

## Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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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 O'Sullivan.

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

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

### **Record and Approve Apologies.**

**26/50**

Cllr Polkinghorn sent her apologies due to being unwell. It was unanimously resolved to approve the apology. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Perry.

### **Confirm Minutes from the 17 February 2026 and ratify all decisions taken therein.**

**26/51**

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the meeting, with 1 amendment. REF: 26/42.4 should read: Seconded by Cllr Edwards, not Cllr O'Sullivan. Clerk amended the printed copy, held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and ratify all decisions made at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. All in favour. Chairman signed them as a correct record.

### **Declarations.**

**26/52**

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interest in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) Cllr Perry declared interest in Agenda Item 20 (i) Cemetery Safety Inspection.
- (iii) Cllr Biddick-Bray declared an interest in Agenda Item 10: Hackthorn Farm.

### **Dispensations.**

**26/53**

- a) To note approved dispensations relevant to items on the agenda:
  - (i) Dispensations noted for Cllr Perry re Agenda item 9c: Playpark & Item 20 (i) Cemetery Safety Inspection.
- b) To review new dispensations requests.
  - (i) Cllr Biddick-Bray submitted a Dispensation request for Agenda Item 10: Hackthorn Farm. Dispensation requested to participate in discussion but not to vote. Request approved. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

### **Matters Arising – for report only.**

**26/54**

- (i) Lose tiles in PC. Cllr Perry advised that it had been resolved.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/02/2026

## Public Open Session.

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

**26/55**

Re Hackthorn Farm:

There were a number of comments from parishioners affected by the installation of Slurry Pit at Hackthorn Farm. Comments that concerns and issues have been flagged with Cornwall Council regarding environmental impact and personal well-being impact on residents. Significant amount of traffic passing along roads. Numerous pot holes along the road.

Cllr Chopak updated that Planning Enforcement are at Stage 4 of process to ensure it meets regulations. This is not a quick process however.

Any Environmental or Health issues must be reported directly to the relevant teams at Cornwall Council. This must be done by individuals.

Potholes must be reported online to Cornwall Council, individuals to report online, and repeatedly if necessary.

The discussions were ended as it was agreed to continue when agenda item is discussed.

## Correspondence.

**26/56**

Circulated via email.

- (i) Emergency Resilience Survey from Cornwall Council.
- (ii) A39 Speed issues – Cllr Chopak raised residents’ concerns with Highways and feedback can be circulated directly to the resident who made contact with Parish Council.

## Planning.

**26/57**

### a) Decision Notices/Updates:

- (i) **PA26/00818** | Non Material Amendment in relation to Decision Notice PA22/02484 dated 8th December 2022 for the removal of the green roof element from the sloped roof above the living space to eight luxury villa units in the northern field known as the Hillside Villas |Whalesborough Farm Marhamchurch. Approved conditional.
- (ii) **PA25/09675** | Replacement garage |Longdown Marine Drive Widemouth Bay Bude. Approved with conditions.
- (iii) **PA25/08517** | Permission in Principle for the construction of dwellings (min 5, max 9) | Land East Of Park Farm Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch. Granted.
- (iv) **PA25/08403** | Land South West Of The White House Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch | Construction of two storey dwelling to include enclosed private amenity and parking with removal of condition 5 of decision notice PA23/03104. Granted.

### b) Planning Applications/Appeals:

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

- (i) **PA26/-**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/02/2026

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

**26/58**

a) Chairman.

Hobbacott Lane has now been resurfaced.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

- Budget approved. Increase of 4.99%. Council tax bills pending. Can now recycle soft plastics – info sheet to arrive with Council Tax Bill with specific instructions.
- CAP Meeting – Young People – very educational and well attended. Next one planned for June to discuss Transport.
- Community Chest Grant of £300 approved.
- Highways Improvement (20 mph roll out) has been delayed due to poor weather.
- Speed visor pole to be installed along Sharlands Road.

c) Playpark.

Annual Safety Inspection is due but they made contact to advise there is a delay in inspections and sent their apologies. Should be completed soon.

d) The Clerk.

Marhamchurch Food Fair is set for Monday 4th May 2026 11am-3pm. Organisers are looking for new volunteers to assist.

Community Chest Grant request approved for £300 to purchase heavy duty picnic bench.

Notified democratic services of vacancy following Cllr Burnett's resignation and followed up today. Waiting to hear back.

Spent a lot of time trying to update various log ins with new email address.

Clerk requested approval to purchase a portable recording device for meetings, to be able to reference if/when required. Requested to purchase item up to the value of £50. Approved Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.

Clerk also requested to purchase an additional filing cabinet, as only have 2 drawers due to 3<sup>rd</sup> drawer being used by Cemetery files for fire safety precaution. 3 drawer £115. 2 drawer £85 from Argos. This was not met with enthusiasm by some Cllrs, and therefore Clerk suggested that if someone sees a second-hand filing cabinet for sale between now and next meeting, to notify Clerk. There are several second-hand ones for sale online, however not locally.

A member of the public offered to purchase one, but Clerk respectfully declined, due to their being a budget set annually for office supplies.

**Hackthorne Farm Slurry Pit Concerns.**

**26/59**

Further discussions were held between affected residents and Hackthorn Farm Owners.

Potential of a cover to reduce the impact of the odour was mentioned.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/02/2026

Fence to be installed around the pit – which owners confirmed will be installed as soon as possible. Owners highlighted that they are not working late into the evenings, nor weekends or holidays. Residents raised concerns around safety issues, impact on businesses and impact on well-being of people living within the area. Cllr O’Sullivan wondered whether the issues residents are experiencing may have been exasperated by the ongoing wet weather.

### **Code of Conduct Decision Notice CCN084/25/26 Arbitration Quote from CALC.**

#### **26/60**

Quote received from CALC for 2 days work (£800+VAT). It was agreed that this was quite a significant amount of money to pay out and that it might be worth looking into alternative options first.

Following discussions, it was agreed that Cllr Perry to meet with Cllr O’Sullivan and Peter Green as a starting point.

Cllr Biddick-Bray also would like to look into alternative options, as mindful that Peter Green was referenced in the initial Code of Conduct Complaint.

### **The Hele Valley Trail**

#### **26/61**

Clerk updated the following:

- (i) Forestry Commission Successor’s Application Form.

As part of the contract of sale the PC agreed to ‘succeed’ the Woodland Grant Scheme. The partially completed form was circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. This matter was deferred to next meeting so both Hele Valley Trail Leads could comment.

- (ii) Signage – Circulated ahead of meeting. Reviewed and minor amendments requested. Clerk to get printed off asap.

- (iii) Community Ownership Fund plaque.

Clerk to double check whether a plaque is required, in case it is, it was agreed to spend up to £100. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

- (iv) Removal of the barbed wire from around the old metal fencing, on the river embankment - Council are happy for it to be removed. Volunteers can assist. Cllr Perry said he would organise this.

- (v) Financial Impact Statement. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to remove it from website. Clerk to action.

- (vi) Other Matters.

Cllr Bidick-Bray updated that Woodland Management Scheme has been deferred. Cllr O’Sullivan requested copied of emails be circulated.

### **Digital and Data Compliance Update.**

#### **26/62**

Clerk reminded Cllrs to log into their new account and start using it. Website draft has been circulated for comment. PC are happy with the new design.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/02/2026

Clerk encouraged all Cllrs to set up an Out of Office on the Gmail accounts, advising that the email account is no longer being monitored. To contact them on new email. Clerk to send draft and how-to steps. Cllr Chopak requested a copy of all new email addresses.

### **Contract Agreement between Marhamchurch Parish Council & Marhamchurch Village Shop Ltd.**

#### **(i) Addendum.**

#### **26/63**

Clerk thought it might be sensible to put an Addendum to the original contract to highlight the process and % paid by MPC & MVSL, as what is currently stated on the original contract is outdated. Draft Addendum circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. It was agreed to adopt the Addendum. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Biddick-Bray. 3 in favour. 1 abstained.

### **Marhamchurch Village Hall (MVH)**

#### **26/64**

Cllr O'Sullivan updated that an Expression of Interest had been submitted to Community Infrastructure Levy Fund Round 5. Waiting for feedback.

### **Widemouth Viewing Point Parking charge proposals.**

#### **26/65**

Clerk received email from concerned resident regarding proposal to add parking charges. Cllr Chopak updated that following the Scrutiny Committee last week where the Car Park Consultation was discussed at some length, the Cabinet papers have now been issued where very little has changed and despite valid concerns being raised, none appear to have been incorporated into this latest report.

Further discussions were held between Cllrs regarding the challenges faced when determining ownership of the land, both at Widemouth Viewing point and Howells Lane in Stratton. Historical restructuring of NCDC in 2009 being a significant factor.

Clerk was directed to send an email to Cllr Dan Rogerson flagging concerns around ownership of the land along with continued dialogue. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Edwards. Unanimous.

### **Annual Parish Meeting Plans.**

#### **26/66**

To discuss how the PC would like this to look, as last year it was not well attended. Discussions had and a suggestion to hold the meeting on the day of Marhamchurch Food Fair was made. Clerk to enquire with event organisers to see if MPC can have a space in The Bray to promote the Parish Council and celebrate the achievements of the year. Formal part of the meeting will need to be held in Sunday School Rooms ahead of the Food Fair (which starts from 11am).

### **Green-space Management Policy.**

#### **26/67**

Deferred.

### **Emergency Planning & Resilience Policy.**

#### **26/68**

Clerk circulated some information to Cllrs ahead of the meeting, following a request from Cllr O'Sullivan. Cllr Chopak to find out what information Cornwall Council have re Emergency Planning Policy for Marhamchurch PC as Clerk is not able to locate any documents.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman. 17/02/2026

## Policy Reviews

26/69

### (i) Cemetery Safety Inspection.

Clerk enquired with Drew Memorials, who Bude Stratton Town Council used, as to process of Safety Inspection. Advice received highlighted a very lengthy detailed process, Clerk will investigate once completed End Of Financial Year and Audit requirements.

## Finance & Legislation.

26/70

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£5615.97) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 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.

26/71

None.

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

26/72

None.

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

26/73

Tues 21 April

**Meeting closed at: 9:30pm**

**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. 17/02/2026