

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 15th April 2025

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

Councillors Present:

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

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

2 members of the public were present for the meeting. Cllr Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Record and Approve Apologies.

25/69

Cllr Proudfoot has a family commitment. It was resolved to approve the apology. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous.

Confirm Minutes from the March 2025 meeting and ratify all decisions taken therein.

25/70

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2025. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr O'Sullivan. Unanimous.

Declarations.

25/71

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interest in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) No new declarations.

Dispensations.

25/72

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda:
 - (i) Dispensation noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- b) To review new dispensations requests.
 - (i) No new dispensation requests.

Matters Arising – for report only.

25/73

Update re Anti-social behaviour in the village...ongoing issues, encouraged to keep reporting issues. North Cornwall CAP Meeting 31 March 2025. Cllr Edwards gave brief update.

Public Open Session.

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

25/74

No comments.

Correspondence.

Signed: _____Chairman. 20/5/2025

25/75

Circulated via email.

Planning.

25/76

a) **Decision Notices/Updates:**

- (i) **PA25/01551** | Permission in Principle for proposed residential development of 5 no. dwellings (minimum 5 maximum 5) | Land Adjacent To Melrose Helebridge Road Marhamchurch.

5-day protocol received for above application. Planning Officer is recommending the scheme for approval, despite Parish Council objection to the proposal.

Planning Officer requested that Council consider the following options as set out within the Protocol for Local Councils:

1. Agree with this recommendation
2. Agree to disagree
3. Request the LPA consider referring the matter to planning committee

The Parish Council, by a majority vote, request that the LPA consider referring the matter to the Planning Committee. Clerk to advise Planning Officer.

- (ii) **PA24/07782** |Erection of 20 dwellings (including 30% affordable housing), public open space, access and associated works| Land East Of Strathmore Hilton Road Marhamchurch.

No updates were received by the time of the meeting. No discussion needed.

b) **Planning Applications/Appeals:**

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

Cllr O’Sullivan updated that he attended a meeting with Planning Officers in Week St Mary recently. Feedback was that Officers will try to be flexible where possible with deadlines, especially in relation to 5 day protocols. Also possible to ask for amendments to be made on applications. Planning Officers want to try and support more dialogue between Councils and Planning.

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action

25/77

a) Chairman.

Concerns flagged with footpaths from Widemouth back to Marhamchurch. To monitor. Signage and posts have been installed around the village.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

As we are in Pre-election period limited in ability to provide updates.

Final full Council meeting was held before elections, many farewells and thank yous to Cllrs not standing for re-election. The last 4 years have seen the Council go from £570m deficit to £1.37b deficit. There will be more cuts to come, including Community Chest grants, likely to be halved from £3000 to £1500. Highways budget will also likely face budget cuts.

The last 4 years has been an interesting journey. Parish Councillors do an amazing job – so big thank you to you all.

Signed: _____Chairman. 20/5/2025

c) Playpark.

(i) Request to purchase paint for benches.

Cllrs approved request to purchase paint for the benches. Proposed Cllr Waterhouse. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous.

(ii) Playpark inspection report.

Overall feedback was reasonable, Cllr Perry has actioned the urgent issues.

d) The Clerk.

TSB – Business Update details completed.

Easy PC issues completed.

Receipt of April instalment of Precept.

VAT126 Claim submitted for £801.91.

BT contract has now been successfully terminated. Final bill due.

Request to take time off from Friday 18th – Weds 23rd April.

The Hele Valley Trail.

25/78

(i) Crowdfunding Update

Need to apply to Crowdfunder for additional funding avenues – agreed to wait until hit £1000 target as will entail more work time.

2 emails received from residents very concerned by lack of response on Crowdfunder & Fear it is not being promoted sufficiently.

Posters to be placed in HVT with details and QR codes.

(ii) Draft A5 Flyer

It was resolved to approve printing and circulation of A5 flyer which provides updates and links to Crowdfunder. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Waterhouse. 6 in favour. 1 abstained. Clerk to action and circulate to Bude Tourist Information Centre & Bude Stratton Town Council

Discussion was held around survey consultation to be circulated over Easter, however it was agreed to focus on the flyer for now, being conscious of the Pre-Election period. To be reviewed at a later date.

VE 80 Commemoration.

25/79

Cllr Hunter updated that all is in hand. Lots of things planned and will be circulated on social media.

Neighbourhood Plan.

25/80

No updates.

CALC Annual Membership 25/26.

25/81

The clerk received the 2025/26 CALC membership invoice of £446.60. The previous membership was ££423.64. It was resolved to continue the membership. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 6 in favour. 1 abstained.

Methodist Hall Rent increase and associated paperwork.

Signed: _____Chairman. 20/5/2025

25/82

Price increase from £25 to £30 from 1 April 2025. Licence Agreement and Key Holder Declaration to be signed. Chairman signed Key Holder Declaration. The Council instructed Clerk to not sign licence Agreement until quotes for alternative room hire had been sourced.

The Bray.**25/83**

Urgent meeting was held to discuss future of The Bray and how to secure its longevity. Over 50 people attended the meeting. Over £100,000 of repairs is needed. Diocese have visited. An entertainment Committee has been formed and hoping to launch website and online booking system soon. AGM to be held on 1st May 2025.

Email re Whalesborough ongoing development concerns.**25/84**

Email circulated to Councillors with permission of sender. He has also given permission for it to be forwarded to Cornwall Council Planning Officers, if Council deem appropriate flagging concerns around ongoing development work at Whalesborough, especially due to the biodiversity of the site. The Council acknowledged his concerns but flagged that its likely that Whalesborough will no longer be under any schemes and unlikely to be in breach of any legislation. The Council are passionate about Marhamchurch and the environment but also note that Whalesborough is listed as a working farm, and therefore agricultural measures will be in place. Council suggested Clerk make contact with Planning Officer re planning application PA24/08519 at Whalesborough to highlight concerns raised by the member of public. Clerk to action.

Elections 2025.**25/85**

There will be no election for seats on Marhamchurch Parish Council. Only 5 people put themselves forwards so it is uncontested. A reminder that Expense claims need to be submitted.

Audit 2024/2025**25/86**

The deadline to submit the AGAR and supporting information is Monday 1 July 2025. The Clerk has not had time to look into this in detail yet, due to other work demands. Marhamchurch Parish Council will be required to undertake a Basic Review for 24/25. Clerk to action.

Appointment of Internal Auditor.**25/87**

As part of the Audit process an Internal Audit needs to be completed. It was agreed to engage the Internal Auditor previously used.

Garden Waste Subscription.**25/88**

Cllr Perry will empty. No need for ongoing subscription.

Purchase of Cornish Flags for Church.**25/89**

Clerk has been contacted by resident who manages the flags for the Church. He has requested 3 x heavy duty flags which seem to last much longer. Last one was put in Dec 24. 3x £14.99 = £44.97. Council happy to approve this request.

Signed: _____Chairman. 20/5/2025

Citizen of The Year Nominations.

25/90

Ad to be placed in Noticeboard and website. Closing date Friday 16th May 2025.

Finance & Legislation.

25/91

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£3,622.28) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr O’Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 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.

25/92

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

25/93

A lot of social media posts about aggressive ‘Nottingham Knockers’ doing the rounds in Marhamchurch. The Police are aware.

Clerk Support / Contract / Review.

25/94

Clerk requested for this to be deferred due to needing more time to collate info.

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

25/95

Tuesday 20th May

Annual Meeting – request reports from local groups?

EOFY reports Survey consultation draft for HVT Methodist Church Contract.

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. 20/5/2025