

# MARHAMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## Tuesday 17 May 2022

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The above meeting was held in Marhamchurch Methodist Sunday School at 7.00pm.

**Councillors present:** Chair Cllr J Walter, Vice Chair Cllr T Perry, Cllr R Bray, Cllr S Butler, Cllr T Edwards, Cllr L Kerr, Cllr S Proudfoot, Cllr T O'Sullivan.

**Apologies** – Cllr Nield and Cllr Waterhouse. It was resolved to approve the apologies. Proposed Cllr Butler. Seconded Cllr Kerr. Unanimous.

**Also in attendance:** The Clerk, Mrs J Gray, Cornwall Cllr N Chopak, PC Nick Jessop.

20 members of the public were present.

Cllr Walter opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, especially the pupils of Marhamchurch Church of England Primary School.

### **Minutes**

Copies of the previous year's minutes held on Tuesday 27 April 2021 have been circulated. It was resolved to approve the minutes. Proposed Cllr Butler. Seconded Cllr Kerr. 7 in favour. 1 abstained, due to not being present at the previous meeting. The Chair, Cllr Walter, signed them as a correct record.

### **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

### **Guest Speaker: PC Nick Jessop.**

PC Jessop introduced himself as Beat Manager for Bude. Since the austerity cuts service has been cut down to PC Jessop and a part time PCSO. Due to this, community engagement has not been possible due to lack of facilities and staff but they are now trying to reengage with community groups to introduce themselves as someone that the public will be comfortable approaching with any issues. PC Jessop also stated that Bude Police Station is not closed it is only the enquiry office that is shut so that people cannot walk in to make enquiries etc but officers are working from there 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The enquiry desk has been switched to the 101 telephone service but there are other ways to contact, such as webchat – this has been switched as it costs too much money to man the enquiry desk.

There are no major policing issues in the area. All in all, Devon and Cornwall are the third safest area in England and Wales and the Launceston sector, which includes Bude, is the safest in Devon and Cornwall. There will always be some issues, as during the season the population triples, but it is still a safe place to live.

### **Chairman's Report**

Since last year's meeting, two new councillors have joined us to replace Councillors Paul Crumb and Fran Hunt. We welcomed Nigel Neil and Tom O'Sullivan to the council along with Julie Gray who has joined us to cover our clerk, Elly's maternity leave. Congratulations go to Elly on the birth of her 3<sup>rd</sup> son. Julie is doing a great job, mastering the multi-skills a clerk requires including keeping us all up to date and ready for meetings.

We returned to face-to-face meetings last May and apart from our November meeting which was postponed for a month due to the increased numbers of Covid in the area, we had our normal allocation of 10 meetings. In the past year we have discussed 26 planning applications and appeals, and our decisions have generally been supported by the planning department. Pleasantly this week we heard that our recommendations on a planning decision were upheld. Thank you to Cllr Tom O'Sullivan for preparing the paperwork.

Behind the scenes, the planters have been re potted, St Marwenne's flag has regularly been replaced and the Playpark has a splendid new fence. The money for which we are extremely grateful, came from a grant from our Cornwall Councillor, Nicky Chopak's, Community Chest fund; money was also raised from proceeds from a Revel Grand Draw at the Food Fair and a generous donation from the Village Shop. Councillor Rob Bray and family have been great helpers with playpark duties including spreading the bark which often needs replacing and repairs and maintenance of the playpark are a continual job for Councillor Tony Perry.

In November, the small Remembrance Garden area was re-installed on the grass verge by Oak Cottage for crosses to be placed in and on Remembrance Sunday Cllr Laurence Kerr represented the Parish Council by placing a wreath at the memorial, on our behalf.

A group of us have been walking our parish footpaths and this month new signage is replacing missing and damaged footpath signs. Links with a Coast-to-Coast footpath are being explored, along with ongoing discussions to provide a safer walking and cycling route between Marhamchurch and Holsworthy. Parish footpaths are now being cut and overseen by Cllr Tony Perry who is also cutting and maintaining the playpark and cemetery. The new area for cremations has now been completed.

We are still negotiating the purchase of an area of land previously used for allotments, with the aim to restore it to its former glory, hopefully positive news will be posted soon. In the autumn a small working party from MPC cleared 2 alleyways leading into St Marwennes Close, overgrown vegetation had become a danger so along with 2 parishioners Rob Waterhouse and Wendy Hutson, the task was completed. Grateful residents in that area have since offered to take on the task. Several potholes within the Parish have been repaired and new road signs have replaced aged and damaged ones.

As councillors we regularly review policies, we have a close links with the Bude Area Network Panel which is currently chaired by Simon Beesley, the chairperson of North Tamerton Parish Council. Despite having more responsibilities Cllr Nicky Chopak generally manages to attend our meetings and is a valuable link with Cornwall Council giving us regular updates and taking our concerns to the relevant departments. We would like to thank her for her hard work and support.

We continue to discuss ways to make our roads safer. After much campaigning the speed limit on the A39 at Thorne Cross is going to be reduced and SLOW signs painted on the road, this will hopefully be completed by July. Although not actually in our Parish its dangerous setting has been a tremendous concern for our residents travelling to and from Bude, for parents of school children and visitors to the area. Double yellow lines are due to be painted on both corners of Hobbacott Lane opposite the Bullers Arms – this should make the junction safer for pedestrians and road users. The temporary flashing speed sign is back in the village, which is good news, especially as a warning reminder of the 30-mile speed limit on Pinch Hill and leading into the village.

The Neighbourhood Plan Public-Drop in consultation eventually took place in late November. This followed several postponed dates due to the continued high cases of Covid in the area. The turnout was very good despite it being one of the windiest days of the year! It was perceived as an interesting and informative display – many thanks to Cllrs Sue Proudfoot, Tim Edwards, Laurence Kerr and to parishioners Fran Hunt and Jeff Cherrington who ably prepared the presentation. Comments and even a guided tour of the event can be found on the Marhamchurch Parish website. The next step of engaging with a professional practitioner is being taken now and it is hoped that a plan can be drawn up for public consultation/referendum before the end of next year. One thought that has come from this work is ... are we doing enough or even anything for the youth of our parish?

A working party led by Cllrs Isobel Waterhouse and Susie Butler are currently planning The Queens's Platinum Jubilee Celebration weekend. We have a bonfire/beacon on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June evening; Food Fair organised by parishioner Peter Green on the Friday and on Sunday a Big Community Jubilee Lunch in the Revel Field. The

events are publicised on posters and on social media sites. We very much hope that parishioners will join us for this special weekend which also includes live music at the Bullers Arms and the Weir.

Don't forget to look at The Marhamchurch Parish Council website to find all updates, meeting minutes, contact for councillors etc. It is a valuable link should you wish to contact us with your thoughts and concerns. Also keep an eye out for parish updates and posts on the social media site for the Marhamchurch Newsletter.

Finally .... we are very grateful to our community who have looked after each other and given the Parish a true sense of pride, care, and love for our environment. We couldn't be here without the Village Shop and its amazing volunteers and the hosts of our other amenities who look after our Parish.

As councillors we aim to listen, to be approachable and do our best for the Parish. A huge thank you goes to all our councillors for the voluntary time, care and effort that being a Parish Councillor involves and to Cllr Tony Perry for his valuable support as Vice Chairman. Also thank you to those of you who have attended our meetings, we really do value your input and support.

### **Citizen of the Year Awards.**

We had three nominations this year and all were very worthy. Our award this year goes to Fran Hunt for the many years of commitment and dedication she has spent working in the Parish.

Fran has contributed so much to the Marhamchurch community over the years. She has helped on the Playpark Committee for probably over 20 years and ran the Toddler Group; helped with fund raising for the School; she is on the Revel Committee and has always supported this Event in various ways; she was a Parish Councillor for many years and has recently joined the Christmas Tree Committee. She continues to help with the Neighbourhood Plan and recently the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event. Several people nominated Fran and we are very proud that she is part of our village and proud to award her with a certificate and a little gift. Fran was given a round of applause and she thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work.

### **Informal Questions and Answers.**

Cllr Walter welcomed the School Council members. The Councillors gave a short sentence on who they were and their role within the Parish Council. The School Council introduced themselves and stated what their roles were within their Council.

The School Council had prepared a number of questions for the Parish Council:

Q1. How do you make things happen and what have you achieved?

*Issues are brought to the Council's attention and the Councillors meet to decide who the best person is to deal with the issue. The portfolio holders are the main person to go to if they cover the issue that has arisen but the Council decide as group the way forward. Each household pays a small amount of money that enables the Parish Council to spend money on behalf of the village for the village. The Councillors are volunteers and therefore are not paid any of this sum. As an individual each person does not carry much weight to get things done but as a Parish Council we can make requests of different authorities that are listened to.*

Q2. What schools did you go to?

*Each Councillor relayed the school / area or country that they had attended when younger.*

Q3. How did you get voted in?

*If there is a vacancy a person can be invited to take up that vacancy. Last May there was an election in the village and people over the age of 18 in the parish voted. The ten people who had the most votes were elected onto the Council.*

There were a few questions for PC Jessop:

Q1. Are the roads to school safe with regards to speeding etc?

*Speeding is always an issue; PC Jessop noted the flash cameras on Pinch Hill but believes in general the roads are safe. Marhamchurch has pavements and generally drivers are aware and respect school time to keep the students safe.*

Q2. What about the traffic outside school?

*There are drop off points outside school but parking outside school is not controlled by the police any more but is controlled by Cornwall Council. The police try to show their presence to remind people not to park in the drop off zones but there are a lot of schools and only a few officers.*

Q3. Is it safe parking at school?

*PC Jessop believes it is safe, as this slows traffic down also as it narrows the road and as long as the entrances are kept clear so students can cross the road safely it is generally safe.*

**Groups/Activities in the Parish**

Reports from many local groups were on display and will be placed in the Village Hall for Coffee Morning Session; then on display on the parish council website, and available via email should anyone wish. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm and was followed by the Annual General Parish Council Meeting.

Signed.....Chairman. Date.....