

MINUTES OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 10th August 2023 at 7.30pm

- Present** Adrian Pearse (Chairman), Roger Cock, Martin Dearden, Martin Llewellyn, Kerry Dodd (Footpaths Officer), Hilary Tripp (Clerk) and one member of the public.
- 1. Apologies** Paul Heal
- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting on 25th May 2023 were approved as being a true record on the proposition of Martin Dearden and seconded by Martin Llewellyn. They were then signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising**
- **Cockmill Lane junction** ditch – this has not yet been progressed.
 - **Shooting Ground** – on agenda
 - **Steve Palmer (Somerset Roads)** – the flagstones have not yet been done.
 - **Planning** Lower Easton Farm 2023/0628/FUL Approval
Batch Farm 2023/0653/FUL Approval
Little Pennard 2023/0698/PAF Prior Approval Refused
Withial Farm 2023/0879/HSE Approval
- 4. Financial Report**
- The audit was completed on 13th August; all was in order. The accounts and exemption certificate have been put on the website. Payments had been made for insurance (£224) and for the auditor (£55). The clerk noted that the hosting of the website, which has been free so far, will now incur a cost of £9.99+VAT/month. This significant increase was discussed and it was agreed to continue with the current hosts for one year whilst investigating the possibility of cheaper options. The following payments were agreed on the proposition of Roger Cock and seconded by Martin Llewellyn:
- Hall Hire
 - Donation to the Village Hall (£500)
 - SALC affiliation fee(not yet invoiced)
 - Website hosting fee for a year (since online banking not available to do monthly)
- 5. Planning Applications**
- i) Pye Hill 2023/1138/FUL
Erection of agricultural storage building, creation of track and the retention of the widening of access
Decision: Leave to Planning Officer
This has been a contentious site in the past.
- ii) Yew Tree Farm 2023/1289/PAA (notification only)
Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 2 no. dwelling houses (Class C3) and for associated operational development.
A letter had been received from Kerry and Jeremy Dodd, outlining their concerns about this development. Reports by the council and the Biodiversity Report highlighted the possible presence of asbestos and other toxins and yet work has already begun on the demolition of

pigsties without any confirmation of the non-presence of these toxins. it is also not known whether an ecological survey, specifically looking at bats, has been carried out.

Decision: EPPC to write to Somerset Council planning about these concerns.

iii) Great Rusham 2023/1353/LBC

Repairs to two beam ends

Decision: Recommend Approval

This is for necessary repairs to the house.

6. Shooting Ground

No further progress. The clerk has contacted Somerset Council to get an update. The chairman to liaise with Paul Heal regarding starting a petition and with Pilton Parish Council. The new MP will also be informed.

7. Glastonbury Festival

There was agreement that on the whole the festival worked really well this year and use of Cockmill Lane was, in general, much better organised. It was noted that there were far more gate-crashers this year, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. The chairman will inform GFL of this.

8. Village Hall

The bottom step of the entrance porch has been replaced; the porch is to be repaired next and also the corner, once the stump of the tree has been removed.

9. Footpath Officer

Kerry Dodd circulated maps and gave an update on the footpaths in the village. She noted that there had been an increase in complaints since the previous officer left, possibly since she had asked for comments in the Parish News. Some of the stiles are in a poor condition and some footpaths cannot be accessed. There is a new Footpath Officer at Somerset Council, Glyn Edwards, who is responsible for our area. Nothing has yet been done but these complaints have been assigned to him. The chairman asked if it might be possible to be given wooden stiles which we could put in ourselves; Kerry Dodd will find out if this is possible.

10. Correspondence

- Somerset Wildlife Trust had sent a Climate Adaptation Toolkit which was circulated.
- Roger Cock had discussed the possibility of a Facebook page for the village with Amy Page; this is a possibility. It was suggested that more use could be made of the existing website if a note was put in the Parish News to alert people to it.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held on **Thursday 26th October 2023 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

