

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Tuesday 21st April 2026

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: Clerk E Hawkins.

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

Record and Approve Apologies.

26/74

Cllr Polkinghorn sent her apologies due to family commitments. It was unanimously resolved to approve the apology. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards.

County Councillor Nicky Chopak sent her apologies, she was unable to attend the meeting.

Confirm Minutes from the 17 March 2026 and ratify all decisions taken therein.

26/75

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2026 and ratify all decisions made at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. All in favour. Chairman signed them as a correct record.

Declarations.

26/76

- (i) Cllr Perry declared longstanding interest in Agenda item 9c: Playpark.
- (ii) Cllr Perry declared interest in Agenda item 11: Local Maintenance Partnership Tenders.
- (iii) No other declarations.

Dispensations.

26/77

- 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) None.

Matters Arising – for report only.

26/78

- (i) Copy of Contract and Addendum between Marhamchurch Parish Council & Marhamchurch Village Shop Ltd was sent to Committee for their feedback. Awaiting feedback.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

Public Open Session.

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

26/79

Agenda Item 6: Hele Valley Trail

Bude Scouts Leader offered support to assist with any community work that is needed on-site at the Hele Valley Trail.

Agenda Item 15: Land on Pinch Hill historically referred to as 'Allotment' site

Update from resident that the Deeds don't correspond to what's on the ground. They have been trying to work positively with Cornwall Council but struggling to reach a compromise with them. They want it resolved but have been asked to pay money to CC which they are not willing to do.

Agenda Item 14: Speed data collection statistics

Query when the planned 20 mph roll-out will commence. Advised that there has been delays on this and unsure when planned work will take place at this time.

Correspondence.

26/80

Circulated via email.

- (i) CAP Meeting 8th June 26, Camelford Hall, 6:30pm – 8:30pm.
- (ii) Neighbourhood Priorities Statements (NPS) Information Event - 28 April 2026 3pm online.
- (iii) Consultation on draft Cornwall Seascape Character Appraisal is live.

Planning.

26/81

a) Decision Notices/Updates:

- (i) **PA26/00368** | Change of use of agricultural land to a secure dog exercise field, including proposed field shelter, agricultural-style perimeter fencing, use of existing access and provision of informal parking. | Land South West Of Pinch Bridge Pinch Hill Marhamchurch. Approved.
- (ii) **PA26/01873** | Submission of details to discharge Conditions 4 drainage and 5 landscaping in respect of Decision Notice PA23/07430 dated 15.11.2023 | Land West Of Crest Haven Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch.

Clerk updated that this is for information only. The PC have not been asked to comment.

b) Planning Applications/Appeals:

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

- (i) **PA26/01741** | Listed building consent for remedial works and repairs to Bray Institute | Bray Church Of England Institute | The Village Marhamchurch.

Following review of documents, Cllrs unanimously agreed there were no objections to the application. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

(ii) PA26/01660 | Extension and internal alterations. | Crest Haven Hobbacott Lane Marhamchurch.

This matter was discussed in detail. Cllr Edwards raised a number of concerns regarding the application including query whether the application should be submitted as a full planning application, not alteration and extension. Total floor area increased significantly. Cornwall Local planning policy 12 requires development to maintain and respect the character and appearance of its immediate and wider surrounding. National Planning Policy Framework requires development to be sympathetic to local character. No mention of Marhamchurch Green 5 Policy.

Comments were made by the applicant and neighbouring resident.

A site meeting was suggested by Cllr O'Sullivan to include Planning Officers, Cllrs, applicant and neighbours as the appropriate way to address the concerns raised. Proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan. Seconded Cllr Perry. 3 in favour. 1 against.

To receive oral or written reports and authorise any action

26/82

a) Chairman.

Chairman enjoyed a walk around the village recently, but disappointed to note that Sharlands Road not resurfaced.

Chairman thanked Bill for clearance of the alleyway into St Marwenne's Close.

Enjoyed watching the Spitfire from Viewing Point North Carpark.

b) Cornwall Councillor.

N/A

c) Playpark.

(i) Playpark safety inspection has been completed. There are a number of moderate-risks flagged:

- the majority relating to rotten wood throughout the multi-play frame.
- more bark needs to be added throughout the playpark, ensuring it is playpark specific (The last lot we ordered wasn't, despite them advertising that it was).
- Basketball post has been flagged as a moderate risk due to plastic erosion.
- Tree inspection advised due to location of trees in the park.

Cllr Perry said he is happy to take on repairs at the Playpark. Suggested looking into alternative options of bark, recycled cartyre bark may be longer lasting. Clerk to investigate options.

Clerk to source quotes for tree inspection.

d) The Clerk.

(i) Notice of Vacancy received from Cornwall Council and posted in website. To fill via Co-option.

(ii) Purchase of portable recording device successful.

(iii) New website is now live. Clerk attending detailed training session with designer. User friendly. Clerk now only using this website. Clerk has cancelled any future direct debits for renewal of old website, but have not had opportunity to look into how to disable the website.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

- (iv) Received CIL payment of £1146.65 which relates to PA20/11102 | Proposed conversion of building to dwelling | Woodknowle Farm Sharlands Road Marhamchurch Bude. MPC have been paid 15% which clerk has queried. Now MPC have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan we should receive 25%.
- (v) Permission to purchase 3-drawer filing cabinet (currently on offer, reduced to £92 from £115)
- (vi) Cemetery Training opportunity in October at Parkhouse Centre, Bude. Friday 30 October 2026 at 10am-4pm £185. Training run by Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Mgmt.

It was resolved to approve request to purchase 3-drawer filing cabinet. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

The Hele Valley Trail.

26/83

- (i) Overnight stays.

Signage has been installed to highlight no overnight parking permitted. Clerk has not received any more complaints regarding this issue. To monitor.

- (ii) 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. It was agreed to defer until the Forest Officer conducts the site inspection.

- (iii) Volunteer working parties, processes and protocols, risk assessments.

Now that the HVT is in the ownership of the Parish Council, before any working parties can be organised on site, there are certain procedures which need to be met, including but not limited to:

- Risk Assessments
- Names of volunteers and contact details of their emergency contact
- Signed waivers understanding responsibilities and risks
- To provide Health and Safety equipment including gloves and high vis jackets
- To have something at each entrance to advise users of the area that work is being carried out within the woodland.

Clerk was asked to contact CALC to clarify position of MPC. Cub/Scouts would have their own risk assessments if they were doing their own activities, however if PC asked them to help then PC will need to have their own.

Cllr O'Sullivan flagged that there are unsafe trees in the woodland. Clerk asked that Cllr O'Sullivan send through information regarding this matter to Cllrs and Clerk.

- (iv) Purchase of bench funded by Community Chest Grant.

Cllrs happy for Clerk to made contact with Bude DIY to request that the bench be made and delivered onsite. To be placed Pinch Hill entrance.

Broken benches on site need to be removed. Cllr Perry to look into this.

- (v) Other Matters.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

a. Thanks to all involved with removal of barbed wire and fencing.

b. Request from user of HVT that the grass be cut as it is very long.

Clerk read out feedback from Cllr Polkinghorn: Concerns re Dan Webber visit the timing is a little off. The large grass area at the entrance is supposed to be a wildflower meadow, that is the description, which is why it should only be cut once a year in September, according to contract. At this point in time, the wildflowers are just arriving and beginning to flower, there are tracks around the edges, and tracks all through and around the woodland. Discussion was had around cutting a path through the area, but no decision was made.

Cllr O'Sullivan raised the suggestion regarding setting up a Facebook page, to allow community engagement re HVT.

c. Request from Cub Leader that 4 bug homes be made out of old wooden pallets and be installed along the trail.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to ask the Cub Leader to only use wood on site that has already fallen. There was concern that pallets would be made with treated wood, which shouldn't be brought into the area. Clerk to notify Cub Leader.

****Cllr Perry left the room** in his absence, Vicechair Cllr Edwards chaired the meeting.**

Local Maintenance Partnership Tenders.

26/84

1 tender received from Cllr Perry. Quote of £575 to cover all footpaths.

Cllr Perry was asked to return to the room as the Council was not quorate. Cllr Perry submitted a Dispensation request, to vote on the matter.

It was resolved to approve the tender. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 3 in favour. 1 abstained.

****Cllr Perry resumed chairing the meeting****

A39 Speed concerns.

26/85

This matter was deferred due to time constraints.

External Mediator

26/86

No meeting arranged as yet between Cllr O'Sullivan, Cllr Perry and Peter Green.

Clerk updated that she has spoken with a local, and very experienced Clerk, Barry Jordan, who said he would be happy to act as mediator. Cllr O'Sullivan informed the Council that he would not attend any meetings with Barry Jordan as mediator. It was agreed to make contact with Barry. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 3 in favour. 1 against.

Cllr Perry suggested arranging a meeting between Cllrs and Clerk. Cllr O'Sullivan suggested inviting Cllr Chopak too.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

Speed data collection statistics.

26/87

Cllr Edwards circulated speed data information and displayed a summary at the meeting. Majority of drivers are adhering to the speed limits. To relocate to Helebridge location.

Land on Pinch Hill historically referred to as 'Allotment' site.

26/88

Contact received from Community Link Officer (Devolution) requesting re-confirmation that once land ownership issues are resolved, that the Parish Council are committed to progressing the freehold transfer of the land for an allotment site.

Feedback from Cllr Polkinghorn: It would be better that MPC take it on, however, the matter of allotments is a contentious one, concerns re position, access, Overhead and Underground 11,000KV powerlines and habitat.

Clerk suggested perhaps a consultation to the Parish to see what their thoughts might be on the area.

After some discussion it was agreed to respond to Community Link Officer to confirm that once land ownership issues are resolved, that the Parish Council are committed to progressing the freehold transfer of the land. However, at this stage the Parish Council cannot guarantee that the land will be used for an allotment site. The Parish Council wishes to consult the parish before determining what the land will be used for. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

Cornwall Council's use of weedkiller (glyphosate) and subsequent petition request from Redruth Town Council against the proposed use.

26/89

Clerk provided the update from CALC following Full Cornwall Council Meeting held 21 April 2026:

The Cornwall Council decision today was to:

* Recognise that the decision to reintroduce chemical weed treatment using glyphosate represents a significant policy reversal with ecological, public health and democratic implications for communities across Cornwall.

* Pause the commencement of chemical weed treatment currently scheduled for May 2026 until a meaningful public consultation process has been completed.

* Recognise the wholly inadequate three week opt out window provided to parish and town councils which included Easter and commits to extending this to 30 days after the public consultation results have been published.

* Give town/parish councils more clarity on the minimum required standards of the urban network.

* Urgently review the financial terms of the opt-out scheme.

CALC will continue conversations with Cornwall Council regarding the process failures with information-sharing and consultation with town and parish councils.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

Marhamchurch Village Hall.

26/90

AGM planned on Thursday 23rd April in The Bray Hall.

CIL Fund Expression of Interest was refused. Cllr O'Sullivan expressed disappointment that Marhamchurch has missed out on funding again.

Annual Parish Meeting Plans.

26/91

Clerk updated that there is not room for PC in The Bray during the Food Fair.

Clerk spoke with organiser of the art exhibition being held in Sunday School Rooms on 4th May. They will be using the space from Sunday evening to set up, but did say they could keep a small corner for the PC to display reports. There is no space to hold the formal bit of the meeting on the 4th May.

The Bray is available to use on Tuesday 19th May. It was agreed to use The Bray for the APM and Annual Parish Council Meeting. To start at 7pm. Proposed Cllr Edwards. Seconded Cllr Perry. Unanimous.

Citizen of The Year.

26/92

Advert for nominations to be placed in Noticeboard and website. Closing date Friday 15th May 2026.

Viewing Point North Carpark, Widemouth Bay.

26/93

Clerk sent email to Cllr Dan Rogerson as per request from Council at last meeting. Clerk has followed up and copied Cllrs in for their information. No feedback as of yet.

Cllr O'Sullivan updated that he had obtained a copy of the Deeds of the carpark, which confirms that Cornwall Council does own the land, and that there is no covenant. He advised that it was sold to Bude Stratton Urban District Council in 1938. He updated that there is approx. £1000 annual maintenance costs. Cllr O'Sullivan raised the possibility of Devolution, he wondered if MPC would be interested in looking into this as Poundstock PC may be interested too.

Clerk requested a copy of the Deeds of the carpark for the file. Cllr O'Sullivan stated that he was not willing to provide them as the Deeds were his property.

Audit 2025/2026.

26/94

Information re Audit has been received, and has been circulated to Cllrs for their information. The deadline to submit the AGAR and supporting information is 1 July 2026. Due to the purchase of the Hele Valley Trail, MPC are required to do a more in-depth intermediate Audit, as we have income & expenditure over £200,000 for the financial year. Clerk to begin this as a priority.

Appointment of Internal Auditor 2025/2026.

26/97

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

Asset Register 31.03.2026.

26/98

Clerk circulated Asset Register. It was agreed that the Register will be received and deferred for next month.

Signed: _____ Chairman. 19/05/2026

To note

26/99

- (i) Quarterly Budget Report 01.01.2026 - 31.03.2026. Noted.
- (ii) Detailed Accounts for 2025/2026. Noted.
- (iii) Quarterly Financial Check 01.01.2026 – 31.03.2026. – Pending review.

Policies:

26/100

- (i) Green-space Management Policy. – Deferred.
- (ii) Emergency Planning & Resilience Policy. – Deferred.

Finance & Legislation.

26/101

- a) Approval of payments as per schedule (£3608.45) and consider payment of urgent accounts presented by the date of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Edwards. 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.

26/102

- (i) Request to purchase 3 more Cornish flags for the Church. £44.97. Approved.

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

26/103

None.

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

26/104

Tues 19th May – 7pm start APM.

'Allotments'

Meeting closed at: 9:36pm

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. 19/05/2026