

MINUTES OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 22nd January 2025 at 7.00pm

Public Participation	No speakers
Present	Adrian Pearse (Chairman), Roger Cock, Martin Dearden, Martin Llewellyn, Hilary Tripp (Clerk), Kerry Dodd (Footpath Officer) and 7 members of the public
1. Apologies	Paul Heal
2. Minutes of Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting on 21 st November 2024 were approved as being a true record on the proposition of Martin Dearden and seconded by Roger Cock and were then signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cockmill Lane junction – Boulders retrieved from Kennel Lane have been put in place to stop vehicles grinding away at the edge, which to some extent circumvents the problem of the lower branches of the oak trees needing to be cut.• Flagstones – Clive Millington will start work when the weather improves.• Yew Tree Farm – Nothing more heard.• Barn in Ty Cook's field [Pilton parish] – The previous EPPC letter of objection to this was sent again to Somerset Council. It seems that local authority officers had been to inspect the barn and were convinced it was an agricultural building. It was suggested that a further visit be made.• Yew Tree cottage – No decision yet• Evercreech junction – No decision yet
4. Financial Report	One cheque had been written for hall hire. The clerk had initiated the process of changing to a gov.uk website, which costs nothing extra. The company providing website hosting, Hugo Fox, had requested that the cost of hosting (currently £143.86/year) be paid by direct debit. Martin Llewellyn proposed, and Roger Cock seconded, that a direct debit system be set up to pay this. Paul Heal had proposed earmarking £1500 from the parish council budget each year to work to attend to ditch and drain issues affecting roads in the parish. This money would comprise £500 from EPPC reserves, £500 from Glastonbury Festival money and £500 from the precept. Roger Cock proposed and Martin Llewellyn seconded that this proposal go ahead and the precept be raised to £4000 to cover this. Martin Llewellyn suggested that a letter be written to Somerset Council to say that EPPC was doing this work as they were not and requesting a council tax rebate.
5. Glastonbury Festival Donation Spending	The money donated by GFL is to be spent for the benefit of the parish. Two projects are underway here. As agreed at the last meeting Clive Millington will be doing the flagstones in the village. The invoice for this has not yet been put in – the quote was £2710+VAT. Work has also been going on replacing defective stiles on the footpaths around the parish, organised by Kerry Dodd, the Footpath Officer. Again the invoice

has not yet come in. As just agreed, £500 will be going towards clearing the ditches and drains in the parish. Suggestions from parishioners on ideas for spending the rest of the money would be most welcome. A defibrillator has been suggested.
Please contact the clerk: clerkeppc@gmail.com

6. Planning Applications

i) **The Gardens** 2024/1971/HSE *Single storey rear extension, internal alterations and replacement doors and windows*

Decision: Approval It improves the utility and appearance of the building.

ii) **Pembroke House** APP/E3335/D/24/3355817 No opportunity to submit comments. Appeal to Secretary of State against the decision of Somerset Council to refuse planning permission for: 2024/0491/HSE *Demolition of single storey parts including porch and erection of extensions and alterations*

iii) **Withial Barn** 2024/2239/PAA Notification only. *Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1no dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development*

iv) **The Lodge, Little Pennard** 2022/0669/FUL Planning Committee meeting 7/1/25 *Demolition of outbuildings to be replaced by erection of single outbuilding, erection of a gate to existing access and associated works*

This was originally approved by EPPC, and built, but refused by Somerset Council on 16/1/25 on the basis of the poor visibility and access to the A37.

v) **Batch Farm** 2025/0026/HSE *Proposed double garage and wood store, with home office above*

Decision: Approval It is of utility to the holding and part of a plan to bring it up to a reasonable standard.

7. Shooting Ground

Paul Heal is to draft a letter and initiate a petition requesting that Somerset Council insist that the Shooting Ground comply fully with the Guidance on the Control of Noise published by the Chartered Institute of Health. A number of residents on Pennard Hill are encouraging the Parish Council to continue these efforts.

8. Glastonbury Festival

A meeting with GFL will take place on February 18th, which is open to members of the public. Any points to raise would be appreciated ahead of this meeting.

9. Village Hall

Secondary glazing is currently being fitted. EPPC reiterated the urgent need for wifi. There was general support for the proposal that the annual donation to the Village Hall be made conditional on wifi being installed.

Many thanks to Frances Llewellyn who has started a very successful community health and welfare group.

10. The Hunt

A number of parishioners spoke about the many problems they have

experienced that have been caused by the [Blackmore and Sparkford Vale] Hunt in East Pennard. Problems reported include trespass, aggressive and antisocial behaviour, disturbing the peace, and causing distress. It was reported that the police are looking into a case of sheep being harassed by hounds and were also called out after a deer was seen being pursued by a quad bike at one of the hunts. There were concerns that illegal fox hunts were going on in the parish rather than drag hunts. It seems that drag hunts require a trail map and yet, when challenged, no such map has been forthcoming. Also many parishioners report that they have had the hounds racing through their gardens, where no trail would have been set. The hunt has apparently acknowledged that the hounds are out of control. Trespass on the land of people who have expressly stated that the hunt is not welcome appears to be a constant, recurring problem for parishioners. When challenged about this trespass, it seems that abusive, obnoxious and threatening behaviour has ensued from hunt supporters. Safety concerns were also expressed about horses and hounds being out on the roads, even on the A37. After hearing this lengthy discussion of all the problems experienced by parishioners from the Hunt, EPPC decided to write a letter to the Police Commissioner, with a copy to the Hunt.

11. Footpaths

Kerry Dodd had distributed a map with a red line showing the area she is responsible for as Footpath Officer, which surprisingly did not cover the whole parish of East Pennard. The map showed all of the PC funded new stiles which have been installed by Mendip Ramblers, for which EPPC is extremely grateful. A letter of thanks is to be written. Kerry reported that Glyn Edwards, the footpath warden with whom Kerry has been working on the footpaths has kept his job. Kerry has also been in contact with the Somerset Wildlife Trust over the closure of Withial Combe due to ash dieback and the risk of falling branches, although this is a permissive right of way rather than a public footpath. At the new community group Kerry met the footpath officer for Pylle, who is a retired footpath warden, and they want to open up footpaths between Pylle and East Pennard.

12. Kennel Lane, Hembridge and other drainage problems in the parish

The main problem at Kennel Lane had been successfully solved thanks to Roger Cock. There is still a problem at Hembridge, where there are 2 culverts, both blocked but one more so, which definitely contribute to the flooding there. Roger has identified what needs to be done; the landowner's permission is needed to do it. There is also flooding at the bottom of the T-junction; Roger has said that the gully needs pumping out. After the last meeting a letter had been written to County Roads together with a photo of the flooding at Hembridge on 19th November. A highways officer then visited and said that funds are available to do the necessary work. Steve Norman drew attention to the fact that the County Council has a good way of reporting potholes online. It involves taking a photo and uploading it to their website together with the depth. The Highways Department then has to come and mark it within 2-3 days and generally it is then dealt with in around 2 weeks. This

reporting system also applies to problems with the edges of roads.

13. Correspondence

Nothing new

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 20th March 2025** at **7.00pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.