

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Monday 30th June 2025

An extraordinary 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 Hunter, Cllr O'Sullivan.

Also in attendance: Clerk E Hawkins & Cllr Chopak.

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

Record and Approve Apologies.

25/148

Ben Maguire MP, Cllr Frost & Cllr LaBroy sent their apologies.

Declarations of Interest.

25/149

- (i) No new declarations were made.

Dispensations.

25/150

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda:
 - (i) None.
- b) To review new dispensations requests.
 - (i) None.

Matters Arising.

25/151

None.

Public Open Session.

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

25/151

Member of public checked that Chairman was happy to use discretion to open up the meeting to the public when deemed necessary. Chairman confirmed this.

The Hele Valley Trail.

25/152

Clerk gave an overview of current position.

£152,000 grant secured in principle from the Community Ownership Fund to purchase Lot 1 of The Hele Valley Trail. Currently on the open market at £190,000. As part of this grant offer, the PC are required to secure match funding of 20% of the total cost of purchase, which equates to £38,000. Timeline for COF Grant

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stipulates that end of Sept to have secured the funds with proof of income for COF to release £152,000 grant. October – Dec to finalise legal side of process. 23 Dec 2025 all has to be completed.

Crowdfunder has raised just over £9000 so far which is wonderful. Thank you to all who have donated. Bude Stratton TC have approved a grant of £2500. Poundstock PC have approved a donation of £500. Launcells PC have donated £224 into the crowdfunder. Clerk advised a £500 cheque was handed to her this evening too.

(i) To discuss the Public Works Loan Board Application requirements.

Discussions were held around querying the sale price of the land. Cllr Perry and Cllr O’Sullivan have both spoken with the landowner on separate occasions. Feedback that the asking price is £190,000. Putting in a lower offer will have implications on the grant from Community Ownership Fund too. A RICS valuation survey was completed confirming that it is a reasonable asking price. Report available on PC website.

Cllr Biddick-Bray provided an overview of estimated costings if MPC were to borrow from Public Works Loan Board and what this may look like for precept payments.

After a detailed discussion it was agreed to set up an online consultation survey to include the 2 questions listed on the Borrowing Approval Application Form re PWLB process to include figures for £20,000 loan over 15 years. Proposed Cllr O’Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 4 voted in favour. 1 abstained.

It was noted that if residents are unable to submit online, Clerk to be contact to support them. Posters to be put up in village informing residents of this.

Cllr O’Sullivan proposed that the Clerk write to Cornwall Council Leaders as well as MP for North Cornwall requesting their support on the HVT, flagging that Parishes around Marhamchurch have received financial grants, however Marhamchurch appears to have been overlooked. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 4 in favour. 1 abstained. Clerk to action as priority.

Cllr O’Sullivan proposed that Clerk and Cllr O’Sullivan request a meeting with Marhamchurch Village Shop Committee to see if they are able to offer any financial support. Seconded Cllr Perry. 4 in favour. 1 abstained. Clerk to action as priority.

Cllr Chopak updated that she will find out if there are any last pots of funding. She will also raise with Cllr Maguire.

(ii) To discuss timelines and deadlines associated with Community Ownership Fund Grant.

Already discussed.

(iii) Application to Cornwall Climate & Nature Fund (via Crowdfunder)

Should hear back by end of the week. Will only retain funds if the Crowdfunder target it met.

(iv) Discuss possibility of reducing the target amount for Crowdfunder.

Have confirmed with Crowdfunder that this is an option – if decide to change target amount, need to decide to what amount. Deferred until next meeting.

(v) Transfer of funds into Crowdfunder donated to Hele Valley Trail Parish Council Acct:

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1. Grant from Bude & Stratton Town Council (£2500 – pending)
2. Donation from Poundstock PC (£500 – pending)
3. Any future successful grants (Prime Foundation pending £8300)
4. Donations received via cheque (currently 1 donation of £200)

Deferred to next meeting.

(vi) Any other matters relating to Hele Valley Trail.

1. Signs at the HVT and associated costs – circulated draft poster. To add QR code. It was agreed to approve design and purchase of 2x A2 signs at £33+VAT & £19 survey monkey costs. Proposed Cllr O’Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous. Cllr Biddick-Bray offered to arrange installing them on the site.
2. Video – to circulate. Big thank you to Elyot & Cllr Perry for their time put into this.
3. Feedback re Photo Opportunity with Mayor of BSTC & Chair of Poundstock. Cllr O’Sullivan advised this had already been done.

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

25/153

Email circulated by Clerk from Highways re proposed changes to closing of part of footpath which leads onto A39. Cllrs agreed their support in principle of the proposed changes. To await further information.

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

25/154

Tuesday 15th July

Meeting closed at: 9:15pm

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. 16/6/2025