

**MINUTES OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm**

|                                   |  |
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| <b>Public Participation</b>       | No speakers  |
| <b>Present</b>                    | Adrian Pearse (Chairman), Paul Heal, Roger Cock, Martin Dearden, Martin Llewellyn, Hilary Tripp (Clerk), Kerry Dodd (Footpath Officer) and 4 members of the public   |
| <b>1. Apologies</b>               | None   |
| <b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting</b> | The minutes of the meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 were approved as being a true record on the proposition of Martin Llewellyn and seconded by Roger Cock. They were then signed by the Chairman.   |
| <b>3. Matters Arising</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cockmill Lane junction</b> ditch – The work done has also solved the flooding problem. Cutting back of the lower branches of the oak trees opposite would be beneficial.</li><li>• <b>Flagstones</b> – Nothing more heard</li><li>• <b>Footpath Diversion order Great Rusham</b> – Clear signage is now in place</li><li>• <b>Yew Tree Farm</b> – Holes were being drilled this week, purpose not known.</li><li>• <b>Barn in Ty Cook's field [Pilton parish]</b> – Nothing more heard</li><li>• <b>Longacre, Parbrook</b> – Awaiting decision</li><li>•</li></ul>  |
| <b>4. Financial Report</b>        | After the last meeting cheques had been written for domain name renewal, overdue SALC bill, SALC affiliation fee, village hall hire and a donation to the village hall. Further cheques were needed for village hall hire and website hosting; Paul Heal proposed and Roger Cock seconded paying these. Payment for website hosting will soon be done by direct debit. Hugo Fox, who currently host the website, have suggested that the EPPC website domain name be changed to a gov.uk website at no extra cost. Should we do this, they advised keeping the current domain name (done through Fasthosts) for a year. There is also the possibility of buying gov.uk email addresses – 5 would cost £9.99/month, though there would be a grant of £100 for the first year. The clerk to discuss the need for gov.uk domain name with other clerks. There was some discussion as to how the GFL money could be spent. Martin Dearden proposed that some of it could be spent on footpaths (including the broken flagstones in the village) in the parish and this was seconded by Roger Cock. |
| <b>5. Planning Applications</b>   | <p>i) Yew Tree Cottage 2024/1423/LBC <i>Installation of air source heat pump</i></p> <p><b>Decision: Recommend Approval</b> as it is adopting progressive technology</p>   |

ii) Yew Tree Cottage 2024/1422/HSE *Installation of air source heat pump*

**Decision: Recommend Approval** as it is adopting progressive technology

iii) Evercreech Junction 2024/0374/VRC *Application to remove Condition 4 (no storage of items above 3m in height) of planning approval 2019/2006/FUL (Change of use of land to open storage) (Additional information received 29/08/24).*

**Decision: Recommend Refusal.** The site of this application is within the parish of East Pennard; however it mainly affects the residents of Ditcheat. The bund was originally built to shield residents of Ditcheat from what was going on behind it at Evercreech Junction in terms of noise, light pollution and visual impact. The top of the bund was then approved for parking and later for using the area for storage. This latter was subject to a number of conditions. The current application is to remove Condition 4 of the previous planning (2019/2006/FUL) which imposed a height restriction of 3 metres for storage. This was initially proposed in March 2024, when East Pennard Parish Council strongly objected. Since then a further report has been submitted recommending a maximum height of 10m. That report does not change the views of East Pennard Parish Council in any way. Increasing the allowed height goes against the original reason for building the bund to protect Ditcheat residents. The 67 dwellings in Ditcheat, which are within 1000m of the bund, would be significantly impacted by allowing buildings of more than 3m on the bund. There was a query as to whether the Planning Department is concerned with protecting local residents affected by this. East Pennard Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal to remove Condition 4.

iv) Batch Farm *Application for Premises Licence*

v) The Garden Cottage, Little Pennard 2024/1731/TCA Notification only *Works/Felling Trees in CA*

## 6. Shooting Ground

Paul Heal suggested inviting the person who runs the SSG to the next council meeting. He will draft a letter.

## 7. Glastonbury Festival

A debriefing meeting with GFL will take place on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the village hall. Any points that people would like to raise need to be submitted in advance to Martin Dearden. Minutes of this meeting will be requested.

## 8. Village Hall

Anthea Derby reported that secondary glazing will be fitted in December to all 4 windows and repairs carried out. A curtain will be put across the door to combat draughts. Paul Heal asked about getting wifi – this is to be looked into. Martin Llewellyn asked about disabled access, pointing out that plans had previously been drawn up for this and the village hall

had the money to do improvements. Anthea Derby said there had been problems to do with it being a listed building and that these issues can be raised at the forthcoming AGM.

## **9. Footpaths**

Kerry Dodd had distributed a map showing problems with the footpaths in East Pennard. She has found some footpaths impassable eg one that goes across a maize field planted with no provision for people to use the path or go round the crop. After much discussion it was agreed that a detailed list of what needs doing in the parish be drafted. The issue of the responsibility of landowners to maintain footpaths on their land was raised. Kerry has contacted Glyn Edwards, footpath warden for the county, to let him know that EPPC has some funds and will arrange a meeting with him to walk round the footpaths to work out what needs doing and what it will cost. EPPC will then decide how much they might want to put towards this.

## **10. Kennel Lane**

MBBA had agreed to do a low key operation here and had done a good job, but the basic problem remained and Highways were not dealing with it despite the problem being repeatedly reported to them. This week water was coming down in full force and starting to erode the road edge. Ian Sankey noted the frequent flooding at the bottom of Sunnyside Hill caused by a blockage and asked if EPPC could resolve that for the benefit of the parish. Roger Cock will look at the ditch and see what would be involved to improve things. These issues are the responsibility of Somerset Council, but they have no funds to undertake works. Mr. Sankey has written to the council about the flooding at the bottom of the hill and by the bridge by the mill at Hembridge and has had no response. Parishioners have been unable to get to work due to flooding. It was agreed that a letter be written to Somerset Council.

## **11. Correspondence**

- i) Ian Sankey re drainage reports Hembridge – already covered.
- ii) Ian Sankey re impact of Glastonbury Festival at Hembridge – his letter to be forwarded to GFL.
- iii) Frances Llewellyn re proposed community group – this is a proposal for a health and welfare community group, similar to those already set up in Glastonbury, Street, Frome and Wells to help people help themselves, Frances's role being to bring people together, getting the right people in contact with one another. This proposal was well-received by the council who supported the idea. Anthea Derby suggested that Frances might like to attend a trustee meeting.
- iv) Hugo Fox re provision of gov.uk domain and emails – already covered.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 21st November 2024 at **7.00pm**, an earlier time than usual.