

MEETING OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL

East Pennard Village Hall - Thursday 28th. May 2026, 7-30 pm.

1. Present were;- Councillors - Martin Llewellyn; Paul Heal; Roger Cock; Adrian Pearse; Footpath officer Kerry Dodd; and eight members of the public. Apologies were received from Martin Dearden.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th. March 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Martin Llewellyn, seconded by Roger Cock.

3. Matters Arising.

The gov.uk e-mail address for the Parish Council was now working.

Footpath diversion at Hembridge SM9/6 - no update.

Anvil barn conversion 2026/0496/FUL - decision due shortly.

Defibrillator - due to be installed on Mon. 1st. June. Training courses were thought desirable.

Somerleaze Cottages - Aster Housing had agreed to clean and augment the existing clay tiles rather than replace them with concrete tiles.

4. Resignation of Clerk. Hilary Tripp had retired as Clerk on health grounds with effective date 8th. May. Appreciation of her service was noted.

5. Appointment of new Clerk. It was agreed that a Notice of Vacancy should be posted, with closing date for applications 15th. June, subject to applications being received, after which a process to select a new Clerk would ensue.

6. Financial Report. The annual accounts for the year ending 31st. March 2026 had been approved and adopted and would be subject to the internal audit by Martin Mogg during June, with an expected fee between £60 and £70, which was agreed. There were difficulties with altering account procedures with Nat. West. Bank which would now have to wait until a new Clerk was appointed. About £8,000 of the Glastonbury Festival donation remained, and approx. £6,000 in reserve funds.

7. Glastonbury Festival Donation spending - the defibrillator cost including electrical connection and installation would be in the region of £2,000.

8. i. **Anvil House** 2026/0496/FUL - the Parish Council had supported the application and had communicated concern regarding continuing delays in arriving at a decision by Somerset Council. Steve Norman gave an update on the latest position and the Parish Council agreed to provide any necessary support.

ii. **Lower Easton Farm** 2026/0728/VRC - *Variation of Condition 2 (plans list) and Condition 5 (delivery hours) on Consent 2020/0350/FUL (Erection of 4 poultry houses and associated works)*. The application was discussed at length, with the modifications to the original proposals, which had only been undertaken in a very minor aspect, considered in detail. The

only neighbouring resident also made a statement. The Parish Council considered that this application for variation of conditions 2 and 5 should be put to the full planning committee, and recommends refusal on the basis that a new application is required for the following reasons;-

1. There is a total change in the number of birds housed (x 4).
2. There will be an increase in traffic from additional feed lorry arrivals which is not quantified.
3. The environmental effect of emissions needs consideration given that processing of emissions is to be changed from filtration to fans.
4. The impact on the neighbouring property at Elbow Corner needs evaluation as a result of the operational changes and emission processes.

111. **Withial Hill land** 2026/0793/AGB - Notification only - *Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building.*

9. Policies of Council. It had been brought to the attention of the Council that it lacked various policies - it was agreed that the new Clerk once appointed should obtain the appropriate policy templates from SALC and adapt them to suit our circumstances, viz.-

- a) Freedom of Information
- b) Data Protection
- c) Standing Orders
- d) Complaints

10. Somerset Shooting Ground. No response from the petition sent to Somerset Council had materialized - it was agreed that representations be made to Claire Sully, and that liaison with Pilton PC should continue.

11. Glastonbury Festival - a consultative meeting was planned for October at which any local issues could be raised.

12. The village postbox had been replaced.

13. Village Hall - the damp issue in the west wall had been resolved by stripping back to the masonry and injecting a barrier, together with waterproof render and lime mortar pointing

externally. The ditch had been cleared. New smoke alarms and the defibrillator were to be installed shortly, the latter funded by the Glastonbury Festival grant. There were new heaters; wi-fi was to be fitted, though there was no response from the company chosen. Events had included a talk on wartime experiences by Allen Cotton and a Christmas coffee morning.

14. Footpaths. Kerry Dodd gave a report mentioning that there were two complaints about dogs at Withial not mentioned in previous minutes. She had submitted a piece about dogs and footpaths to the Fosse Trinity News. New gates were currently being installed south of Withial, with routes bordering maize crops available on a temporary basis. Footpaths crossing the pheasant rearing area on the route to Pylle were being restored. Somerset Council were not willing to support a diversion of the path at Rose Cottage, Hembridge.

15. Correspondence. A query had been received from Kerry Dodd about notification of planning application decisions from Somerset Council - the Parish Council was not notified of such - and like the public could consult the planning portal. There was further correspondence relating to the Rose Cottage path issue and the Council's bank account. There were a series of e-mails from Angela Pearse relating to the lack of a number of policies, which had been dealt with as above, problems arising from a clerk not being available, the process of making the accounts available for public examination, and the requirement for an Annual Parish Meeting. Responses were made by councillors and the APM was to follow.

16. Next meeting - 6th. August 2026, at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8-59 pm.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Pearce', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath it.

12th. August 2026,