

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 25th October 2022

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

Councillors Present:

22/243: Chairman Cllr T Perry, Vice-Chair Cllr Edwards, Cllr R Bray, Cllr N Nield, Cllr T O'Sullivan, Cllr L Kerr, Cllr Waterhouse, Cllr Turney.

Also in attendance: County Cllr Nicky Chopak, Clerk Julie Gray.

3 members of the public were present for the meeting.

Cllr Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Record and Approve Apologies.

22/244:

Cllr Proudfoot sent her apologies; she has a prior engagement.

Cllr Butler sent her apologies due to a personal matter.

It was resolved to approve the apologies. Proposed Cllr Waterhouse. Seconded Cllr Turney. Unanimous

Welcome New Councillor & Councillor Declaration.

22/245:

- a) The Chairman welcomed the new Councillor.
- b) Councillor Turney signed an Acceptance of Office Declaration in the presence of the Clerk.
- c) Newly completed and signed Register of Interest Forms were received from the Councillor. The Clerk will forward copies to Cornwall Council Democratic Services for publication on the website.

Declarations.

22/246:

- (i) Cllr Perry declared the longstanding interest in Agenda item 14: Cemetery.
- (ii) Cllr Perry declared a longstanding interest in Agenda item 10c: Playpark.
- (iii) Cllr Turney declared a longstanding interest in Agenda item 14: Cemetery.

Dispensations.

22/247:

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda.
 - (i) Dispensation was noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda item 14: Cemetery.
 - (ii) Dispensations were noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda Item 10c: Playpark.
- b) Cllr Turney submitted a dispensation request in writing prior to the meeting for Cemetery business.

It was resolved to authorise Cllr Turney's request. Proposed Cllr Bray. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan. 7 for. 1 abstained due to interest.

Public Open Session. (3 min reminder per item per person)

22/248:

Signed: _____ Chairman. 22/11/2022

A member of the public spoke upon Agenda 17. A number of houses in Helebridge have sewage tanks that discharge into the river and the canal. Tanks like these became illegal in 2020 and can no longer discharge into a water course. The Environment Agency has stated they cannot change their tanks to a new system as it is a flood risk area. The solution is to apply for a connection to the mains. Have to apply to SWW – it requires at least two properties to sign up to this. Would like the Parish Council to support this application. This would benefit the community and tourism by not polluting the river, canal and sea.

Another member of the public mentioned correspondence in Agenda 8 and enquired if there was any update as to Helebridge wall. Mr Jewell, of the Bude, Canal & Harbour Society, was in touch with the new owners of Helebridge House but had no further update.

Parishioner was also interested in any update on Agenda 12 re speed limits.

Regarding Agenda 16 - the revised bus timetables on 30/10 will have a bus from Bude to Okehampton Station and from the station there is also a bus to Exeter along the route of the previous route of the 6A bus. The member of public handed out new timetables and train guides. Some of the connection times do not leave much time to get from the train to the bus but Devon CC have confirmed that the bus will wait for a further 10 mins if they know the train to be no more than 10 minutes late. Confirmed that the timetable will be the same through the winter and spring.

Confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting.

22/249:

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2022. Proposed Cllr Kerr. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan. 5 in favour. 3 abstained, due to not being present at the previous meeting. The Chair, Cllr T Perry, signed them as a correct record.

Matters Arising.

22/250:

- (i) There were no matters arising.

Correspondence.

22/251: – all correspondence circulated via email.

- (i) Equality for All.
- (ii) Sewage proposal – parishioner email. Agenda 17.
- (iii) England's First Sub-National Rural Mobility Strategy.
- (iv) Pathways of Discovery – history, walks for villages.
- (v) Revised Bus Services from Bude. Agenda 16.
- (vi) Bude Canal & Harbour Society Newsletter.
- (vii) Shared Prosperity Fund. Agenda 18.
- (viii) Agricultural Vehicles – from parishioner.
- (ix) Information Request (CALC).
- (x) Community Network Review.
- (xi) Cornwall climate & Nature Fund – Crowdfunding Cornwall.
- (xii) Cornwall Community Flood Forum Annual Conference.

Re 22/251 (viii) It was suggested that if any parishioner saw any speeding tractors – to take a photograph and report to the police.

Planning.

22/252:

Signed: _____Chairman. 22/11/2022

a) Decision Notices/Updates:

- (i) PA21/06092 | Proposed conversion of the existing building, known as The Hayloft, to the south east of The Bullers Arms and accessed from Perran Close, to provide a 2-bedroom cottage | Bullers Arms The Village Marhamchurch Bude Cornwall EX23 0HB. APPROVED. This attracts a CIL liability.
- (ii) PA22/06685 | Single-storey rear/side extension and entrance porch. | Trevallan Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch Bude Cornwall EX23 0ES. APPROVED.
- (iii) PA22/06642 | Rear single-storey extension to existing dwelling. | 6 Old Orchard Close Marhamchurch Bude Cornwall EX23 0EJ. APPROVED.
- (iv) PA22/08069 | Part conversion of garage and first floor extension over garage | 11 Hobbacott Rise Marhamchurch Bude Cornwall EX23 0FD. APPROVED.
- (v) PA22/06797 | Erection of agricultural building for storage of fertilizer, hay, and straw (re-submission of expired permission PA18/09808) | Land North East Of April Cottage Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch Bude Cornwall EX23 0ES. APPROVED with conditions – the lorry trailer be removed permanently from the site; landscaping is carried out before first use.

b) Planning Applications/Appeals:

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

- (i) None

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action.

22/253:

a) Chairman.

It doesn't seem very long since our last meeting but a few things of interest have happened. We've had some correspondence with Cormac regarding Foundry Bridge – the upshot of which is that I am having a site meeting tomorrow with Mark Jewell, who is the Cormac countryside officer to see if we can safely construct some wooden decking over the wide bridge section.

Monday 17th was the BCNP meeting held here at the Methodist Hall – we had some discussion on the Community Network Review where the idea would be to extend the network area to include the Camelford network of parishes, making a total of 29 parishes in our network. They are still open for suggestions but personally I think that the Camelford area is not dissimilar to the Bude area in the sense that it is both rural and coastal, with locals and tourists. If this needs to be done it would get my vote. We had an interesting talk by Arthur, from Truro, regarding emergency plans. I was surprised to see there were only 2 parishes that had actually done one – Marhamchurch Parish Council and Whitstone. It may now be the time to update ours. Arthur supplied a template copy that we could use for comparison. We may need to look at a rest centre, warm place this winter, identify vulnerable people, a contact team of people that know the area and a list of people and telephone numbers of those with specific skills, i.e. people with generators, diggers, builders, plumbers, electricians as well as people with language skills etc. There are also CIOS (Cornwall & Isles of Scilly) funding opportunities on the Cornwall Council website – would be helpful if Councillors could have a look to see if they have any thoughts on this.

I would like to see a new multi purpose building in the revel field in place of the big shed that is there – but hoping for suggestions.

Signed: _____Chairman. 22/11/2022

Large thank you to Cllr Bray for removing the waste from the churchyard and for placing the fence in the playpark.

b) Cornwall Councillor N Chopak.

Re Mayor – CC wrote to Liz Truss, the PM at the time, who stated Cornwall had to have a Mayor if wished the levelling up. Since Thursday CC written another but the response is that the position hasn't changed. CC are struggling to find cuts for the budget deficit of £63mill.

Cllr Edwards asked what CC are doing re income from holiday lets, Air B&B's etc as these are not paying business rates therefore what efforts are being put in to increase the revenue. Cllr Chopak relayed that business rates are tied in with the Waste & Recycling contract. This is being used to inspect every property as to what rubbish is being thrown out so they know what are being used. Legislation doesn't help CC in respect to AirB&Bs and 2nd homes. Next year they are hoping to send out more business rates to AirB&Bs. There is also no regulation for AirB&Bs for e.g. fire regulations.

Derriford proposed a Dr's hub & Trelisk was due to have some funding for a new hospital and this was signed off 2 weeks ago – this may now be under threat.

BCNP – Cornwall Councillors have some concerns about the reduction of Network Panels. The reduction in Councillors has made the need of the Network Panels to work together important. There are 4.5 Councillors to work with the proposed 29 parishes due to lack of funding. Truro etc will have 10 – 11 so North Cornwall is again underfunded. There is a zoom meeting on 3/11 so anyone is welcome to attend. The jubilee tree is arriving next week.

Cllr Chopak has a little money left in the Community Chest so if there is anyone really struggling – group or individuals - she would welcome applications.

c) Playpark

The fence has been repaired.

d) The Clerk.

Interest gained from the Neighbourhood Plan Account – after discussion it was decided this will be transferred out to the main account at the end of the financial year.

Have added Cllr Turney to the website and am now only awaiting Cllr Nield. The Clerk requested the Councillors check their own details on the website and contact the Clerk if there are any amendments needed.

Playpark Chippings.

22/254:

Cllr Bray stated the cost is £50 per bag and we need up to 3-4 bags. It was proposed to authorise up to £200 for Cllr Bray to purchase bags of chippings.

Proposed Cllr Waterhouse. Seconded Cllr Turney. Unanimous.

Thorne Cross Junction A39.

22/255:

Cllr Chopak gave update: It was due to be done 3wks ago but the contractors had to take the signs back down because they contracted Covid. Kings Hill is closed next week every night from Mon – Fri for resurfacing so while the road is closed, they are hoping to do some of the work on that junction overnight. Has to be completed before the weather closes in.

There was another accident this evening, which is unusual at night. It is hoped that with the speed reduction will prevent a lot of these accidents.

Signed: _____Chairman. 22/11/2022

Foundry Bridge.

22/256:

Received an email from C Monk:

We never imagined that the temporary structure we installed would be needed for quite so long. I'm afraid that a permanent replacement may be some time off due to restrictions with the Capital funding. In the meantime, we do accept that the current temporary structure has certain limitations in terms of accessibility and we would be pleased to work with the parish to carry out some improvements in that regard.

We need to ensure that any structure is safe and that the basic design parameters are satisfactory. Mark Jewell, who has been recently been appointed to the Area Officer role will contact Tony to arrange to meet.

One of the limitations of our temporary design was as a result of the requirement from the landowner to access with a ride on lawnmower – hence the gate to one side and the rather restricted width. It might be that if the width for the mower isn't specifically required, we may be able to safely increase the width for the general public and also eliminate the steps at the far end.

Cllr Perry has a meeting with Mark Jewell 26th October to look at the site and discuss a temporary structure.

Cemetery.

22/257:

a) Graveyard Fence consideration

Cllr Bray brought to the Council's attention that the fence on the outside of the hedge is in a poor state. It is unsure whose responsibility this is. Cllr Perry will speak to the landowner. It is believed the fence was put in before the hedge so there may be no need for a fence, it may just need some netting. Cllr Perry will look at some costings after his discussion with Chris.

b) Memorial Garden plaques policy.

A draft policy and application form was sent to the Councillors. After discussion it was decided to defer to the November meeting. The Parish Council may also consider whether to have a bench policy as this could replace any benches in the parish that are in a poor state.

Remembrance Sunday – 13th November.

22/258:

Cllr Butler has ordered the wreath.

Cllr Waterhouse volunteered to lay the wreath.

Bus Service.

22/259:

Cllr Chopak has been inundated since the timetable changed. Some services have reduced in the day so they can tie in with the trains. Exeter college have negotiated with Devon CC to sort out an early bus and a bus that will return at the end of the college day. Another problem is the No 6 bus is no longer stopping at Bridgerule and some other villages. There is a meeting with the bus services 26th October to try and make sure the Bude area does not get cut off and the service just being used for trains. The late bus no longer runs coming to Bude.

The Marhamchurch service issue has been raised formally as it appears to be one driver that sometimes doesn't stop at the village.

Signed: _____Chairman. 22/11/2022

Buses are struggling and we need to use the service as it will be reviewed for a timetable change in April and if not used, we may lose the service.

Sewage Question – email 9/9 from parishioner.

22/260:

An email was received by a parishioner:

There is a permanent source of pollution of both the canal and the river Strat; the outfall of untreated effluent from septic tanks directly into the canal and the river.

Environment agency rules in 2020 - all existing sewage discharges from properties which flow directly into watercourses are now illegal unless the effluent is first treated in an approved package treatment works. Many of the properties in this area do not have these units and are still outfalling untreated waste, some into the canal and river.

My property and that of my neighbours are outfalling waste in this way. The system which collects waste from all three properties was installed in 1968 and now requires complete replacement.

I have written to the Environment Agency for advice on solving the problem as the best solution I can see would be to connect the three properties (and others in the Hele Valley) to mains sewerage. This would greatly reduce the pollution of the canal, river and Summerleaze beach permanently removing a pollution source which has been polluting since at least 1968.

I am seeking the support of the council to my application under s101a of the Water Industry Act 1991 'First Time Public Sewerage' which seeks to invoke South West Water's statutory duty to provide sewerage to groups of properties which are without sewerage.

Will the council support my efforts to clean up the river Strat, the Bude canal and Summerleaze beach not just for residents but also for the benefit of the many visitors to this area by supporting my application and strongly encouraging other owners of non compliant septic tanks in the Hele Valley to put their names to this scheme?

Upon making an s101a application a desk study will be undertaken by SWW to ascertain an appropriate mains connection point and conduct a cost benefit analysis – a process I am advised could take several years.

Cllr O'Sullivan pointed out that some on Hele Valley are classed as BSTC parish and others are Marhamchurch. It would be good to co-ordinate with BSTC on this issue.

Cllr O'Sullivan proposed we support any application and contact BSTC. Seconded Cllr Kerr. Unanimous.

The Clerk will contact BSTC and share the parishioner's email.

Shared Prosperity Fund.

22/261:

CC have access to £123mill to allocate. Cllrs will consider any projects and bring ideas to the next meeting. There is a basic enquiry form. No particular closing date – have different dates - but it would be advisable to get the form in by the end of November.

Parish Grant Applications.

22/262:

Clerk to advertise the grant. Closing date 18 November 2022.

Budget & Precept.

22/263:

Signed: _____Chairman. 22/11/2022

Clerk's suggestion is not to increase or decrease the precept but to apply for the same amount as last year due to expected expenses increase. Draft was circulated before the meeting for any suggestions / comments. Deferred to next meeting to finalise.

Crematorium.

22/264:

Meeting scheduled for 17th November?

Neighbourhood Plan.

22/265:

Cllr Edwards has completed questionnaire. There is to be a meeting on 27th October and it is expected that the website will then go live. A link will be placed on MPC website. The Neighbourhood Plan is a work in progress and hope to have this uploaded in a few weeks. There will then need to be a consultation, comments, referendum.

Emergency Plan.

22/266:

Cllr Perry will look at the pro forma and liaise with Cllr Proudfoot. Arthur, from the BCNP meeting, offered to do a mock emergency if the PC wish.

Allotments.

22/267:

Cllr Chopak and C Sims are chasing weekly. Need to obtain seal.

Landmark Tree Planting.

22/268:

No update from CH. The jubilee tree will be here. Revel Trust have taken the tree down in the Revel Field. Cllr Waterhouse will enquire of the Revel Trust if we can plant the tree in the place of ones that removed.

Child Poverty.

22/269:

No update.

22/270: Quarterly Finance Check.

Completed by Cllr Edwards. No concerns. Noted by Cllrs.

22/271: Quarterly Budget Report.

The Clerk to amend the budget to move funds that are exceeding budget from those that are over.

Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Bray. Unanimous.

Finance & Legislation.

22/272:

- a) Ratification of payments totalling £4,261.73 as per September schedule; and the delegated payment decision to Kodan Digital of £1,140 and S Paice for repairs of £24.99. It was resolved to ratify the payments. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Waterhouse. Unanimous.
- b) To note Income & Bank Balances as per the schedule.
- c) To note Bank reconciliations.

Signed: _____Chairman. 22/11/2022

Parish Matters - Agree action and authorise associated expenditure.

22/273:

- i) None

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

22/274:

Email received from Poundstock PC:

It has been brought to Poundstock Parish Council's attention that the campsite known as 'Sandparks Campsite' at Widemouth Bay, is operating well in excess of the 28-day limit for a temporary pop-up camp site. Indeed, it seems that all year-round facilities remain on the site in terms of toilets and showers.

As the site is within Marhamchurch Parish we have been asked to bring this to your attention and would kindly ask that consideration is given to discussing this at your next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Turney visited the site and the gate is locked. Marhamchurch Parish Council will monitor the situation.

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

22/275:

22nd November

Meeting closed at 9.14 pm

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. 22/11/2022