

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 17th December 2024

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

Councillors Present:

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

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

1 member of the public were present for the meeting.

Cllr Perry 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.

24/303

Cllr Grigg sent his apologies, Christmas commitments. It was resolved to approve the apology. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

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

24/304

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024. Proposed Cllr Waterhouse. Seconded Cllr Edwards. All in favour. Chairman signed them as a correct record.

Declarations.

24/305

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interests in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) Cllr Biddick-Bray declared an interest in a matter which will be raised under Urgent Matters re Anaerobic Digestion Plant at East Helscott Farm.
- (iii) Cllr Hunter declared an interest in Agenda item 8b(i) & (ii): PA24/08132 & PA24/08133.

Dispensations.

24/306

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda:

Signed: _____Chairman. 21/1/2025

- (i) Dispensation noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- b) To review new dispensations requests.
 - (i) None received.

Matters Arising – for report only.

24/307

Cllr O’Sullivan disagreed with statement made by Cllr Perry at previous meeting stating that his post on Marhamchurch Matters had been removed. Cllr O’Sullivan said it had not disappeared. A comment was made that as Cllr Perry has been removed from the Facebook group – that he would not be able to see the post anymore.

Public Open Session.

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

24/308

No comments.

Correspondence.

24/309

All circulated via email.

Planning.

24/310

a) **Decision Notices/Updates:**

- (i) PA24/04798 | Submission of details to discharge conditions 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 in relation to Decision notice PA23/04788 dated 23.02.2024 | Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch. **Not all conditions agreed.**

b) **Planning Applications/Appeals:**

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

- (i) PA24/08132 | Replacement of rear extensions with associated internal alterations | Old Rattenbury Farmhouse Marhamchurch.
- (ii) PA24/08133 | Listed Building Consent for replacement of rear extensions with associated internal alterations | Old Rattenbury Farmhouse Marhamchurch.

Cllr Hunter left the room before discussions began

It was agreed to review both applications together. Proposal made by Cllr Edwards that MPC have no objection to the planning applications. Seconded Cllr Waterhouse. Unanimous.

***Cllr Hunter returned to the meeting.**

Signed: _____Chairman. 21/1/2025

- (iii) PA24/08519 | Construction of five units of holiday accommodation, associated internal roadway, parking, landscaping, drainage and associated works including the formation of a new access road. | Land North Of Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch.

Following a detailed discussion the following proposal was made:

Cllr Perry proposed No Objection to planning application. Seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan. 2 in favour. 3 against. 2 abstained. The motion did not pass.

Second proposal made by Cllr Edwards, to recommend refusal. Concerns flagged around protection of landscape, risk of over development. This was seconded by Cllr Waterhouse. 3 in favour. 2 against. 2 abstained. Motion passed.

- (iv) PA24/08332 | Construction of 1 dwelling in lieu of Class Q | The Old Mill Burns Hall Sharlands Road Marhamchurch.

Proposal made by Cllr O'Sullivan to object on the basis that it is not in keeping with original building. Seconded Cllr Perry. 4 in favour. 1 against. 2 abstained. Motion passed.

- (v) PA24/08765 | Listed Building Consent for the restoration and extension of existing curtilage listed building to form agricultural storage and workshop facility | Woodknowle Farm Sharlands Road Marhamchurch.

Clerk updated that as this Planning Application arrived after the agenda was published, it was not possible to vote on this. Clerk also advised that she had just received confirmation from Planning Officer that an extension has been granted to provide comment after the January Meeting.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked the Clerk to seek clarification around wording on Consultation Letter, and to re-engage with Planning Officers who were scheduled to attend a meet and greet with Marhamchurch PC just before elections were called. Clerk to action both requests.

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action

24/311

a) Chairman.

- Chairman wanted to thank all the Councillors for their ongoing commitment to the Parish Council and for all the time they volunteer. We are very grateful for such a great team. Merry Christmas to everyone! A special thank you was also extended to County Cllr Nicky Chopak who goes above and beyond, and rarely misses a meeting.
- Cllr Biddick-Bray asked the Chairman to inform the Parish Council that she realised at the last PC Meeting, she has also been banned from Marhamchurch Matters Facebook Group. Cllr Biddick-Bray has also chosen to leave the Parish Council Messenger Group.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

- A huge thanks to everyone for doing such a fantastic job,
- Elections coming 1 May 2025 and would love to see everyone stand again. Happy Christmas to all.
- Cornwall Council budget consultation is open and please comment and have your say.

Signed: _____Chairman. 21/1/2025

- Carpark issues of being sold to private owners, does not directly affect any in this area, YET. Make sure you have your say!
- Marazion Town Council unanimously passed a motion of no confidence in Cornwall Council's planning and enforcement department. They would like you to join forces with us in expressing our frustration with them by also passing a no confidence motion in them. The motion is gaining some traction and shows the frustration felt by many in our Planning and Enforcement operates.
- The last bank (TSB) is due to close in Bude in the new year. A Banking HUB is planned for Bude in a temporary venue.
- Whalesborough concerns around access that were flagged at the last meeting – there will be a retrospective planning application submitted and the changes are purely to ensure safe access. The site will be re-instated once construction phase completed.

c) Playpark.

(i) Out of Court Order

Clerk has been contacted by Police to ask how Parish Council would like to proceed regarding this. One of the suspects identified, being a juvenile, is suitable for an out of court disposal in which Officer would discuss with them and a parent / guardian a suitable outcome option, including repayment, apology and / or including a referral for learning and support. **DECISION:** Council wished to pursue this option. Proposed Cllr Waterhouse. Seconded Cllr Hunter. Unanimous.

(ii) Maintenance – still pending. Fence needs repairing. Clerk to obtain some quotes before next meeting.

Cllr Chopak said that she had just under £1000 left of her budget, and wondered whether the PC would like this as aware it won't cover the full cost. She thought perhaps CIL money could be used? Clerk to put as agenda item for next meeting.

d) The Clerk.

- Annual Leave booked in Thursday 19th December – Monday 6th January.
- Text received from TSB to confirm that amendments requested on mandate form have been made. Cllr Biddick-Bray should now have access to online banking to approve payment requests. Cllr Biddick-Bray confirmed she has received confirmation too.
- Training request – to attend:
 - Internal Controls 22/01/2025 £35+VAT
 - New Clerks Finance 28/01/2025 £35+VAT
 - Pre-elections 06/02/2025 £35+VAT

DECISION: Cllrs approved training requests. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan. Unanimous. Clerk to book in.

Budget and Precept 2025/2026.

24/312

The draft budget and precept were circulated before the meeting for any suggestions / queries.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to unanimously approve the 2025/2026 budget. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot.

It was unanimously agreed to select the Precept of £31,277.03 for the 2025/26 financial year. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Perry. Clerk to action.

Power to fund works to property relating to the Church update.

24/313

Signed: _____ Chairman. 21/1/2025

CALC circulated a briefing note which states an addition to the Local Government Act 1894 came into force which aimed to clarify that Councils have the discretionary powers to fund church repairs or improvements to faith buildings.

ACTION: Council should review the grant awarding policy in light of this addition to the law. Clerk to action in the new year.

Re-development of Bude Skate Park request for financial support from BSTC.

24/314

Request for funds to support the project has been received. Email was circulated to Cllrs following a request for further information.

- Total cost is expected to be between £538k-£558- depending on the cost of the ecological net gains which will be established via the outcome of the planning application – which is in
- They have £135k to date

Cllr O’Sullivan suggested deferral of this item due to issues BSTC are facing with regards to planning.

Community Chest Grant

24/315

Clerk updated that she has submitted a request for funding. For further discussion at next meeting.

Local MP contact details card.

24/316

Clerk has received contact card to be published in Noticeboard – Clerk wanted to confirm Cllrs are happy with this. It is a Non-political card. No objections from Cllrs.

NALC: Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25.

24/317

NALC/SLCC National Salary Award pay scale has been agreed and backdated to April 2024 as per guidance. A copy of the agreement has been circulated to all Cllrs for their information.

Annual Clerk Review.

24/318

Clerk met with Clerk Support Portfolio Holders for an annual review on 22nd October 2024.

A meeting was held at Clerks house, and a series of discussions were held around the role, things that have gone well, and challenges of the role.

Following a satisfactory review, and as per employment agreement, it was agreed that Clerks salary be increased from SCP 24 to SCP 25, backdated to September 2024, which was when Clerk had been back in post for 12 months.

Cllr O’Sullivan requested a confidential Clerks annual appraisal be circulated to Cllrs for their information. He also noted that there are no Terms of Reference for this Clerk Support Portfolio Holders. Clerk to follow up queries with CALC.

Hele Valley Trail.

24/319

Chairman invited Lead Cllr to provide a brief update.

- On Saturday 14th December a group of volunteers met to help remove some fallen trees along the trail. Cllr. O’Sullivan said that as Lead Cllr. for the HVT, he wished to record his sincere gratitude to all those involved with helping.
- Cllr O’Sullivan wished to retrospectively extend thanks to all volunteers who helped clear fallen trees along the trail back on 6th Jan 24 and send apologies that this was not minuted at the time.

Signed: _____Chairman. 21/1/2025

- Community Levelling Up Fund is looking like it is going to be continued, which may be another suitable avenue.
- Heritage Lottery Fund – Cllr O’Sullivan flagged potential conflict regarding this Fund, as The Bray may wish to resubmit another expression of interest to this. If both PC and The Bray submit applications it may result in being in competition.
- Crowdfunder – Cllr O’Sullivan updated that he had looked into this more, and could be a positive avenue for fundraising. There is no need for a bank account to be linked to the Crowdfunder, and no risk of having to work out how to refund the money should it no longer be required (as the Crowdfunding page will hold the money until such time that it is needed).

Quarterly Financial Check.

24/320

Completed for 1 July 24 – 31 Sept 24. Noted by Cllrs.

Quarterly Budget Report 1 July-30 Sept 24.

24/321

Circulated to Cllrs for their information.

Finance & Legislation.

24/322

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£2,627.79) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Proudfoot. Seconded Cllr O’Sullivan. 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.

24/323

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

24/324

Cllr Biddick-Bray left the room

Clerk advised that she had received a written request today from Pegasus Group acting on behalf of East Helscott Renewable Energy Ltd (applicant) requesting to attend January PC meeting to present proposed changes re the Anaerobic Digestion Plant at East Helscott Farm. They would like to inform the Parish of proposed development and answer any questions there may be.

Clerk advised to err on side of caution and did not encourage a pre-meeting, stating that it would be better if the application was submitted first. The applicant/representative could then attend the meeting to update the Council, when the application was being considered.

Proposal made by Cllr Edwards that preference would be for application to be submitted first, then representative could present / reply to any questions when the matter was being considered. Seconded Cllr Proudfoot. 6 in favour. 1 abstained.

***Cllr Biddick-Bray returned to the meeting.**

Signed: _____Chairman. 21/1/2025

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

24/324

Tuesday 21 January. Neighbourhood Plan. VE Day.

Meeting closed at: 9.10pm

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. 21/1/2025