

# Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025

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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 Nicky Chopak.

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

## **Record and Approve Apologies.**

**25/170**

None.

## **Confirm Minutes from the 15 July 2025 Meeting and ratify all decisions taken therein.**

**25/171**

It was resolved to approve the minutes and ratify all decisions made at the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 4 in favour. 1 abstained.

## **Declarations of Interest.**

**25/172**

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interest in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) Cllr Biddick-Bray declared an interest in Agenda item 15: Proposed Revised layout for Consented Anaerobic Digestion Plan at East Helscott Farm, Marhamchurch.
- (iii) No other declarations.

## **Dispensations.**

**25/173**

- 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.**

**25/174**

None.

## **Public Open Session.**

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

**25/175**

Comments re Agenda item 10: Hele Valley Trail:

Great to see updates re Crowdfunder progress. Query raised re updates on social media.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. /2025

Concerns flagged regarding negative comments re Community Shop on social media. Community Funding process is meant to be a positive thing for the community, however this year it has become toxic. The Community Shop Fund Committee will be reviewing the process for future years.

Comments re Agenda item 15: Use of social media for information sharing purposes:  
There are 4 admins on Marhamchurch Matters Facebook page.

**Correspondence.**

**25/176**

Circulated via email. Noted.

**Planning.**

**25/177**

a) **Decision Notices/Updates:**

(i) **None.**

b) **Planning Applications/Appeals:**

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

**\*\*Cllr Biddick-Bray left the meeting\*\***

(i) **PA25/04531** | Installation of an agricultural anaerobic digestion facility and associated plant and equipment including underground pipework, digestate lagoon, site access road and landscaping | East Helscott Farm Marhamchurch.

Representatives from Raw Energy provided an overview of amendments in-line with new Government regulations. Queries raised re increased traffic flow, use of household organic waste, odour, noise and lighting. All of which were address in discussions and referenced to relevant reports on planning portal.

Proposal made that MPC have no objections to the proposal. Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Perry. 2 in favour. 1 against. 1 abstained.

With agreement of the Council Agenda item 11: **To discuss recent letter from Pegasus Group re Anaerobic Digestion Plant at East Helscott Farm, re possible Community Benefit Fund** was moved up the agenda.

Representatives confirmed that as a Community Benefit Fund had been offered previously, the company were happy to uphold the offer of £8500 as a one-off payment. This is an increase from previous offer in line with inflation.

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

**To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action**

**25/178**

a) Chairman.

Hele Valley Trail continuing to develop in positive steps.

20 mph consultation period is active.

Park & Ride is up and running.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. /2025

Park & Ride – feedback re earlier start for workers in town centre.  
Launceston Hospital minor injury unit was sadly closed, with only 3 days notice.  
Cornwall Integrated Care – potential to cluster with Devon – will be strategically challenging. Funding concerns as Devon has 2 large hospitals.  
20 mph consultation launched today.  
New Air Ambulance launched today.

c) Playpark.

Minor repairs completed recently.  
Top bar to be purchased for swings. Proposal Cllr Perry can spend up to £150 to purchase replacement items.  
Proposed Cllr Hunter. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 4 in favour. 1 abstained.

d) The Clerk.

Website issues have been addressed.  
Tracking hours over the holidays.  
Apr – June Finance Check documents handed to Cllr Edwards today.

**The Hele Valley Trail.**

**25/179**

(i) Report & Update from Cllr O’Sullivan re discussions with Landowner  
No updates.

(ii) To discuss possible arrangement of tree survey, to be undertaken by a professional Tree Surveyor, prior to purchase of HVT.

Following an in-depth debate, it was agreed to ask Evolve Tree Consultancy to conduct a tree survey at the Hele Valley Trail. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 4 in favour. 1 against. Cllr O’Sullivan wished to have his vote against, noted.

(iii) Agree to appoint a Solicitor and confirm they can assist within deadlines.

Following a review of the quotes, it was agreed to appoint Parnalls Solicitors Ltd. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. Unanimous.

(iv) To discuss possibility (and approve costs) of installing additional signage round the Marhamchurch, Widemouth, Bude areas to promote HVT.

It was resolved to approve purchase of additional 10 correx signs. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.

(v) To discuss feedback from CALC re Public Works Loan Board application.

Previously circulated via email and noted by Cllrs.

(vi) To discuss Marhamchurch Village Shop matters.

Pending outcome from application.

(vii) Any other matters relating to HVT.

None.

**A39 safety concerns proposal from Highways.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. /2025

**25/180**

Circulated via email and noted by Cllrs.

**Insurance Documents 2025/2026.**

**25/181**

Cllrs happy to accept and approve the insurance documents which were circulated ahead of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

**Dog fouling in village.**

**25/182**

Cllr Edwards updated that he was made aware of issues within the village and made contact with Dog warden who advised a fixed penalty notice had been issued to an offender. If caught again with photographic evidence, it could end up in court.

**Review the use of social media for information sharing purposes.**

**25/183**

Discussion held but no resolutions passed.

**Public Spaces Protection Order, review of existing dog ban on beaches.**

**25/184**

Public Protection Service seeking views on the above consultation. Return any comments by 15 September 2025 direct to [publicprotection@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:publicprotection@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Co-Option Nominations.**

**25/185**

Elyot Burnett introduced himself to the Parish Council. Strong focus on Community, nature and culture, Elyot signed the Acceptance Declaration, witnessed and signed by the Clerk, along with the Registration of Approval to receive meeting papers and other council documents by email. He was unanimously welcomed to the Parish Council. Clerk to action necessary paperwork.

The other candidate decided at this point not to pursue the Co-option process.

**Finance & Legislation.**

**25/186**

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£3089.43) 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. Noted.
- c) To note Bank reconciliations. Noted.

**Parish Matters – Agree action and authorise associated expenditure.**

**25/187**

None.

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

**25/188**

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> August Bude Pilot Gig Club are running a fundraiser for Hele Valley Trail. Bench outside The Bray is broken.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. /2025

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

**25/189**

Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025.

Sept Meeting: Remembrance Sunday.

**Meeting closed at: 9:20pm**

**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. /2025