed not to rush this. For further discussion next meeting.

- (v) To begin discussion around establishing fund for future management.

This was not discussed.

- (vi) Update re PWLB loan.

It was agreed that Grant applications should take priority at this stage.

- (vii) Update re consideration of establishing a Parish Council Friends of the Hele Valley Trail group.

Cllr O’Sullivan encouraged volunteers to help promote the project, supporting the Parish Councils lead, and to attend the next PC meeting.

- (viii) To consider making a formal offer to purchase the HVT, subject to successfully raising the required capital.

It was agreed to make a formal offer, subject to successful grant applications, of £190,000 to the seller. Proposed Cllr O’Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. Unanimous.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 18/2/2025

- (ix) To review MPC's communication with volunteers who have shown an interest in supporting the project & communication with parishioners regarding the progress of the HVT fundraising.

Not discussed.

- (x) To consider a statement for publishing on the PC website.

It was agreed that best to wait until outcome of funds are known.

8:40pm Cllr O'Sullivan excused himself from the meeting.

Land on Pinch Hill estate (Allotments)

25/33

- (i) Update from Cornwall Legal Team:

By way of an update, the property owners now appear to be in dispute with us on the current position despite previously indicating acceptance to our proposed way forward. This now means we will have to take a decision to escalate the issue in order to resolve this issue formally. We have attempted to resolve this in a mutually acceptable way but unfortunately this appears not to have been successful.

As we look to resolve the boundary issues, **please would the Parish Council confirm if they would be happy with the proposed boundary, 1 metre from the neighbours white outbuilding.**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would be happy to accept the proposed boundary. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

- (ii) Formally set up working party and decide who will lead. Not discussed.
- (iii) Terms of Reference. Not discussed.
- (iv) Clearance of site. Cllr Chopak said she would be happy to talk with Cllr Grigg about this.

Cemetery.

25/34

- (i) To review Non-Parishioner request.

Request for a non-parishioner cremation plot to be purchased. It was resolved to approved the request for a cremation plot at Non-Parishioner rates. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. 4 in favour. 1 abstained. Clerk to action.

Neighbourhood Plan.

25/35

No response from Neighbourhood Planning Team re email which was sent asking about need to revise boundaries.

Local Council Briefing – Help inform the future Cornwall Local Plan.

25/36

Signed: _____Chairman. 18/2/2025

Clerk circulated information received from Cornwall Council – looking to Local Councils to provide comments about deliverability and suitability of land suggested in Parish boundary.
Cllr Proudfoot updated that the Steering Group plans to meet to draft a priority Statement in response to Cornwall Councils request. To be kept on agenda for further discussion.

****Cllr Perry declared an interest in the next agenda item. ****

Local Maintenance Partnership 25/26.

25/37

Marhamchurch Parish Council have been offered the local path maintenance contract again for the year 2025/2026. It was agreed that we accept this and advertise for tenders on the website and Noticeboard.

Strengthening the standards & conduct framework for local authorities in England Consultation.

25/38

The Government has launched a consultation on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England. They are keen to hear views on how these changes might work. CALC provided comments which was circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. This was deferred as Cllr O'Sullivan requested this to be listed as an agenda item. In his absence the Council decided to defer the matter.

Redruth Town Council Letter re Allocation of Second Home Funding.

25/39

Email received from Redruth Town Council – requesting consideration and response.

After studying the recent tax base figures for the new second home council tax premiums, we propose that Cornwall Council consider a much fairer way of proportioning the proceeds, so that all areas have equal benefit reflected in their precepts, and not those only with busy tourist locations or wealthier areas which have a much higher rate of second home ownership. Poorer areas should receive similar amounts to those wealthier locations, where the need is often greater, and this would benefit the county as a whole.

Looking at second home council tax in general, Cornwall Council should ring fence this money solely for providing housing, reparation works to current council housing and those currently empty due to repair status, and potential CPO for properties empty in towns/villages that could provide much needed accommodation, as well as helping areas improve.

Like when the second home council tax rate 50% deduction was removed to support local housing, the second home premium was introduced as part of the levelling up strategy, in response to the housing crisis and need for additional social and local support. This is similar to the way in which the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is distributed.

Proposal made to support the proposal made by Redruth Town Council. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous. Clerk to action.

BT Broadband notice of price increase.

25/40

Price increase for BT broadband of 6.5%. £36.13 to £38.44. (annual cost of £461.28). After a discussion it was decided to cancel the BT broadband, due to increased costs. The PC only use the broadband once a month, and could well use a mobile phone as a hotspot if required. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous. Clerk to investigate options and inform Methodist Church of the plans to cancel the broadband.

Quarterly Financial Check.

25/41

Signed: _____ Chairman. 18/2/2025

Documents from 1 Oct 24 – 31 Dec 24 check has been completed.

Finance & Legislation.

25/42

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£3733.23) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Perry. 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.

25/43

None.

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

25/44

Sign along A39 advertising for bales of hay should not be there. Cllr Chopak said she would follow this up.

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

25/45

Tues 18th March

Meeting closed at: 9:13pm.

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. 18/2/2025