

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Present: Councillor Sue Entwistle, Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Ian Tait, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Ann White, Councillor Hugo Middleton, EK Parish Clerk, Councillor Wayman Wiltshire Council

Apologies: Councillor Bateman, Councillor McCarthy

Public Open Forum

No member of the public attended.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June 2025

2 amendments were requested to the draft minutes. Proposed Cllr Tait, Seconded Cllr Middleton – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

None outstanding - all others matters covered in agenda items

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Councillors discussed the application from a Milton resident, Mr Eric Brunner, to be co-opted onto the East Knoyle Parish Council, thereby filling one of the 3 vacancies. Mr Brunner's resume having been previously shared with Councillors, the Chair briefed the Council on her initial discussions with the applicant. Chair proposed and Cllr White seconded the co-opting of Mr Brunner onto the East Knoyle Parish Council. Approved unanimously. Parish Clerk was asked to inform Mr Brunner and complete all necessary document in respect of this appointment.

Planning Applications

PL/2025/05037. Proposed works to 2 spruce trees in conservation area. Reduce height by 40% to 50%

Councillors supported this application subject to the works not taking place before the end of the bird nesting period in July. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Tait.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman noted that despite follow-ups with the Highways team she had no news on the new signage for Church Rails.

Cllr Wayman updated the Parish Council on the 3 new bus routes that would be running in East Knoyle supported by funding from Wiltshire Council. She noted were to find the bus timetables online.

Cllr White again raised the issue of the recent A350 Traffic report. Cllr Wayman said that whilst an appeal was conceptually possible the Appeals process had yet to be ratified in Wiltshire Council. Issue was that there was a lack of data to support changes to the status quo. Cllr Ambrose noted that Turnpike residents needed safer access to the village given the absence of footpaths. The point was made about children having to cross the A350 to catch their school bus. Chair said that as both Donheads and Semley had supported East Knoyle's views on safety and speed issues on the A350 she would approach her counterparts to arrange a meeting. Parish Clerk was tasked to do the same with his counterparts.

A joint letter to Wiltshire Council remains an option.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

In Cllr McCarthy's absence the Parish Clerk read an update report received from the Councillor. Parish Council was pleased to note that a number of potholes had been patched.

Chairs Report – Cllr Entwistle

- a) Noted that the new Bus routes would be promoted via an article in the next EKNL. Parish Council discussed the need for better communication so that this service was optimally utilised.
- b) The Chair on behalf of Cllr McCarthy, raised the problem of unruly behaviour and damage caused to common land at The Dips by teenagers. Whilst the matter had been reported by residents and there was a Police reference number the issue continued to cause noise and discomfort. Councillors discussed what in practical terms they could do to alleviate this problem which had now been ongoing for circa 12 months. Cllr Staunton advised that as it was now a Police matter the Parish Council was limited in what it could actually do, other than communications and signs. Confronting the teenagers was definitely not an option. Chair said she would include an open letter expressing concern in the next EKNL.
- c) Chair noted that there were 2 remaining vacancies on the Parish Council. She would follow-up again with a potential applicant who had expressed initial interest. Parish Council agreed that the best course of action was sounding out possible candidates and inviting them to attend a meeting. This would be in tandem with continuing ads in the EKNL
- d) Chair said she would follow-up with her counterparts at Donheads and Semley Parish Councils to obtain their views post the recent A350 road report. Parish Clerk was tasked to similarly contact his counterparts with a view to arranging a meeting.
- e) Chair noted the new map on Bridle Paths and Rights of Way and thanked those involved in its sourcing and installation.
- f) Whilst the Chair noted that the Parish Councils claim with SSSEN had been satisfactorily resolved in a timely manner she did not feel the right process had been pursued. Greater consultation with the Parish Council was required going forward.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait briefed the Councillors that the new budget report and matrix were still being worked on. It would be shared at the next meeting and be reporting actual cash, income and receipts monthly in arrears. Chair asked if current position remained positive and Cllr Tait confirmed costs remained in line with the budget and the goal of realising a small surplus for unexpected expenditure.

Parish Clerk presented payments due for approval – Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Entwistle

Village Hall – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose was on leave and therefore unable to attend the last Village Hall meeting. Chair noted that after the recent AGM some concessions had been offered to tea@3..

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose thanked Cllr Middleton for facilitating a new Bridle Paths and Rights of Way map which was now on display at the Wrens Shop notice Board.

Cllr Ambrose enquired as to the status of the quotes for the tree works planned at the Windmill. Parish Clerk was actioned to formally accept the selected quote and inform unsuccessful bidders accordingly.

Cllr Ambrose noted that due to the hot weather there was an increased fire risk level and she would explore the need for further cutting of grass at the Windmill and impacted common lands.

Cllr Ambrose formally acknowledged the assistance of a group of volunteers who had helped clear an area of fly-tipping exposed during the recent SSEN works.

Cllr Ambrose noted that the compensation received from SSEN pursuant to their recent works at the Green would enable full replacement of the damaged whips and stakes. Work would be undertaken in the autumn.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait noted that a new 20 year lease between East Knoyle Parish Council and Wrens Shop had now been signed. No rent increase though there was a clause to review every five years. Provides certainty going forward.

Wrens Shop AGM will take place on 24th July in the Village Hall. All shareholders and customers welcome to attend.

Cllr Tait had been in discussion with the Village Hall Treasurer regarding the Parish Councils need to undertake an Agar audit if its turnover exceeded £25k. Village Hall agreed to liaise with the Finance Committee to mitigate this additional cost.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not renew its Open Spaces subscription as no longer needed. Parish Clerk to action.

Cllr Tait advised that East Knoyle Parish Council needed to nominate a Councillor for the East Knoyle Charity. Agreed approach was to talk to the Charity to ascertain who would be best suit.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton noted that a Planning Application had now been submitted to cutback overhanging branches on the boundary between Wrens Shop and Wyndhams. Decision timeframe 6 to 8 weeks.

Cllr Staunton sought approval to purchase and lay bark chippings in the recently cleared area by the large slide. To control regrowth. Councillors approved these works.

Cllr Tait advised that whilst the old electrical equipment remained stored in the KGH shed a plan for its removal had been made and it would be emptied before the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Staunton briefed the Parish Council on a grant-funding opportunity to potentially purchase new climbing equipment for the playground. Any installations would be 100% funded. Whilst the offer was attractive the Councillors view was there was no suitable space for additional equipment. It also noted that to apply it would need to undertake a public consultation to determine needs. Parish Council decided to review again in 6 months.

Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 8.45 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton.....Vice Chair

Date: 3rd September 2025.....