

**MINUTES OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Public Participation:** No speakers

**Present** Adrian Pearse (Chairman), Paul Heal, Roger Cock, Martin Dearden, Sophie Farrell, Hilary Tripp (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

The Chairman paid tribute to Susie Dearden, a longstanding past member of the council, who died at the end of October.

**1. Apologies** Cllr. John Greenhalgh

**2. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved as being a true record on the proposition of Roger Cock and seconded by Paul Heal. They were then signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Shooting Ground Noise:** As agreed at the last meeting, letters had been written to James Heappey, MP for Wells, in whose constituency the shooting ground lies, and David Warburton, our MP. James Heappey wrote back to say he was unable to deal with the problem as the residents did not live in his constituency. David Warburton wrote to say he had contacted the Environmental Health team at Mendip who told him that they had installed monitoring devices in 2 houses which yielded no evidence of any disturbance and so MDC were taking no further action. However there was a factual error here in that the recording devices were defective. Paul Heal offered to write a further letter. Sophie Farrell recommended that a formal complaint be made, with a copy to David Warburton. The Chairman had been talking to members of Kings Hill who were concerned about possible lead pollution. Sophie Farrell had been looking into legal remedies for noise nuisance and found 3 legal routes.

**Glastonbury Festival:** It seems as though this might be going ahead this year.

**Assault and harassment of parishioners:** Sophie Farrell reported that a parishioner had been assaulted following an objection made about a planning application. Police were involved. Sophie Farrell suggested that in future parishioners should complain to the parish council first and they then report it to MDC.

There have also been problems with a developer after objections to a planning application had been made by a parishioner; Roger Cock had been working to solve this issue and said it was now resolved.

**4. Financial Report** One payment had been made since the last meeting: £30 for hire of the hall. After some discussion it was agreed, on the proposition of Paul Heal and seconded by Roger Cock, that the precept remain at the same amount, £2,800. It was thought that perhaps any

extra funds might go towards maintaining footpaths and stiles in the village.

## 5. Planning Applications

### i) **The Lodge, Little Pennard Lane 2021/2830/HSE**

*Demolition of outbuildings to be replaced by erection of single outbuilding, erection of a gate to existing access and associated works*

**Decision:** Leave to Planning Officer. There were concerns over visibility emerging onto the A37 from the Ditchheat direction.

### ii) **The Lodge, Lower Withial Farm**

*A footpath diversion is proposed as the existing route runs through the garden of the Lodge.*

**Decision:** Recommend Approval subject to the consent of the owner of the field.

## 6. Broadband Provision

Some people have fibre optic broadband, whilst others have been overlooked despite the cable going past their properties. A member of the public suggested writing to the CEO of OpenReach; he will provide addresses.

## 7. Village Hall

Clive Millington is to start works in about 2 weeks. There will be 2 phases. In Phase 1, the exterior work will be done – roof slates and ridge tiles. In Phase 2 the interior will be redone and decorated.

## 8. Parish Plan

To be discussed under correspondence

## 9. Correspondence

**Parish Footpaths:** An email had been received from the Public Rights of Way team concerning working with Somerset County Council on this. It was felt that the footpaths in the village are not in a good state. Currently Martin Dearden is the Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPL0), but he would be happy to pass this on to someone who could take a more active role. Efforts will be made to find someone via the Parish magazine and the website and the council will also write to MDC regarding volunteers to do the necessary work and materials.

**Drains in the Village:** Nothing has been done so this will be followed up again,

**Traffic on Wraxall Hill:** Following on from correspondence from Mr. Morgan, Bristol Water say that the problem is not their responsibility, it is the road surface. A reduction in the speed of lorries going down the hill would also help. The Council will follow this up with a suggestion to resurface the road and to put in place measures to get people to keep to the speed limit of 40mph.

**Ben Giaretta letters:** Four letters were received from Ben Giaretta, the first two of which had been withdrawn. The second two queried cameras

that had been put up on Huxham Common. Mr. McKie explained that these had been put up by the Huxham Common Conservation Group to record wildlife on the common. This followed a meeting with Cllr Ros Wyke last summer, where they looked at ways of enhancing protection of the common. The Code of Practice of Natural England had been followed in installing the cameras. Mr. McKie said that government guidelines about the use of cameras do not apply to wildlife cameras. Consent had been given by some of the Commoners rather than the landowner.

**Robert McKie letter:** this provided information about an act of vandalism a willow tree planted on the common had been cut down. The matter rests with the police.

**Julie Hayes:** this provided information about works being carried out on Huxham Common.

**Sophie Farrell:** Presumption of Sustainable Development. Sophie Farrell explained that this was a much misunderstood statement with most people assuming it was simply to do with eco-houses, whereas for MDC it means a sustainable location. This refers to somewhere where a car is not needed to go to the shops. East Pennard is an area of no development.

**Grit Bin Refills:** The grit bins in East Pennard have a sludgy mess in them at the moment, which will still work, but new grit cannot be added until they have been emptied.

**Tree Safety Management:** There is not a need for this as no land is owned by the Parish Council.

**War Memorials:** The leaflet will be circulated.

**Defibrillator:** Martin Dearden suggested that it was important to have one in the village and should be considered. A grant for £300 is available and Harry Dearden had pledged a further £100 towards it. Martin Dearden suggested it could be sited on the outside wall of the Village Hall. He will follow this up.

**Queen's Jubilee:** Martin Dearden suggested that the village do something to celebrate this, such as holding a tea-party in June and perhaps giving the children of the parish Jubilee mugs as has happened previously.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**      **The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

The meeting ended at 8.54pm.

