Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Present: Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Hugo Middleton, Councillor Rob McCarthy, Councillor Deb Bateman, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Leigh Williams, Councillor Ian Tait, Councillor Eric Brunner, Wiltshire Council Councillor Bridget Wayman, EK Parish Clerk,

Apologies: None

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

Mr Mark Gittins was in attendance.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Draft minutes of the 2nd September 2026 EKPC meeting were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Tait, seconded Cllr Brunner – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Cllrs Brunner and Tait noted that a briefing note on the proposed new EDC legislation had been drafted, however Councillors agreed to wait until the new legislation came into force.

Councillors reviewed an Expression of Interest from Mr Mark Gittins in being co-opted onto the East Knoyle Parish Council. Mr Gittins left the room whilst this was discussed. Cllr Bateman proposed and Cllr Brunner seconded this co-opting. The Parish Council unanimously voted to co-opt Mr Gittins who then rejoined the meeting and was formally welcomed by the Chair.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman briefed Councillors a number of Wiltshire Council initiatives including Active Travel. The Local Plan, a proposed new strategic authority for Wessex as of May 2028 and need to update Emergency plans.

The recent A350 report was then further discussed, and it was confirmed that the proposed reduction in the speed limit to 50mph was only applicable to the turnpike stretch of the road. The Hayes House entrance was not included.

Councillors unanimously confirmed their support for the proposed speed reduction. Cllr McCarthy noted that it would reduce traffic noise and Cllr Ambrose noted that Turnpike residents had long advocated such a change. Parish Clerk was tasked to

contact Paul Shaddick at Wiltshire Highways and confirm that East Knoyle Parish Council wished to adopt the Traffic reports proposed speed reduction Chair noted that the 25% costs associated with new signage, circa £2215 would need to be included in the 2027/28 Precept calculations.

Councillors then discussed the option of having warning lights installed at the Coleman's Farm cattle crossing. Cllr's Williams, Bateman and Ambrose were strongly in favour of this safety measure. Cllr Wayman agreed to raise with Wiltshire Highways, she also noted that the next LHFIG meeting was at 2pm on 28th October at the Nadder centre and this was a good forum to raise such traffic matters.

Planning Application

PL/2026/06168 – 3 Haddons Houses SP3 6BH. 2 x spruce trees – Felt. No objection subject to the felled trees being replaced with native species. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved

PL/2026/06237 – Knoyle Ridge Farm SP3 6AF. 1) Erect a fodder and implement shed. 2) Erect a roof over an existing concrete yard. This is an application to assess if prior approval required. Parish Councillors supported this application though noted any eventual structure should be dark skies compliant. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bateman. Unanimously approved.

Cllr Middleton then introduced 2 further planning applications which were received after the agenda was published and the Chair agreed for the Parish Council to consider under AOB.

PL/2026/06414 – Village Hall East Knoyle. Fell Hornbeam tree. Supported. Proposed Cllr Middleton seconded Cllr Ambrose. Unanimously approved.

PL/2026/06293 – Manor Farmhouse SP3 6BJ. 1) Copper Beach – reduce canopy 2) Yew Tree – reduce and thin canopy 3) Willow Tree – Fell. Supported subject to felled tree being replaced with a native species. Proposed Cllr Tait seconded Cllr McCarthy. Unanimously approved

Note – Full details on all Planning Applications and any comments subsequently submitted by East Knoyle Parish Council are available on the Wiltshire Council website – under Planning and Building Applications.

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Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy noted that progress had been made on cutting verges, clearing ditches and gullies and road patching. Requests had been submitted to renew white lines on several roads.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

a) Chair raised the issue of support for the Community Defibrillator located at Wren's Shop. It was clearly a vital Community Asset but now needed a structured process and community volunteers to continue its vital support. Cllr Bateman noted that Milton needed a local Defibrillator as one was not within the minimum distance. Cllr Brunner noted that grants for new Defibrillators were available from bodies like the British Heart Foundation though this only

covered acquisition, not ongoing support. Councillors unanimously agreed that it was vitally important for its Community to have access to fully operational Defibrillator(s). Cllrs Brunner and Bateman agreed to look into the optimum way forward and report back.

b) Chair publicly thanked Martin Brown for arranging the very successful St John's Ambulance First Aid training – which was promoted as a Parish Council supported activity. The Parish Council had made a donation to St John's Ambulance as well.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait advised the Parish Council that HSBC were conducting a SafeGuard review into the Councils bank accounts. As a consequence online banking access has been restricted with the effect that no payments can be made until this review is completed. Cllr Tait and the Parish Clerk will visit HSBC Salisbury branch to resolve. Parish Clerk has requested a cheque book in the interim.

Whilst the October Bank Statement was not available current year expenditure was tracking in line with the Budget.

Cllr Tait noted that the Parish Council needed to prepare its Budget for 2027/28. This is a precursor to calculating and submitting the Precept funding request. Chair asked Councillors to consider what, if anything, they would be seeking for Community support – bids to be sent to the Finance Committee by November 22nd.

Cllr Tait had submitted the necessary forms to the Pension Regulator. To avoid future issues the registered address for the Parish Council had been changed to c/o Wrens Shop rather than the Parish Clerks home address. This will provide stability. An EKPC mail slot had been created at the shop. Parish Clerk was updating this change of address for all connected parties.

The AGAR audit had been concluded with one audit point. Going forward EKPC would need to use ,gov email id's Parish Clerk tasked to arrange for the Clerk, Finance and the Chair. Cllr Tait agreed to liaise with EKVH regarding the AGAR audit fee.

The Parish Clerk advised Councillors that he had submitted the Annual Charity Commission return for Open Space – a nil return as effectively the Charity is dormant. Councillors considered closing Open Space, but, as it was not costsing anything to retain elected to retain as a future asset for the Parish Council.

Parish Clerk presented payments due for approval – Proposed Cllr Tait seconded Cllr Bateman

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Cllr Bateman attended the last Village Hall meeting. Quotes were repairing the stone wall in the medieval room were being sought and a planning application was being developed in respect of required roof repairs.

Cllr Bateman confirmed that the mobile library was still visiting East Knoyle.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose briefed the Parish Council on CLAROW thinking regarding creating a "Nature Safari" at the Windmill site. Provide a proactive plan as to how the Parish Council were managing these common lands for today and tomorrow. Thereby fostering greater Community Engagement and Awareness.

Councillors further considered the increasingly restricted view across the Blackmore Vale from the Windmill common lands. They unanimously agreed that it was in the public benefit to return the landscape to its original state which would necessitate considerable tree works.

Chair advised that a Consultation with residents would be required to assess the thoughts and feedback from the Community with regard to improving the view.

Cllrs Williams noted that a License would be needed to progress any works and agreed to make the necessary application. This would enable the Council, with supporters, to assess what is or is not feasible and likely option costs.

Cllr Ambrose noted that the gorse on the Windmill site would be cut-back over the autumn.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait noted that Lloyds Bank had re-introduced the acceptance of cheques at the Post Office.

The Wrens Shop Christmas launch would be at 4.30pm on November 28th and their volunteer dinner on December 4th.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Chair briefed Councillors that the Parish Council had been successful with its grant application to Cranborne Chase for funding to replace, in its entirety, the old tarmac main pathway through KHG playground with a synthetic rubberised surface, Tiger Mulch. Grant is circa £14750. He noted this was a result of a considerable amount of work over the summer and thanked the Parish Clerk for overseeing this grant process and application. Chair would now liaise with the winning bidder over implementation timeframes. The completion of this project would represent the last identified improvements to the Playground infrastructure.

Chair advised that the Annual Rospa Health and Safety inspection report into the KHG Playground had been received and shared with Councillors. It reflected the considerable repair and maintenance works the Parish Council had undertaken since the last report. The only real point related to the need to replace Monkey Bars on the climbing frame.

Chair asked Councillors for ideas on Community activities in the 3rd and 4th Quarters. Cllr Ambrose was keen to recognise all volunteers, perhaps at the AGM.

Correspondence Received

The Parish Council considered a request from the Village Hall regarding the local archive. The Parish Council considered options regarding its storage and further development but felt this was best served as a Community project. The Parish

Council was not resourced, financially or skills, to progress itself. Cllr Bateman was asked to respond accordingly to the Village Hall.

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council closed at 9.30 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton……..…Chair

Date: 4th November 2026……