

MINUTES OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 5th November 2025 at 7.00pm

Public Participation

None

Present: Adrian Pearse (Chairman), Martin Dearden, Roger Cock, Paul Heal, Martin Llewellyn, Hilary Tripp (Clerk), Kerry Dodd (Footpath Officer) and 12 members of the public

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7th August 2025 were approved as being a true record on the proposition of Roger Cock and seconded by Paul Heal and were then signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

- **Cockmill Lane junction** – the morning after the last council meeting, Roger Cock moved the boulders back up onto the top of the bank as agreed. However the boulders were moved back within a few days. An email was sent to Chris Smith to let him know what had happened. After some discussion it was agreed that Roger Cock would move them back and Martin Llewellyn will spray them to make them visible.
- **Gov.uk emails** – the clerk outlined the cost of getting gov.uk email addresses. All were in favour of getting just one for the clerk.
- **Combe Lane** – the Chairman had spoken to Matthew Golledge, who put the fence up to prevent cattle access. In a statement Matthew Golledge says that the land belongs to the Golledges but is not registered with the Land Registry, with them providing a permissive path over it to the Combe until the Somerset Trust closed their permissive path (Combe Lane). Some members of the public disputed this, believing it to be common land and that the fence was effectively blocking access. The Council will write to the Somerset Trust to find out if they have paperwork from when they bought Withial Combe which might show the right of way to access it and ownership thereof. The chairman also to ask Matt Golledge about his plans if the Combe is re-opened.

4. Financial Report

The notification of exempt status had come through. A cheque had been written for £2,000, from GFL money, to Somerset Council for the stiles and bridges work. However despite repeated requests an invoice has not been sent. The possibility of internet banking which was discussed at the last meeting and agreed in principle is being investigated; it appears to be very complicated to set up. The bank balance stands at £19,133, roughly half of which is the remainder of Glastonbury Festivals donation. Cheques to come are for Village Hall hire and the Village Hall donation. The donation was contingent on the Village Hall getting Wifi and all agreed that payment be delayed until the Wifi was actually in the Hall.

5. Glastonbury Festival Donation Spending

Martin Llewellyn had been in contact with Nick Jefferies of Evercreech, a paramedic in the Air Ambulance. EPPC can buy a defibrillator from them for £1750, with £100/year to service it. Included would be training, registration and insurance. The Hall has agreed to host it, but will not pay any charges. All were in favour of going ahead with buying this with GFL money. The hall will be notified that this is happening.

6. Planning Applications

- i) Lower Withial Farm 2025/1525/HSE *Reconfiguration and extension of existing single storey extension and installation of 2 skylights*

Decision: Recommend Approval for this application as it increases the utility of the property.

Approval from Somerset Council on 9/10/25

ii) Anvil Cottage 2024/2011/FUL *Conversion of cartshed to 1 bedroom dwelling with parking and amenity space*

This application was put in a year ago and there is still no decision. It was agreed that EPPC would write again to Somerset Council and to Claire Sully to try to make some progress.

iii) Hembridge Yew Tree Farm - copy of a letter received from Mr. Hiscox to Somerset Council regarding no progress on application.

7. Shooting Ground

Paul Heal reported that around 50 signatures had been gathered so far. It is hoped that more people will sign before Paul talks to Claire Sully to see how to proceed.

8. Glastonbury Festival

Phil Appleton of GFL would like to come to the next parish council meeting for a debriefing session.

9. Village Hall

The damp problem has been dealt with and comes with a 15 year guarantee; there remains some internal painting to do. Also a corner of the wall has fallen out; the Chairman will repair this if the builders do not. The Tuesday group, which is a big success, has moved to the church as it is too cold in the Hall.

10. The Hunt

The clerk had had a response from SALC about what the parish council could do about the BSV Hunt. SALC replied that the council has no legal power to ban hunting in the parish. If the hunting is illegal that is a matter for the police. The council does have a duty to consider the impact of crime and disorder in its area and can do this by inviting the Police Wildlife Officer to a council meeting. Since some parishioners continue to have problems with the Hunt, the council agreed to write again to the Police with a copy to the BSV hunt.

11. Footpaths

Kerry Dodd gave a de-brief of the current footpath issues, which she had reported to Somerset County Council. From now on, when footpath issues arise, the County Council (as advised and requested by the new County Footpath Warden Daniel Gordon), would like the following procedure to be adhered to:

The parish council to write to landowners for minor issues on footpaths that cross their land Major issues and non-compliance will then be dealt with by Somerset County Council.

The parish council agreed to write these letters.

12. Correspondence

- A letter had been received from the Parish Footpath Liaison Officer concerning a bonfire having been lit on a footpath. The Chairman declared an interest and left the meeting. Acting Chairman Martin Dearden said that a written apology about this bonfire had been received from the landowner, together with a promise not to do this again.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 15th January 2026 at 7.00pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.