

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING held at Pilton Village Hall Wednesday 18th March 2026

Present: Cllrs: R Noble, C Connock, N Hall, R Woodhouse, K Sumner (Chairman), T Moulder, O Powell, L Roberts, A Wynn

In Attendance: 26 members of the public present and Cllr C Sully (Somerset) and Mrs H Richardson (Clerk)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A question was raised about the noise from the Shooting ground as it appeared to be exceeding guidelines, and we had not been given notice of the competition. East Pennard have submitted a petition of 70 names to Somerset Council. To be discussed next meeting.
- The applicant for 2026/0248/FUL attended to answer questions on the application
- The agent for 2026/0334/FUL outlined the application and offered to answer questions.
- Several residents spoke in opposition to application 2026/0334/FUL.

183. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN: None

184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr N Hall (192 Glastonbury Trainlink Project)

185. DISPENSATIONS: Cllr N Hall (192 Glastonbury Trainlink Project)

186. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: To confirm and sign the minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 18th February 2026.

Proposed: Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Moulder. **Approved**

187. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Somerset Council -Written report circulated. Cllr Sully also reported that some Council Tax Bills have been allocated the wrong Council Tax band and so she encouraged residents to check their bills and if they look wrong contact Customer Services or Cllr Sully. They will be corrected the following month. It was also reported that the budget gap has been reduced to £25 Million from £110 Million and on track for no gap next year.

188. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUCEMENTS

- The Chairman reported Somerset had asked for notification of white lines that need to be repainted. Cllr Sumner & Woodhouse would report back once they had reviewed the Parish.
- The Chairman is continuing to report Potholes and encouraged residents to report them to Somerset direct. It is not clear why some are getting fixed and others are left, but Cllr Sully is continuing to press for a response.
- Discarded road signs should now be collected as the works on the A361 has finished.
- The Chair expressed thanks to Cllr Wynn for successfully getting the white car moved from Top Street.
- The Chairman would report the signs at the top of Beard Hill that need to be reinstated.

189. PLANNING & LICENCING

- a. To consider the Planning Applications below and any that arise before the meeting.

[2026/0248/FUL](#) Land At Cockmill Lane East Pennard. Erection of an agricultural building extension. (Retrospective).

Background: It was noted that in 2019 it was confirmed that that prior approval of the siting, design and external appearance for erecting two agricultural barns was not required on this site. (2019/2678/AGB) The Applicant built one large barn not the two barns referenced in application 2019/2678/AGB and was refused retrospective planning permission. (2024/1253/FUL)

The application has been resubmitted, and the applicant was asked to outline any material differences from the previously refused application, but stated that the application has not changed and they are using their right to resubmit after 12 months.

RESOLVED: To OBJECT to the application due to the design and appearance and impact on visual amenity. The Parish Council agreed that there was no agricultural justification for the large balcony which would create significant harm to the landscape due to its overbearing nature and prominent position.

Proposed: Cllr Noble, 2nd Cllr Hall. **Approved.** Cllr Sumner, Moulder, Wynn, Powell & Roberts **Abstained.**

2026/0329/TCA: Pilton House, Lower Street, Pilton. Poplar (T1) - Remove two small lower limbs growing into Copper Beech. Western red Cedar (T2) - Reduce by 1.2m. Hazel (T3) - Coppice back to hedge height (Reduce by 3.5m). Turkey Oak (T4) - Remove dead wood over road. NOTIFICATION ONLY

2026/0334/FUL: Land At 359384 & 140687, Lower Street, Pilton. Erection of a Self-Build Dwellinghouse
RESOLVED: To OBJECT to the application for the following reasons.

Design & Appearance. Impact on public visual amenity- It is a very large modern design close to more traditional dwellings and it is not in keeping with its surroundings. The development will dominate the landscape and will be visible from surrounding roads, bridleway & footpaths. The Scale & Nature of the building is not appropriate to its village setting.

The Character of this rural village will be damaged if this important green space is lost.

Loss of Trees: The site is home to an established orchard, a proportion of which will be lost with this development.

Loss of ecological habitats: Bats & Deer and other wildlife are frequently spotted on the site.

Flood Risk - The size of the built area and removal of the natural habitat, will contribute to excess water frequently experienced on the Lower Street.

Proposed: Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Wynn. Approved -Unanimous.

2026/0330/TCA: Stonecrest, Weir Lane, Pilton. Lawson Cypress (T1 & T2) - Fell. NOTIFICATION ONLY

2026/02773/TCA: Worthy Farm, Worthy Lane, Pilton. T1-T6 - Ash - Fell. T7-T10 - Scots Pine - Fell.
NOTIFICATION ONLY

190. To receive information (Notification Only) from Glastonbury Festival;
- a. Representatives from Glastonbury Festival reported their intention to seek a minor variation in moving two pedestrian gates, B and C; It was noted that there will be no change to the entertainment licence but the proposals will move the fortress fence to the other side of Cockmill Lane to create more space within the boundary fence, to enhance public camping, reduce queueing and create a cleaner separation between public areas and production areas.
Cllr Hall asked for confirmation that there would be no changes to the vehicular access arrangements for Cockmill Lane. It was confirmed the arrangements for access to Cockmill Lane would be same as those in place for the 2025 Festival.
Cllr Woodhouse asked whether the new public camping would be provided with facilities, and it was confirmed that the camping area would cater for up to 12,200 people(relocated from other areas) and would have an appropriate number of toilets, hand washing facilities & food vendors, all covered by the existing licence.
 - b. It was reported that GFEL intend to seek planning permission to make some small changes to the pyramid stage to increase the stage area by 5m. It is unlikely that the changes would be made prior to the 2027 Festival.

191. BROADBAND

It was reported that Vodafone had agreed to install a 5G Booster in Pilton, however due to company reorganisation and a change of personnel, it is unclear whether this will go ahead. If it does not proceed then an alternative would be for the company which provides broadband to Worthy Farm to install a Wifi mast at the top of the village -this would be a private network and would only be viable if enough residents commit to a contract. It would only be effective within Pilton. More details would follow in due course.

192. TRAINLINK

- Cllr Sumner left the meeting and Cllr Woodhouse took over as Chairman.
Cllr Hall reported that over 1000 responses were received for the Trainlink Survey and Somerset Council has committed a £150,000 budget for a new trial bus service to Castle Cary station, however they would not commit to the route and which villages it would serve and are looking at a number of different starting points.
- Cllr Sumner returned to the meeting and took over as Chairman.
Cllr Hall is trying to arrange a meeting with Somerset Council to ensure that the Trainlink runs from Glastonbury, through Pilton to Castle Cary.

193. HEALTH & WELLNESS PILOT

RESOLVED: To establish a Health & Wellness Triad to lead a grant application for a Health & Wellness Pilot. Cllr Wynn, Cllr Woodhouse and Cllr Sumner would be the members of the triad.

It was agreed that Cllr Hall would contact Fodo to inform her of our intension to apply for a grant to cover the cost of the room hire.

194. TRAINING

RESOLVED: To arrange training in Freedom of Information and Data Protection to comply with Assertion 10 Councillors would watch the first two videos on Freedom of Information requests and email the clerk once they have viewed them.

The Clerk would arrange training on Data Protection for Councillors.

195. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS/TRIADS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

a. Affordable Housing Triad

The report for the Housing Needs Survey is now signed off and will be published on the Website. The results will be discussed at the Annual Village Meeting in April.

b. Biodiversity Triad

Playgroup have collected lots of toilet roll holders and the compost and seeds are ready to plant
The Triad will arrange to meet to progress the implementation plan.

c. Burial Ground Triad

The Parish Council are inviting quotes for a contract to empty a 240l bin monthly or on demand. Expenditure of up to £500 was approved for a replacement strimmer. The Burial groundsman would be asked to propose a machine that would suit his needs,

➤ An extension to the meeting was approved because the 2 hour limit has been reached.

d. Flooding Triad

The contractor has cleared the gullies requested. If any more are causing problems they should be reported to the Chairman.

e. Footpath Working Group

It was reported that some of the styles are very slippery and so it was suggested that chicken wire is put on styles to add grip. Cllr Hall will contact ASBO's.

It was reported that the new pavement project is progressing as Somerset are now talking to GFEL direct and confirming land ownership before proceeding.

The branch blocking the footpath between Weir Street & Bread Street has been removed.

f. Highways Triad - Nothing further to report

g. LCN update.

The next LCN Meeting is on the 27th April.

196. FINANCE

RESOLVED: To note payments & receipts listed.

Proposed: Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Powell. Approved

197. CLERKS REPORT- The report was circulated

198. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was agreed that item 199 to be dealt with after the Public and Press have been excluded from meeting within the requirements of the [Public Bodies \(Admission to Meetings\) Act \(as amended\) 1960](#)

199. NOTICEBOARDS

The quotes expenditure were reviewed for the maintenance of the Noticeboards and a Contractor was selected.

200. MATTERS OF REPORT

Notices for Roundabout: Potholes

NEXT MEETINGS:

Annual Village Meeting : 15th April 2026 at 6pm

Parish Council Meeting 15th April 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm