

MARHAMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 19 May 2026

The above meeting was held in The Bray, Marhamchurch Village Hall at 7pm.

Councillors present: Chair Cllr Perry, Vice Chair Cllr Edwards, Cllr Biddick-Bray, Cllr Polkinghorn.

Apologies –

Cllr O’Sullivan informed he would not be attending.

Mrs Petersen, Headteacher Marhamchurch Primary School sent her apologies.

Also in attendance: County Cllr Nicky Chopak, Clerk, Mrs Hawkins.

3 members of the public were present.

Cllr Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Minutes

Copies of the minutes held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 were noted. It was resolved to approve the minutes. Proposed Cllr Biddick-Bray. Seconded Cllr Edwards. 3 in favour. 1 abstained due to not being at the meeting. The Chair, Cllr Perry, signed them as a correct record.

Guest Speakers

- **County Councillor – Nicky Chopak**

I would firstly like to extend my thanks to all the parish councillors who support Marhamchurch (along with the clerk of course!) and do a sterling job of representing the residents of Marhamchurch

As many of you know I look after 9 parishes , so it becomes difficult to attend every meeting and every event, but I do my utmost to ensure any residents concerns are dealt with in the appropriate way. This last 12 months I have received over 1500 emails which relate to matters such as double yellow lines, neighbourhood disputes ,homelessness, anti-social behaviour, rubbish and recycling collections (or lack of), planning queries, the lack of health services and the lack of public transport, to name but a few.

In addition to the list above I am Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny committee for Cornwall, which in itself is more than an education and I see the NHS in a totally different light, to when I started this job! We must salute them in what are very difficult times.

As you may also know I am currently Chair of the Community Area Partnership for North Cornwall. I am already getting a reputation for causing trouble but I am ensuring North Cornwall’s voice is heard with such issues as housing and young people being discussed.

Hopefully this has given you a flavour, but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or issues which I may be able to help with.

Signed _____ Chairman. Date: _____

Chairman's Report

The last 12 months has been another entertaining year on the Parish Council, with some really great achievements.

HELE VALLEY TRAIL

The biggest project the Parish Council has undertaken in many years, is the successful purchase of The Hele Valley Trail. This was a result of a combined effort from everyone on the Parish Council, and the wider community. Everyone worked incredibly hard on this project, either behind the scenes or publicly. We are now reviewing the Management of the site, whilst making sure the Parish Council meet its statutory and legal duties. Well done everyone for getting this project over the line. There is a wonderful display for all to see regarding the HVT. Also, a big thank you to everyone who donated to the Crowdfunder, and special thanks for the financial support from Marhamchurch Village Shop Community Fund, Bude-Stratton Town Council, Poundstock Parish Council and Launcells Parish Council. There were also private fundraisers organised with donations from a Dog Show event, a rowing event held at Metters and Welby Architects, a sponsored beach clean to name a few and some very generous private donations. We are truly grateful to everyone for their support.

COUNCILLORS

We welcomed Cllr Trudy Polkinghorn to Marhamchurch Parish Council back in October 2025, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge in Woodland Management. We look forward to working with her in the coming years. We still have 5 vacancies as sadly Cllr Burnett resigned back in May 2025. We thank him for his time and input whilst he was on the Council.

PLANNING

We have received a steady stream of planning consultation requests from Cornwall Council planning team over the last 12 months. Some complex and others less so. We would like to thank Cllr Edwards for the time he commits to reviewing each application in detail, and providing his thoughts for discussion at the meetings.

PLAYPARK

The Playpark is still well used by locals and visitors alike. It is great to see it so popular. There have been some repairs over the last 12 months, and the recent Annual inspection highlight some additional work to be completed, which is underway.

'ALLOTMENT' SITE

The 'Allotment' site off Pinch Hill has had significant delays and we are no further along with the devolution of the site. This will require public consultation before we are able to progress with this. Another ongoing project for the next year.

THANKS

Thanks to Cllr Nicky Chopak, our Cornwall Councillor who regularly attends our meetings and listens and actions our concerns. She has helped us in the Marhamchurch Parish in so many ways and we are very thankful to have such an approachable, present and proactive Cornwall Councillor.

A big thank you to all the Cllrs and to our Clerk, for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months, sometimes in less than pleasant circumstances. We are really grateful to you all for sticking with the Parish Council and doing your best to support the needs and concerns of the community.

Informal Questions and Answers.

None received.

Signed _____ Chairman. Date: _____

Reports from local organisations / groups will be displayed on the parish council website, circulated at the Coffee Morning in The Bray, and available via email should anyone like copies emailed to them. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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Signed _____ Chairman. Date: _____