

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at East Knoyle Village Hall

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

Apologies: Councillor Rob McCarthy, Councillor Deb Bateman

Public Open Forum

Mr G Morant, Ms L Webb, Ms A Brown, Mr A Brown and Ms E Reeve were in attendance.

Mr Morant thanked the Parish Council for their support in respect of rural crimes. He noted that a further crime scene had been reported on Monday 1st December so issue remained ongoing and that the Police needed intelligence to assist their enquiries.

Ms L Webb read a letter from various interested parties concerning the amended planning application at Seymour House. Re-iterated their prior concerns which were not addressed by this amended application.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2025

Draft minutes, subject to 1 amendment, were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Middleton seconded Cllr Ambrose – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

None outstanding - all other matters covered in agenda items.

Planning Application – taken as AOB due to late arrival

PL/2025/01345. Revised plans for a new dwelling on land adjacent to Seymour House. Councillors discussed the revised plans which addressed a number of prior points. As such EKPC had no objection to the points addressed by the revised plans but reiterated its original objections remain. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Ambrose. Unanimously approved.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman noted that she was still lobbying Dorset Council in respect of the new Shaftesbury household site's recycling charges for local Wiltshire residents effective January 2026.

Cllr Wayman noted that the a Public Space Protection order application had been initiated in response to the recently reported rural crime.

Cllr Wayman had undertaken a drive along the A350 adjacent to East Knoyle, The Turnpike and Hays House with Cllr Martin Smith, to showcase the speed and safety issues along this stretch of A road. As the necessary Appeal process in respect of the recent report remains unapproved this matter can only be further pursued when this process is agreed..

Cllr Wayman noted that WC had now removed the flytipping at the Windmill and it was being investigated by the Environmental team. The posts and chain that acted as a barrier on this right of way would need to be replaced by EKPC.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Nothing to report

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) Available funding from Wrens Shop for the proposed Fire Beacon was queried by Cllr Tait. Cllr Staunton to initially talk to the prior EKPC Chair to get the full background and then arrange a conversation with the new Wrens Shop Chair to clarify the current position. This project was therefore put on hold pending the outcome of these discussions.
- b) Contact had been made with Infinity Playgrounds to remedy all remaining Rospa points raised in their annual inspection. A site visit had taken place and a quotation of £2878 received to undertake the specified works. An additional circa £400 would be needed to enhance safety on top of the Tunnel. EKPC agreed that these works needed to be done and to accept Infinity's quotation. Further these costs would be paid from the KHG restricted funds. Proposed Cllr Tait seconded Cllr Staunton. Unanimously approved.
- c) Cllr Staunton sought input from fellow Councillors of filling vacant PC positions. Cllr's Ambrose and Brunner said they were in preliminary discussions with potential candidates. Cllr Staunton noted that as and when appropriate he would like to meet them, also attending a PC meeting might be helpful

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait presented the 2025/26 Actual versus Budget analysis which showed that expenditure was tracking as predicted.

Cllr Tait noted that work would be starting on calculating the 2026/27 Precept which would need to be submitted by 20th January 2026

Cllr Ambrose requested that funding be included in the 2026/27 budget for PC funded community events. Important that the PC be seen to be supporting community activities.

Given Cllr White's resignation Cllr Tait requested that another Councillor be appointed to the Finance Committee. Cllr Brunner offered himself. His appointment was proposed by Cllr Tait and seconded by Cllr Staunton. Unanimously approved.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Nothing to report

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose noted that the additional works to the Windmill View had now been completed.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait briefed the PC that the Christmas launch event at Wrens shop had been very successful, attended by some 120 residents and families.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton noted receipt of the Tree survey and that pruning/shaping works were all that were required rather than this landmark village Oak having to be felled. Quotes for this work would be obtained from qualified contractors.

Cllr Staunton noted that a locksmith would be required to replace the damaged lock on the KHG shed which had been vandalised.

The Parish Clerk updated the PC on the favourable outcome of a funding bid with Cranborne National Landscape to install an accessible picnic bench in the Playground. Seeds4Success would be contacted to assist with the preparation of a smooth and safe location.

Work is progressing on a National Lottery bid for new equipment at KHG. Councillors have looked at potential spaces and options to enhance the playgrounds offering. Parish Clerk is liaising with a bid-writer and Redlynch Leisure on any eventual bid which will be subject to prior consultation within the Community.

Correspondence Received

None.

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 9.15 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: ...Garry Staunton.....Chair

Date: 7th January 2026.....