

Marhamchurch Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 19th May 2015

The above meeting was held in Marhamchurch Methodist Room on at 7.00pm

Councillors present were: Chairman Mr R Hockin, Messrs T Edwards, M Grills, Mr T Perry R Blewett, T O'Sullivan, S Colwill, & Mrs F Hunt.

Apologies – Mrs I Waterhouse, Messrs R Corney, D Rouse, Ms M Rose, Ms L Probets, Ms Flynn and Mrs B Whattler.

Also in attendance The Clerk, Mrs B Heathcote, Cornwall Cllr N Chopak, Victoria Regan, Cornwall Council Senior Development Officer (Affordable Housing) and approximately 15 members of the public were present.

Minutes

Copies of the previous year's minutes held on Tuesday May 20th had been circulated, were on display, were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman

Matters Arising.

Following the Clerk's letter to Superintendent Green expressing the concerns about police cuts, a reply was not received. However, Devon & Cornwall Police Sector Inspector P Norlund visited the Clerk in August and commented that he had sympathy for the concerns but the front desk closures and reduction in manpower were necessary due to cuts in resources but that everything was being done to maintain a good service. He confirmed he would advise PCSO S Ross of our concerns and we were to continue to liaise with her as much as possible. Insp Norland advised that crime in this area is low and we live in one of the safest places in the country

Chairman's Report.

In my report last year I detailed a busy and challenging year for both our councillors and our clerk. We thought that things might have been a bit less demanding this year, but it has not proved to be the case. Turning first to planning applications during the year: - we had 11 applications which both our council and Cornwall Council approved, one which was recommended for refusal by both councils, one which Marhamchurch P.C. recommended for approval but was refused by Cornwall Council, and one which we recommended for refusal but was approved by Cornwall Council. Currently, as I write this report, we are still awaiting the decision by the appointed planning inspector on the application for development in the Bullers Arms car park. We have also been involved with responses to other important planning applications relating to renewable energy in neighbouring parishes.

We have seen changes within the make-up of our council during the last year with Tom O Sullivan joining us in June, and Francis Bray resigning in January 2015. I would like to publicly place on record our thanks to Francis for the dedicated time and work he gave to the council during his 24 years in office. Stuart Colwill was co-opted to the council, and joined us for his first meeting last month. We currently have one vacancy following the resignation of Mike Logan in March 2015, but this has been advertised, and will hopefully be filled this month. Again I would like to thank Mike Logan for his time spent as a councillor, and for the practical help he has given.

The council could not function as it does without the dedication and support given by our clerk, Bobbie. Her workload does not get any easier, with more changes on local government being imposed by central government. We all thank her for her professionalism in her role.

During the year both Bobbie and I attended a session given by Sarah Mason from The Cornwall Association of Local Councils, and we have attended the Local Network meetings. Tom, Tony and myself also attended a Code of Conduct seminar in Whitstone in July. We thank our Cornwall Councillor, Nicky Chopak, for attending as many of our meetings as possible, and for supporting us in local matters at Truro. Her continued support is much appreciated.

It is disheartening at times that the parish council cannot just get on with things that directly affect the parish

and parishioners. This is what we all give up our time to do. The rules that apply to large town councils now seem to be filtering down to smaller councils who do not have the same level of full time staff to administer new rules and regulations. The impact on cuts made at Cornwall Council also has an impact on us. There is less staff in Cornwall Council departments, making it harder to get responses to requests and longer times in getting replies to emails etc. It seems that on occasions staff do not even know who to put us in contact with. Changes to standing orders and financial regulations have taken up more of Bobbie's precious hours. We now have the new transparency code to deal with.

Having got that off my chest, we will continue to try and operate with the parish and parishioners at the forefront of our decisions, and I thank the parishioners who regularly attend our meetings, for their valued input.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks to my vice chairman, Michael Grills for his help during the year, together with the valued support I have received from all my fellow councillors. Let us hope that 2015-16 is a successful year for the parish.

Guest Speaker: Victoria Regan, Cornwall Council Senior Development Officer (Affordable Housing). Ms Regan explained the reasons why there is a need for affordable housing, why affordable housing is important and the different types of affordable housing. She also explained who the affordable homes are for and how they are delivered. She advised that as at April the Homechoice Housing Need for Marhamchurch parish totals 32 and these are made up of people in all the groups , A, B C, D and E and for a variety bedroom requirements. She explained about the current legislation relating to the required amount of affordable houses on sites. There was a short question and answer session during which the following topics were mentioned brown field sites, help to buy schemes and availability of homes for young people.

Guest Speaker: Nicky Chopak, Poundstock Ward Councillor gave an update on her second year as a county councillor. Cornwall Council budget cuts are taking their toll and some recent news is the £1.4 million cut in CC Highways Budget and they are only repairing potholes that are 40mm or over deep. Cornwall Council Executive Andrew Kerr has just resigned and is set to take up a post as chief executive at Edinburgh City Council; Mr Kerr had joined Cornwall Council in January 2014. Cllr Chopak advised that the decision on the Appeal for Bullers Arms car park is imminent. The application for 11 wind turbines in neighbouring Week St Mary was refused at Strategic Planning and the applicants, Good Energy have recently lodged an Appeal. The wind turbine application at Coppathorne (beside Quinceborough) has gone to Appeal. Cllr Chopak reminded everyone to contact her as early as possible if there are any planning applications concerns whether at pre- application or full application stage. .

After a short question and answer session Ms Regan and Cllr Chopak left the meeting.

Reports from the following were on display and will be placed in the village Hall for one Coffee Morning session on 20th May 2015.

St Marwenne's Parochial Church Council	Report from Peter Jones
St Marwenne's Church Handbell Ringers	Report from Eileen Burnard
Marhamchurch Village Hall Committee	Report from Geoff Turney
Marhamchurch Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Report from Dave Fensom
Marhamchurch Community Village Shop	Report from Peter Hillenbrand
St Marwenne Bell Ringers	Report from Rob Corney
Marhamchurch Pre-School	Report from Liz Probets
Marhamchurch Playpark	Report from Fran Hunt
Coffee Morning Team	Report from Geoff Turney
Marhamchurch Revel Committee	Report from Val Landricombe
Marhamchurch Baby & Toddler Groups	Renoir from Mikaela Rose
Marhamchurch Christmas Tree Group	Report from Margaret Hughes
Marhamchurch Conservation Group	Report from Angus Fruin
Bude & Rural Beat Police	Report from PC S South
Marhamchurch WI	Report from Brenda Marynissen

Mrs B Whattler advised that Marhamchurch Brownies are not running at the moment but that she is hoping to resume in September.

There was no report about the Parish Newsletter but it was noted that there is a Marhamchurch Facebook page for which Mrs F Hunt is the administrator

Bude Community Police Officer	No Report
Marhamchurch Snooker Club	No Report
Marhamchurch Primary School	No Report
Marhamchurch Branch – Royal British Legion	No Report
Marhamchurch PFSA	No Report

The meeting ended at 7.50pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Signed.....Chairman