

MARHAMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 16 May 2023

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

Councillors present: Chair Cllr T Perry, Vice Chair Cllr T Edwards, Cllr S Butler, Cllr S Proudfoot, Cllr T O'Sullivan, Cllr I Waterhouse.

Apologies – Cllr Bray and Cllr Kerr.

Also in attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Gray, Cornwall Cllr N Chopak.

31 members of the public were present.

Cllr Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, especially the pupils of Marhamchurch School.

Minutes

Copies of the previous year's minutes held on Tuesday 17 April 2022 have been circulated. It was resolved to approve the minutes. Proposed Cllr Butler. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous. The Chair, Cllr Perry, signed them as a correct record.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Chopak mainly addressed the School Council.

Cllr Chopak remarked how nice it was to see so many people attending the meeting. Cllr Chopak praised and thanked the Parish Council for their efforts over the past year, as the Councillors are all volunteers and they become Councillors due to their love of the village. Cllr Chopak also thanked the Village. Cllr Chopak used to live in Marhamchurch and her children attended the local school too. The Village has had some exciting times and sad times this year.

Cllr Chopak looks after approximately 5,000 people, as she has 9 Parishes and is very busy. Cllr Chopak's job is to look at pot holes; she has been looking at the potential allotment site with Cllr Perry; she is involved in consideration of highway improvements, such as the new signs and reduction of the speed limit at Thorn Cross; and planning issues takes up a large amount of Cllr Chopak's time.

Cllr Chopak is a kind of referral agent, as she does not directly work for Cornwall Council and can call Cornwall Council to account if needed. Cllr Chopak is paid an allowance by Cornwall Council therefore she also has to be neutral. Unfortunately, there have been 500 redundancies in the past year, which has made things difficult. Cllr Chopak has been in this position for 10 years and had built up a lot of contacts, which have now disappeared. Due to lockdown Cornwall Council now use zoom for some meetings, which means Cllr Chopak can reduce her carbon footprint by attending meetings online instead of having to travel to Truro each week.

There were exciting times this past year due to Cornwall Council proposing a mayor but this idea has now been scrapped. There is a new waste and recycling contract being rolled out in the Autumn. All parishioners will be receiving a wheely bin and black bag rubbish will go in this and be collected once a fortnight. Parishioners will also receive a food bin for food waste, which will be collected weekly along with the recycling - this is to encourage recycling. There is £200k funding available for this area therefore if anyone has any ideas then to contact the Parish Council. There is also a new scheme that will be happening over 18 months whereby all the country lanes that have more than 10 houses on the frontage will be 20mph.

Guest Speaker: S Proudfoot.

Cllr Proudfoot pointed out that Cllr Chopak underplays what she does and the Parish Council are very fortunate to have her assistance, as she is the link between the Parish and Cornwall Council.

Cllr Proudfoot asked the children which parish they lived in – most were from Marhamchurch. Cllr Chopak handed the School Council pieces of paper and asked them to write down what they wished to see in Marhamchurch.

Cllr Chopak pointed out we were given the opportunity to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan explains where Marhamchurch exactly is, as it goes down to the sea, and is a document that declares how the Village wants to be developed in a way that the parishioners are happy with, such as in what is important to the Village and to retain the character of the area.

Cllr Proudfoot encouraged the parishioners of Marhamchurch to look at the Neighbourhood Plan and to send any comments via email, even if to just say what is important to them, e.g., roads, recycling, affordable housing, footpaths, cycling routes, picnic areas. Some of the green spaces chosen have been controversial to some in the Parish – Cllr Chopak urged the parishioners to view these and make comments.

After 5th June the Plan will be amended with everyone's comments then sent to Cornwall Council. The Council will return it to the Parish Council with any amendments required and then there will be a vote on the Plan. Cllr Chopak collected the ideas from the School Council and Cllr Butler informed the Council that the teacher will also put this question to the school to see if there are any further ideas.

Chairman's Report

This was deferred until the Parish Council Meeting due to time constraints

Citizen of the Year Awards.

Due to time constraints this was deferred until the June Meeting.

Informal Questions and Answers.

The School Council introduced themselves and informed the Parish Council of their roles in the Council. The Council are involved in charity fundraising, Born to be Wild, they keep their eye on the playpark, they have discussions and votes, discuss healthy living, they planted a tree for Cllr Walters in remembrance, they give ideas for clubs, they support the PSFA; they have achieved eco schools in the past and it was also pointed out that anyone can get involved in the Council.

The School Council had questions for the Parish Council.

Q1. How did the Parish Council get put together?

People join the Council. The Council is one short at the moment and people can request to join and a vote is taken by the existing Councillors.

Q2. What do you do to help the community and what are you willing to do?

We helped reduce the speed limit at Thorn Cross by standing and monitoring the traffic; we helped the Foundry Footbridge get widened to allow for pushchairs, bicycles and wheelchairs; we consult on planning applications; we obtained the hedgehog highways that were given to the school; volunteer in the Village Shop and the Parish council maintain the cemetery.

Q3. Why did you want to be a Councillor?

The Councillors love and care about the Village.

Q4. How many Councillors are there?

There are nine Councillors and there is one vacancy that is advertised on the website.

Q5. Do you get paid?

No, the Councillors are volunteers.

Q6. Do you vote to make decisions?

Yes.

Q7. What jobs do you have as a Councillor.

Cllr Perry is Chair, Cllr Edwards is Vice-chair. The Councillors have things they are responsible for such as Cllr Proudfoot was in charge of the Neighbourhood Plan and she is also portfolio holder for the cemetery along with Cllr Waterhouse and Cllr Perry. Cllr Edwards is responsible for planning along with Cllr Perry etc.

Groups/Activities in the Parish

Reports from many local groups will be displayed 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.....