

MARHAMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Tuesday 21 May 2019

The above meeting was held in Marhamchurch Methodist Sunday School at 7.00pm

Councillors present: Chair Cllr J Walter, Vice Chair Cllr T Perry, Cllr S Butler, Cllr S Colwill, Cllr T Edwards, Cllr F Hunt, Cllr T O'Sullivan & Cllr I Waterhouse.

Apologies – Cllr R Bray sent his apologies due to work commitments. It was resolved to approve the apology. Proposed Cllr Butler. Seconded Cllr Colwill. Unanimous.

Also in attendance The Clerk, Mrs E Hawkins. Cornwall Cllr N Chopak & PCSO C Krolick.

21 members of the public were present.

Minutes

Copies of the previous year's minutes held on Tuesday 15 May 2018 had been circulated, were on display. It was resolved to approve the minutes. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Hunt. Unanimous. The Chair Cllr Walter signed them as a correct record.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Guest Speaker: Cornwall Cllr N Chopak

Cllr Chopak expressed her thanks for allowing her to continue to be our Cornwall Councillor for the division of Poundstock, which covers 136 sq km, the biggest division in Cornwall. Travel can be up to 400miles per month, and up to 30 daily emails, 7 parish council meetings a month, and Cllr Chopak represents Poundstock at 2 Overview & Scrutiny Committees in Truro: Health & Adult Social Care and Neighbourhoods, both of which effect all of our residents on a day to day basis.

Cllr Chopak also continues in her role as Chair of the Bude Community Network Panel, which looks after all 11 parishes in the Network Area. This Panel meeting is an opportunity for all town and parish councils to get together and discuss the issues that face us. This year, the Panel have been given £200,000 from Cornwall Council (over 4 years) to spend on highway improvements. Our network panel have agreed the four-year work programme which will see Marhamchurch receive some new speed restrictions and the opportunity for speed sensors to be moved into the parish (on a temporary basis) which will provide more evidence to ensure road safety. The panel meetings are all open to members of the public and you are all invited to attend. Next planned meeting is 8th July 2019, and will be looking at the overnight closure of Stratton MIU with an update on the future proposals.

As many of you know, Marhamchurch Parish Council joined with neighbouring parishes to fight the Good Energy application to build 11 turbines in Week St Mary, whose appeal was lost in the Hight Court. Cllr Chopak applauded the local parish councillors who showed determination and stuck to their guns to ensure that particular planning application failed.

Planning takes up a great deal of Cllr Chopak's casework, but need to be encouraging any proposals for affordable housing for our workforce and young families. Further evidence is needed to show there is desperate need in this area and anyone who is in need of a home should register with Cornwall Housing. (www.cornwallhousing.org.uk/find-a-home).

Cllr Chopak updated that she had the privilege in providing a large percentage of the cost of the WW1 memorial bench, which is now outside Marhamchurch Parish Church. This funding came from the Community Chest

Grant, which is allocated each year. North Tamerton, Week St Mary & Jacobstow also have purchased one of these benches through this grant scheme.

Any issues that you have or any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Cllr Chopak by email: nickychopak@gmail.com or mobile: 07810 302 061.

Guest Speaker: PCSO Chris Krolik

Thanked everyone for the opportunity to present at this meeting. He introduced himself as a Full-time Police Community Support Officer in Bude area.

Over last year there had been 16 reported crimes in Marhamchurch, in comparison to 801 reported crimes in Bude. Marhamchurch is considered a very safe place to live. Priorities focus around Anti-social behaviour & Child sexual exploitation.

PCSO Krolik encouraged people to sign up to the Devon & Cornwall Alerts and that website is a good way to contact them. 101 – to call for non-urgent concerns and 999 for emergencies.

Chairman's Report

Cllr Walter updated that this has been another busy and changing year for the Parish Council.

Our Clerk, Bobbie Heathcote retired at the end of last year after 22 years of fantastic hard work. She kindly mentored Elly, our new Clerk for several months and we are delighted to say the transition has worked brilliantly. Elly has made an excellent start and we hope she will stay for another 22 years! A huge thank you to Bobbie for all her hard work and commitment over the last 22 years, she will be missed.

Sadly Roger Bluett left us at the end of the year after many years with the Parish Council. A huge thank you to him for his service to the Parish of Marhamchurch.

A big thanks to Cllr Perry, Vice Chair who stood in for me for over 3 months while I was away in New Zealand, and also to the rest of the Councillors who have worked so hard over the last year.

Thanks must also go to Cllr Nicky Chopak, our Cornwall Councillor who 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.

Achievements & Projects this year:

The 100-year remembrance of World War 1 was recognised by the Parish Council, and a huge thank you to Cllr Tom O'Sullivan and the working party who put on an excellent display in the village over the November 11th weekend.

We now also have the commemorative bench placed proudly in front of St Marwenne's Church. Thank you to Cllr Chopak whose Community Chest Grant funded the bench and to Cllr Rob Bray and his family for installing it securely in the memorial square.

Marhamchurch Village Shop is now open for business. This has been a huge project for so many and a tribute to all those who have worked so tirelessly to get to where we are today. Well done to everyone involved.

Thank you to all those who care for the village planters and to Cllr Perry for making the last one to be placed at Crisney Cross.

The Millennium Village benches all have been given a new lease of life thanks to Cllr Edwards and helpers for the hard work.

Working parties are at present looking at:

- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Parish Emergency Plan

- A Parish map
- Possibility of an allotment area in Pinch Hill.

The Playpark and Parish Cemetery continue to be well cared for – thank you to all involved.

We have a wonderful community in Marhamchurch and should be proud of all our achievements. Finally we must thank the members of public who attend our meetings, their input during the open public session is greatly appreciated and a special thanks today goes to Marhamchurch Primary School Council who have prepared some special questions for our Councillors.

Presentation to Good Neighbour Award.

The Chairman expressed heartfelt thanks to the recipient of the award and was pleased to present it to Ray Hockin. For his years of dedication to Marhamchurch Parish, his years as Chairman of the Parish Council, for the time, organisation and support for many local committees and his endless work for those in the community. This greatly deserved award is a for all he has done for so many over many years. Thank you Ray.

Informal Questions and Answers

Cllr Walter welcomes the school council members from Marhamchurch Primary School. They had prepared a number of questions for the parish council.

Q1. Do you talk to the public? *Yes, we all live in the village and often see members of the village and stop to talk to them.*

Q2. Do you go around helping people? *Yes, we all do our best to help where we can.*

Q3. Do you like being a parish councillor? *Yes we are all volunteers and want to help the village.*

Q4. Do you work as well? *Yes, most of us work.*

Q5. How many days a week are you a councillor? *Everyday of the week.*

Q6. How many councillors at your meeting? *There are 10 positions, but we have 1 vacancy at the moment.*

Q7. What officer roles do you have? *There are 2 officer roles – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer but this is done by 1 person.*

Q8. Who is the Chair? *I am – (said Cllr Walter)*

Q9. How often do you meet? *We meet once a month but usually no meetings in August or December.*

Q10. How long are your meetings? *Usually about 3 hours.*

Q11. Do you have working parties? *Lots of working parties, and annual special events – like Remembrance Sunday*

Q12. What can we help you with – Directed to Cllr Chopak – *Look after your village, enjoy it. Attend Parish events with your friends and family and support the local Village Shop.*

Cllr Walter thanked the School councillors for their time in attending the meeting and said that she and all the councillors were delighted that they were working so hard within their school to ensure that every class had a voice and that the school community thrived.

Groups/Activities in the Parish

Reports from many local groups were on display and will be placed in the Village Hall for one Coffee Morning Session.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm and was followed by the Annual General Parish Council Meeting.

Signed.....Chairman. Date.....