

## **Marhamchurch Parish Council**

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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

**Councillors present were:** Chairman Mr R Hockin, Messrs T Edwards, Mr T Perry R Blewett, S Colwill, J Petherick, Mrs F Hunt, Mrs I Waterhouse & Mrs J Walter.

**Apologies** – Mr M Grills, Mrs B Whattler. Mr R Corney, Mrs L Mead, Mrs V Wonnacott.

**Also in attendance** The Clerk, Mrs B Heathcote, Cornwall Cllr N Chopak, CC Officer, Chris Sims - Bude Community Network Linkperson. PCSO Gary Langan, Devon & Cornwall Police  
Approximately 9 members of the public were present.

With the consent of the councillors, it was agreed that the Guest Speakers gave their presentations earlier than listed on the Agenda.

### **Minutes**

Copies of the previous year's minutes held on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> had been circulated, were on display; they were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman

### **Matters Arising.**

No matters arising

### **Guest Speaker: PCSO Gary Langan**

PCSO G Langan covers Kilkhampton, Morwenstow, Poundstock and Marhamchurch parishes. Crime reported in the Bude area is low and Marhamchurch has the lowest. PCSO Lagan stressed the need for everyone to take care and always keep garages and sheds locked. PCSO Langan confirmed that although the front desk at Bude Police Station is closed, there is a telephone outside. There are 3 officers in the Neighbourhood Team, PC S South and 2 PCSOs. Bude Police Station was due to close in 2017 but with funding increases and the recent new PCC appointment all cuts are under review. PCSO Langan said he would forward a report as soon as possible. After a short question and answer session, PCSO Langan left the meeting.

### **Guest Speaker: CC Officer, Chris Sims - Bude Community Network Linkperson.**

Mr C Sims gave a PowerPoint presentation about Neighbourhood Plans. A Neighbourhood Plan is not something that should be taken lightly and is a very long process with many stages. There are 3 different aspects to a plan – a Neighbourhood Development Plan, A Neighbourhood Development Order and a Community Right to Build. Neighbourhood Planning allows people to come together through a local parish or town council and say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go, and what they should look like. These Neighbourhood Plans can be very simple, or go into considerable detail. Neighbourhood plans must: be permissive, be about land use planning, be produced by the community, Neighbourhood Plans cannot, conflict with local or national policy, propose less growth than strategic plan. Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan get a higher percentage of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). . Certain areas can be protected – ie a playing field  
The whole community has the right to vote on whether to accept the Neighbourhood Plan at a referendum. If accepted the plan will be adopted and it will have to be referred to before planning decisions are made. CC give support to parishes, the Community Link Officer can offer general contact points and engagement/project planning; the Friendly Link Officer can assist with planning matters; there's in-line information and parish councils are encouraged to consult other parishes who have Neighbourhood Plans. Mr Sims provided Neighbourhood Plan documents which were placed on display. After a short question and answer session, Mr C Sims left the meeting.

### **Guest Speaker: Cornwall Cllr N Chopak, CC Officer**

Cllr Chopak praised the parish council for their hard work throughout the year. She thanked Marhamchurch parish councillors for the support they gave in respect of the Good Energy Wind

Turbine application at Week St Mary and thanked the Chairman for speaking at the Appeal Hearing. Cllr Chopak reminded everyone that she has funds in Community Chest and urged anyone interested in applying to get their applications in as soon as possible.

### **Chairman's Report**

2015/16 has again been a challenging and interesting year for the Council. My thanks go to all the councillors who have given their time willingly, and fully contributed to discussions during the year. I am particularly grateful for the support of my vice chairman, Michael Grills. Jason Petherick was co-opted to the council in June and we were then back to our full compliment. Tom O'Sullivan resigned in December 2015, and following a petition for a by-election to fill the vacancy, Jackie Walter was elected and attended her first meeting last month.

On behalf of us all, I wish to place on record, our thanks to Bobbie Heathcote, our dedicated clerk, who steers us in the right direction, and keeps us updated with new or revised legislation. We were glad that during the last year she was able to have a well-deserved extended holiday abroad with her husband Keith. Thanks particularly to Tony Perry and Jason Petherick who helped cover correspondence, telephone calls and emails whilst she was absent.

During the year we have endeavoured to send representatives to the quarterly Network meetings in Bude, and the clerk and some councillors have also undertaken various training. We have also attended planning meetings at Cornwall Council.

Our thanks are also extended to Nicky Chopak, our ward councillor for Cornwall Council (CC). She attends as many of our meetings as possible, and has supported us during the year on various planning applications. She regularly updates us on news from CC, and takes our concerns to the various departments.

Turning to planning issues:- During the last year we have dealt with 27 planning applications and appeals. One of the latter was later withdrawn by the applicant. Our decisions have generally been supported by the planning department but one application we approved was refused by CC, and one on which we recommended refusal was granted by CC. 3 proposals we considered were later withdrawn by the applicants. We have also been advised of prior approval notifications which have been submitted to CC. At the time of writing this report there are still 2 applications outstanding: - the development at Hobbacott Lane, and the application for development of The Bullers Arms car park.

We received a grant of £700 from CC during the year to assist us with purchasing equipment to cover paperless planning which has now been imposed across the county. We have introduced The Transparency Code instigated by The Department for Communities and Local Government, but this has increased the workload on our clerk. During the last year we received a £30,000 community grant from Good Energy, and some of these funds have already been allocated to groups in the village, following suggestions from parishioners. The telephone kiosk in the village was purchased by the council from BT, and thanks to a generous donation from Stratton Young Farmers Club has now been chosen as a central spot in Marhamchurch to house a defibrillator. The village play park has received various grants during the year to update equipment, and we were grateful to the small committee who oversee its running. They would appreciate more help. The cost of the by-election held in April was greater than budgeted, so this may have an impact on our budget during 2016/17.

Some other matters which have arisen during 2015/16 are as follows:-

Necessary repairs have been made to the public toilets.

We have purchased a new supply of grave markers for the cemetery at a substantial cost.

We have supported the appeal against a planning application at Week St. Mary for an 11 turbines wind farm. We have to consider if there are any services being devolved by CC which we can afford to take over e.g. weed spraying of the kerbs and roads.

We continue to advise CC of highway issues, particularly pothole situations, and concerns of speeding.

Because of decisions which were needed (particularly on planning matters) we held meetings in August and December when normally these would have been avoided.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the public who attend our meetings. We are grateful for their input.

It would be nice if things were a little easier during the next year so that Bobbie could undertake her duties within her allocated time scale. I think I said the same thing last year!! We can but hope. .

**Groups/Activities in the Parish**

Reports from the following were on display and will be placed in the Village Hall for one Coffee Morning session on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and on the website.

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 Peter Jones
St Marwenne Bell Ringers	Report from Peter Jones
Marhamchurch Playpark	Report from Fran Hunt
Marhamchurch Revel Committee	Report from Val Landricombe
Marhamchurch Christmas Tree Group	Report from Cathy Bowley
Marhamchurch WI	Report from Valerie Wonnacott
Marhamchurch Methodist Church	Report from Stan Willett
Marhamchurch PFSA	Report from Emma Horrell
Marhamchurch Primary School	Report from Laura Mead
Marhamchurch Snooker Club	Report from Dave Fensom
Marhamchurch Brownies	Report from Bridgette Whattler
Marhamchurch Parish Newsletter	Report from Neil Hutson
Marhamchurch Revel Field Trustees	Report from Peter Jones
Haven Art Group	Report from Yvonne Goodwin
Poundstock Ward	Report from Cllr Nicky Chopak
Neighbourhood Plan	Information documents from Mr C Sims

Reports were invited from PCSO G Langan; Marhamchurch Branch, Royal British Legion; Wednesday Coffee Morning Team, Marhamchurch Conservation Group; Marhamchurch Community Village Shop; Marhamchurch Pre-School and Marhamchurch Baby & Toddler Groups

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

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....18<sup>th</sup> April 2017