

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 17 September 2024

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

Councillors Present:

Vice-Chair Cllr Edwards, Cllr Biddick-Bray, Cllr Hunter, Cllr O'Sullivan, Cllr Proudfoot.

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

9 members of the public were present for the meeting.

In the absence of Chairman Perry, Vice-Chair Cllr Edwards chaired the meeting. Cllr Edwards opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

He reminded all Cllrs of the Rule of Debates at Meetings, as stated in Standing Orders, with particular reference to:

1.o. Unless permitted by the chairman of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except: i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor; ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke; iii. to make a point of order; iv. to give a personal explanation; or v. to exercise a right of reply.

1.t. Excluding motions moved under standing order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed (3) minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting.

Record and Approve Apologies.

8.24/214

Cllr Perry sent his apologies due to a planned holiday.

Cllr Waterhouse sent her apologies due to a planned holiday.

It was resolved to approved the absences. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous.

Cllr Grigg did not attend.

Confirm Minutes from the July 2024 meeting and ratify all decisions taken therein.

8.24/215

Amendment request ref: 7.24/191b(ii) to include "due to efficient use of loft space". Clerk made amendment. It was resolved to approve the amended minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2024. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 4 in favour. 1 abstained due to not being at the meeting. The Vice-Chair, Cllr Edwards, signed them as a correct record.

Confirm Minutes from the August 2024 Extraordinary meeting and ratify all decisions taken therein.

8.24/216

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 20 August 2024. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. All in favour. The Vice-Chair, Cllr Edwards, signed them as a correct record.

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/10/2024

Declarations.

8.24/217

- (i) None.
- (ii) None.

Dispensations.

8.24/218

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda.
 - (i) None relevant.

- b) To review new dispensations requests.
 - (i) None.

Matters Arising – for report only.

8.24/219

No updates.

Public Open Session.

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

8.24/220

Dog litter bin at Viewing Point, Widemouth has disappeared. Cllr Chopak to follow up.

Correspondence.

8.24/221

- (i) Week St Mary Parish Hall - Waste Engagement Road Show – 28th August 1-3pm
- (ii) Closure Order - Helebridge Road, Marhamchurch, Bude – 29th July.
- (iii) Peninsula Transport Strategy: guiding future regional transport investment
- (iv) Prior Approval for the conversion of agricultural barns to up to four dwellings - Burns Hall Sharlands Road Marhamchurch Bude – For info only.
- (v) Keeping Cornwall Updated
- (vi) Great Cornwall Green Energy Summit
- (vii) Health & Wellbeing Event 3rd August Bude Parkhouse Centre.
- (viii) Letter from Cornwall Council re Land at Hobbacott Lane registered to Stuart and Sally Colwill under Land Registry Title Number CL315817.
- (ix) PA24/06183 | Submission of details to discharge Condition numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 in respect of Decision Notice PA24/01876 dated 18/06/24 | Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch Bude.
- (x) Planning News for Local Councils and Agents - Summer 2024 now published.
- (xi) CALC TRAINING UPDATE - AUGUST 2024 TO NOVEMBER 2024.
- (xii) Request for support from Visit Bude's Sustainable Tourism project, *The Bude Way*, funded by Bude Climate Partnership.
- (xiii) Keeping Cornwall Updated.
- (xiv) Town and Parish Council Newsletter: 9 August 2024
- (xv) Marhamchurch Notice of Referendum.
- (xvi) Keeping Cornwall Updated.
- (xvii) HOPE FOR CORNWALL ON TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6PM
- (xviii) INVITATION TO: A FRAMEWORK FOR LEISURE - BRIEFING BY JULIE ZESSIMEDES, CORNWALL COUNCIL HEAD OF CULTURE, LEISURE & LIBRARIES
- (xix) North Cornwall CAP Meeting Mon 09 September 24 6.30pm and notes from previous meeting.

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/10/2024

- (xx) Marhamchurch Parish Council - Conclusion of annual review 2023-24
- (xxi) Town and Parish Council Newsletter: 6 September 2024
- (xxii) Keeping Cornwall Updated: 6/9/24

Planning.

8.24/222

a) **Decision Notices/Updates:**

- (i) PA24/06183 | Submission of details to discharge Condition numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 in respect of Decision Notice PA24/01876 dated 18/06/24 | Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch. Discharged.

b) **Planning Applications/Appeals:**

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

- (i) PA24/06646 | Demolition of garage and construction of detached dwelling without compliance with condition 2 of decision notice PA22/11435 dated 26/04/2023 | Land Adj. Verona Helebridge Road Marhamchurch.

It was unanimously agreed that the MPC have no objections to the application, on condition that the hedge is replaced as per original plans (PA22/11435). Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Hunter.

- (ii) PA24/02719 | Outline application including access (all other matters reserved) for an affordable-led rural exception site for of up to 9 dwellings | Park Farm Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch Bude.

Following on from previous comments, MPC wishes to make some additional points.

In spite of the reservations of the Planning Officer in the advice given in response to PA23/00841/PREAPP and the guarded support of the Affordable Housing Team, MPC continues to support this application in principle. MPC would however reiterate their request for approval to be on the basis of affordable housing only. According to CC's Homechoice Local Connections register there are currently 9 householders requiring five x 1 bed, three x 2 bed & one x 3 bed accommodation in the parish of Marhamchurch. Of this, four householders are over the age of 55 requiring three x 1 bed & one x 2 bed accommodation. MPC would request a condition that the affordable housing requirements of Marhamchurch be addressed by this rural exception site application. Proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan, Seconded by Cllr. Edwards. 3 voted in favour. 2 abstained.

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action

8.24/223

- a) V/Chairman.

Cllr Edwards hopes our Chairman is enjoying a very well deserved holiday, and wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank Cllr Perry for all he does for the Council and the Village.

- b) Cornwall Councillor.

Cllr Chopak sent her apologies for missing the August Extraordinary Meeting. She provided the following updates:

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/10/2024

- Wheelie Bins and composting bins should have all been delivered to the area. Information on the flyer which was delivered with bins provides useful information and dates for when to start using them. Useful info online as well. Another face-to-face info session to be held on Sat 21st Sept in Bude.
- CAP Meeting was young adult focussed. Moving forward there are plans to hold only online meetings. The next one is going to be transport focussed scheduled for 9th December 2024.
- Full Council Meeting next Tuesday to discuss (amongst other things) potential transfer of Newquay airport to private ownership as well as potential transfer of some carparks to private third parties. There will be ANPR (Automatic numberplate recognition), potentially Widemouth.
- Met with Oliver Jones, Highways recently – there are 2 ‘retired’ speed visors available – one to be gifted to Poundstock, would Marhamchurch like the other? (It was felt that this could be beneficial for the village)

c) Playpark.

Maintenance – still pending. Cllr Biddick-Bray updated that her husband and father-in-law were going to try and get down there as soon as they can to begin removal of concrete.

Bark – Cllr Proudfoot said she will make contact with Langleaves to see if they can donate some.

Signs – Clerk has the signs.

d) The Clerk.

- Having challenges with the laptop. It keeps crashing and is very slow. To start looking at alternative options, and ensure it is budgeted for in next precept.
- Busy few weeks back after a break, mixed with preparations for this meeting, has meant time is stretched.
- Lots of emails to get through.
- Casework Assist – received an email from Cornwall Council providing a link to sign up to this. Casework Assist is for Councillors and MPs to ask officers for help with casework, general enquiries or when you need to escalate something that was previously reported via Report Something which has not been resolved within the agreed timescales.
- Annual Leave request – for a family wedding in France – 25th – 3 Oct.
- Please start to think about forward finance planning, as clerk will be drawing together the Precept budget plans for Oct meeting. If there’s anything you think the PC needs to budget for, please let me know asap.

It was agreed to bring Agenda Item 20: Hele Valley Trail forward for discussion.

The Hele Valley Trail (T O’S)

8.24/224

- (i) To review resolution 1.24/12 of the January meeting which resolved that MPC take the lead in applying for funding to purchase Plot 1, Hele Valley Trail. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr O’Sullivan. Unanimous and consider partnership arrangements with (named) community groups who support the PC's objectives.

Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan that MPC will look to work with any suitably constituted body or bodies who share MPC objective to guarantee unrestricted public access to the site in perpetuity. There was no seconder for this proposal. No further proposals were made.

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/10/2024

- (ii) To discuss the possibility of organising fundraising events towards financing a possible purchase of the HVT.

No proposals to progress.

With ViceChair's permission, Mr Grills, landowner of Hele Valley Trail gave a brief update. He said they would still very much like to see the land continue to be available for future generations. As a family they are having to think about how to generate income from the land, as all funding ceased in 2018 and as the HVT still needs to be maintained, which all comes at a cost to them. They are thinking of putting up some signs at each end of the trail, with QR codes to request ongoing donations to fund the maintenance and repairs of the area.

- (iii) To discuss the setting up of a Parish Council HVT crowdfunder.

After a detailed discussion it was agreed that it would be better to wait to formulate a plan re fundraising / crowdfunder once MPC have been advised of the outcome of the Community Ownership Fund application. Deferred.

- (iv) To review the PC's approach to financing a possible purchase of the HVT.

MPC will prioritise grant funding as well as exploring alternative funding streams. MPC does not anticipate the allocation of parish funds to the project at this time. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot, Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 4 in favour. 1 abstained.

- (v) To review MPC's opposition to pursuing an ACV registration and a DMMO.

Discussed, but no proposals made or resolutions passed.

- (vi) To review the consensus approval at the March meeting regarding the use of the Marhamchurch Matters Facebook page for updating the public.

Discussion held; it was noted that MM posts can be shared to other sites. No actions. No proposals.

- (vii) To approve a request to the owners of the HVT to meet with a representative (or representatives) of MPC to discuss the current situation in relation to the site.

Room to have discussions on how MPC can work with the landowners. It was proposed that Cllr O'Sullivan request a meeting with the owners of the HVT to discuss the current situation. Proposed Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.

Cllr Proudfoot suggested meeting up to continue with Heritage Lottery Fund application. She also expressed her thanks to all members of the public for attending the meeting, as well as thanking the Grills Family for providing such a valuable space for the community to access.

Amending TSB Payment Control Management

8.24/225

Clerk has received forms to remove Ex Cllr Kerr from Control Management and to add new Cllr. It was resolved to add Cllr Biddick-Bray as a signatory on bank. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. Unanimous.

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/10/2024

Footpath blocked Path number 525/13/1.

8.24/226

Clerk received an email regarding a walk where walkers met the farmer at Great Beer Farm, who advised that the route through Higher Beer was blocked.

She advised she has studied the Cornwall council map again and it clearly shows a path alongside a track after you leave the footpath and wants to know if this is a Public Right Of Way (PROW).

Feedback from Cllr Biddick-Bray, who had spoken to landowners at Higher Beer, said that there has never been a PROW along the track from Higher Beer to Robertshill, as shown on the County Council Definitive map. Also the track is in Launcells Parish. Owners have extensive cattle and sheep handling equipment down the track and therefore are not in favour of public access.

Cllr Proudfoot advised that she will liaise with landowners on other side of track, who may be agreeable to allowing a permissive pathway alongside the track, but agrees that it is a privately owned track and not PROW.

Visit Bude's Sustainable Tourism Project.

8.24/227

One of the key initiatives they are focussing on is reducing the environmental impact of single use disposable BBQ's and use of cheap polystyrene bodyboards.

Clerk had P/C with Sustainable Tourism Assistant and she updated that they are gathering data and feedback from the community and before they promote data more broadly and try to engage with retailers in the area, (who are selling single use BBQ's and bodyboards) they are hoping to be able to have the support/backing from local PC's which is hoped will give the campaigns credibility.

Council were happy to support their initiative. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous. Clerk to send email confirming support.

Cemetery Request to install headstone without interment of ashes.

8.24/228

A request has been received to purchase a cremation plot to install a memorial headstone only. No ashes to be interred. Due to unusual request, Clerk has brought to meeting for Councillors to discuss.

After discussion, the PC agreed to approve this request, subject to eligibility criteria (to be assessed by Cemetery Management Officer) and providing inscription clearly states there are no ashes interred in the plot. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. 4 in favour. 1 against.

D-Day 80 Updates (KH)

8.24/229

Belated update from Cllr Hunter. Whole day of events, which went really well, and was very well attended. Raised £250 from selling cream teas, £200 of which was donated to The Bray. £50 to British Legion.

Neighbourhood Plan.

8.24/230

(i) Referendum Information (SP)

Cornwall Council is leading this, and relevant information is being passed to Clerk for circulation. Clerk is putting on PC website and Noticeboard.

Signed: _____Chairman. 15/10/2024

Referendum will be held on Thursday, 3rd October 2024 from 7.00am till 10.00pm in the Marhamchurch Methodist Church School Room, Pinch Hill EX23 0HY to decide the question: "Do you want Cornwall Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Marhamchurch Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

For those not online, it was agreed to print copies of the Neighbourhood Plan, Referendum version, to be kept in the village shop for residents to borrow. A quote from Cornwall Council was reviewed but it was agreed to get additional quote from Redsmart printing. Propose to purchase colour copies for Village shop. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous. Clerk to action.

Land on Pinch Hill estate (Allotments).

8.24/231

(i) Update from Cornwall Council Legal Team:

A proposal regarding the boundary has been sent to homeowners for their consideration. Pending further feedback.

(ii) Email from owner of neighbouring property re Bindweed issue.

An email was sent to PC (and Court Farm) raising concerns about the bindweed which is increasingly encroaching on their land. Clerk has made contact with Cornwall Council to clarify who is responsible at this time for maintaining hedges as wording in the Management Agreement was unclear:

Clerk noted in Management Agreement that it says "Cornwall Council will use reasonable endeavours to ensure the perimeter walls, fences and hedges are fully maintained" (4.1.2).

Photos have been sent to CC – pending a response.

Owner has advised that bindweed has started flowering and will die back, but would be useful to form a plan on how best to manage when it starts to grow again after winter.

The matter re bindweed was discussed but Cllrs agreed we need to hear back from Cornwall Council as to who is responsible before next steps can be discussed. Clerk to chase CC.

To pass a resolution to sign up to the Civility & Respect Pledge (T O'S)

8.24/232

No proposals put forward.

To consider adopting the Model Councillor-Officer Protocol (T O'S)

8.24/233

Matter deferred.

To clarify Reserves in future accounts consistent with Financial Regulations 3.1 & 3.2 (T O'S)

8.24/234

It was suggested that it might be useful to have a specific account for 'reserves' to be able to clearly demonstrate Councils savings. Clerk to investigate and see if wording can be amended.

Updating Clerk or Councillors re agenda items – advance notice required. (T O'S)

8.24/235

Signed: _____ Chairman. 15/10/2024

This was listed as an agenda item back in May, but was not discussed. What is a reasonable timeframe to expect information to be circulated, ahead of a meeting to give Councillors and Clerk opportunity to read, research (if appropriate) in order to be well prepared for discussions. It was agreed that 3-5 days is reasonable, with the understanding that last minute things do crop up, beyond control of Cllr or Clerk.

Website amendments.

8.24/236

- (i) Discussion to potentially remove COVID section as no longer in use and replace with HELE VALLEY TRAIL to provide updates.

Agreed to remove COVID section on website and replace with HELE VALLEY TRAIL. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. Unanimous.

- (ii) Wording of first HVT updates on website to be reviewed.

Clerk had hoped to draft something and circulate ahead of the meeting, but unfortunately not had the opportunity. It was agreed to provide updates from meeting on the website.

- (iii) Reminder to Cllrs to send through blurbs and photos so Clerk can amend Cllr section. Noted.

- (iv) Updating contact details for Marhamchurch Village Hall keyholders
Currently listed as Peter Jones, Pam Gilhespy & Sue Butler. Cllr Hunter advised that Mary and Peter Jones are happy to come off the list, and Cllr Hunter to be added. Clerk to update website.

- (v) Contact details for Marhamchurch Methodist Sunday School keyholders
Elizabeth Bray & Mary Bromell. Confirmed with Mary Bromell. Clerk to update website.

Footpath from Helebridge Road to St Marwenne Close – overgrown hedge. (TE)

8.24/237

Cllr Chopak to sort this.

Community Chest Grant ideas.

8.24/238

To update, Clerk contacted the Revel Trust Committee to open discussions around potential of resurfacing the basket ball court. Revel Trust Committee Meeting planned for 12th Sept where they will discuss and get back to us. Clerk to follow up.

Application from received from Cllr Chopak.

Marhamchurch Village in Bloom email from MVSL manager.

8.24/239

Marhamchurch Village Shop committee would like PC to consider entering Marhamchurch Village in Bloom competition for 2025. This builds communities, instils greater pride in the village, helps reduce anti-social behaviour and if successful, increase visitor numbers making for a greater local economy.

Clerk was directed to contact MVSL manager to ask for further information.

Quarterly Finance Check Apr – June 2024.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 15/10/2024

8.24/240

This was completed shortly after the July meeting. Noted by Cllrs.

Audit Year End 31 March 2024 Concluded.

8.24/241

BDO has completed the external audit and returned the certified Annual Return. The information in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and there are no matters arising giving cause for concern. A copy of the External Auditor report and Certificate and Notice of Conclusion of Audit is displayed on the noticeboard and website for the required duration.

Finance & Legislation.

8.24/242

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£2474.95) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous.
- b) To note Income & Bank Balances as per the schedule.
- c) To note Bank reconciliations.

Parish Matters.

8.24/243

Resident raised concerns with Cllr O'Sullivan re dangerous trees on the land alongside the 'allotment area', Pinch Hill. Cllr Chopak to chase this.

Graffiti on Helebridge Road – unpleasant images and racist image. Cllr Chopak to get this removed.

MVSL Toilet Portfolio Holder – Cllr O'Sullivan & Cllr Hunter volunteered for this role. Clerk to update website.

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

8.24/244

No urgent matters raised.

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

8.24/243

15th October next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:48pm.

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. 15/10/2024