

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 18th March 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, Cllr Waterhouse.

Also in attendance: 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.

25/46

Cllr Grigg had a prior commitment. It was resolved to approve the apology. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 7 in favour. 1 abstained.

County Councillor Nicky Chopak sent her apologies as she was unable to attend due to road closures on A39.

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

25/47

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan. 6 in favour. 1 abstained due to not being at the meeting. Vice Chairman signed them as a correct record.

Declarations.

25/48

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interest in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) Cllr Perry declared an interest in Agenda item 16: LMP 25/26.
- (iii) No new declarations were made.

Dispensations.

25/49

- 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) No new dispensation requests.

Matters Arising – for report only.

25/50

Cllr Perry updated re light in defibrillator. He has replaced tubes and will check internal light is now working on his way home.

19:33 Cllr Grigg joined the meeting.

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Public Open Session.

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

25/51

Resident raised concerns about the clearing of the 'Allotment' site. She advised Council that an email had been sent to the Clerk but she had received no response. Clerk advised she did not receive any email, and upon further investigation during discussions, noted that the email had gone to the SPAM account which is not regularly checked.

Cllr Perry thanked resident for flagging concerns, and it was noted that Cllr Chopak was aware of the matter.

Correspondence.

25/52

Circulated via email.

- (i) North Cornwall CAP Meeting 31 March 2025. 6.30pm Venue change to BSTC offices and option to join remotely was now available. Cllr Edwards will let Clerk know if he can make it in Cllr Perry's absence.

Planning.

25/53

a) Decision Notices/Updates:

- (i) PA25/00005 | Rear extension and internal alterations | 23 Pinch Hill Marhamchurch. Approved.
- (ii) PA25/00158 | Retrospective application for the provision and widening of the existing access including the laying of hardstanding to provide a temporary access for construction purposes associated with the development of Whalesborough Farm | Land South Of Longdown Marine Drive Widemouth Bay. Approved with conditions

b) Planning Applications/Appeals:

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

- (i) PA24/01256 | Enhancement of existing entrance signage to the Whalesborough Estate including the erection of a wall and the extension and formalisation of the existing overflow car parking area including landscaping. | Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch.

Provided the removal of signs, flags, and flood lighting, along with ensuring visibility is not being impeded by the new proposals (to ensure safety of drivers travelling on the A39 and entering/exiting the resort) the parish council unanimously agreed they had no objections to the application. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot.

- (ii) PA25/01551 | Permission in Principle for proposed residential development of 5 no. dwellings (minimum 5 maximum 5) | Land Adjacent To Melrose Helebridge Road Marhamchurch.

The Parish Council were unanimous in their decision to not support the permission in principle on the grounds listed by Planning Officer in 2017. There is likelihood of significant harm due to the run off into stock pond, as well as drainage concerns. Concerns around Ribbon Housing were flagged, no safe footpath

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/4/2025

access to the village and the proposed development sits outside the settlement boundary. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. Unanimous.

- (iii) PA25/01517 | Proposed redevelopment of land into 3no. dwellings | The Old Paddock Old Orchard Close Marhamchurch.

The Parish Council were unanimous in their decision and held no objections to this proposed redevelopment. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous.

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action

25/54

- a) Chairman.

There is an urgent meeting being held at The Bray on 27th March. Cllr Hunter and Cllr Waterhouse will be attending.

Bus shelter issues – thanks to Cllr Hunter and her partner for keeping the areas clean and tidy and for offering to repaint.

- b) Cornwall Councillor.

None.

- c) Playpark.

- (i) Offer of bench donations from Rosie's Café.

The Council were thankful for the generous offer from Rosie's to donate benches for the playpark, it was agreed to take 4-6. Cllr Grigg was happy to help with collection. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Grigg.

- (ii) Topsoil / bark update.

Big thank you to Cllr Perry for organising and laying top soil at the park to fill in the big gaps before bark can be laid.

Clerk advised she had ordered the bark – waiting for update re delivery.

- d) The Clerk.

TSB – Business Update details required. Clerk has begun the process but had to defer as time consuming. To be completed by 25th April.

Easy PC issues still ongoing.

Very busy and feeling quite stretched to make sure everything is getting completed in timely manner.

Anti-social Behaviour in the Village.

25/55

Cllr updated that glue has been tipped over benches and on the floor. Graffiti on wall. Bench thrown into bushes at Hele Valley Trail. Small fire in bus shelter, remains of small fire in concrete tunnel at Playpark. Clerk to make contact with Police. Cllr to keep log of issues occurring in the village.

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/4/2025

Local Council Briefing - Help inform the future Cornwall Local Plan / Call for Sites PC response.

25/56

Following a detailed discussion regarding the Call for Sites, the PC resolved to direct the Clerk to respond to sites as follows:

Sites 1 – 4 West of A39 – it was resolved to approve statements circulated and drafted by the Steering Committee strongly opposing all the sites. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 7 in favour. 1 abstained.

Cllr Grigg declared an interest in next sites for discussion. He left the meeting and did not return.

Sites 5 – 10

It was resolved to approve the statement circulated and drafted by the Steering Committee that all sites except Site Ref 267800 were considered unsuitable for housing, and were outside the settlement boundary. Strongly opposing the proposed sites. Re Site Ref 267800– The Parish Council agreed that only this site was suitable for development. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. Unanimous.

Clerk was directed to include the Landscape Character Assessment on the consultation portal and to email a copy to Rob Lacey. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Waterhouse. Unanimous.

A Big thank you was extended to Cllr Proudfoot and the Steering Committee for the time they put into this.

The Hele Valley Trail.

25/57

- (i) Submission of grant applications update.

Community Levelling Up Programme Application submitted on 27th February 2025. Outcome feedback due mid-April 2025. Feedback re carparking facilities submitted 17th March.

Heritage Lottery Fund Application submitted on 7th March 2025. Aim to assess application within 8 weeks, Outcome feedback due early May.

Community Ownership Fund – ongoing communications from Grant Manager. Grant Agreement signed by both parties dated 11 March 2025. Meeting scheduled to go through Processing Payment forms. Exit template due to be submitted 3 months after GFA signed.

- (ii) Comments re feedback from Heritage Lottery Fund.

Thank you to those that responded via email.

Response was circulated to Cllrs re the query from CLUP (Not Heritage Lottery Fund as stated on agenda). No further discussions required as already completed.

Cllr Proudfoot proposed that Lead Cllr and Clerk to have delegated authority to act on behalf of PC to ensure project continues to move along in a timely manner. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.

- (iii) Crowdfunding Launch Date 1 April 2025.

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Aim to have Crowdfunder ready to launch by 1st April 2025. Will need to ensure clearly states any surplus money will be used to build up a reserve for future maintenance. Cornwall Council Nature's Fund will match crowdfunding up to £5000. Need to have help of all Cllrs to push and promote this on their socials.

- (iv) Parish Council Friends of the Hele Valley Trail group.

Not discussed.

- (v) Update re a formal offer to purchase the HVT, subject to successfully raising the required capital.

Cllr O'Sullivan confirmed formal offer was made, no further updates.

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

Not discussed.

Land on Pinch Hill estate (Allotments)

25/58

- (i) Update from resident: No update to provide.

- (ii) Update re clearing site.

Concerns were already flagged by resident. No further discussions.

- (iii) Future Plans.

No plans to do anything on the site. To be reviewed again in September.

VE 80 Commemoration.

25/59

Cllr Hunter updated Council of the plans, a timetable of events will be circulated nearer the time.

Neighbourhood Plan.

25/60

Neighbourhood Priority Statement to be drafted, it was suggested that it might be good to do in consultation with Bude Stratton Town Council and Poundstock Parish Council but no plans locked in at this stage.

****Cllr Perry left the room****

In Chairmans absence, Vice-Chair Cllr Edwards led the meeting.

Local Maintenance Partnership 25/26.

25/61

1 tender received for the LMP contract. It was resolved to accept the tender from G Perry and D Ward. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Hunter. Unanimous.

****Cllr Perry returned to the meeting****

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

25/62

The Government launched a consultation on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England, however this has now closed. Cllr O'Sullivan expressed

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/4/2025

concern about Cllrs being evicted from Council re Code of Conduct issues.

BT Broadband notice of price increase.

25/63

Contract expires 17th Sept. Cancellation fee as at 11/3 is £140. To pay for next 6 months will cost approx.: £230. Both include VAT which we will claim back.

Council agreed to cancel the contract now. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous. Clerk to action and to advise Methodist Hall.

Elections 2025.

25/64

Elections for Cornwall Council and some town and parish councils will take place on 1 May 2025.

Nomination Packs are with the Clerk. Please encourage people to apply. Nomination Papers must be delivered in person / by hand and appointments need to be made. It was suggested that Clerk draft something to put in Noticeboard and Village Shop.

Finance & Legislation.

25/65

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£2,742.07) and **transfer of £3000 from savings acct to current acct to cover payments** and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Hunter. 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.

25/66

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

25/67

Received a 5-day protocol request from Cornwall Council re **PA24/07782** | Erection of 20 dwellings (including 30% affordable housing), public open space, access and associated works | Land East Of Strathmore Hilton Road Marhamchurch. Planning Officer is recommending the scheme for approval.

Planning Officer requested that Council consider the following options as set out within the Protocol for Local Councils:

1. Agree with this recommendation
2. Agree to disagree
3. Request the LPA consider referring the matter to planning committee

It was agreed that Parish Council select Option 3: Request that the LPA consider referring the matter to planning committee. Cllr Edwards will take the lead on this matter. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Hunter. Unanimous.

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

25/68

Tues 15th April Meeting closed at: 21:30

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. 15/4/2025