

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4th June 2025 at East Knoyle Village Hall

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

Apologies: None

Public Open Forum

No member of the public attended.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025

Proposed Cllr Staunton, Seconded Cllr Ambrose – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

None outstanding - all others matters covered in agenda items

Planning Applications

No new Planning Applications were received for review. Councillors raised a concern in respect of tree felling relating to a prior Planning Application, PL/2025/02196. Councillors agreed to appraise Cllr Wayman of these concerns.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman noted that subsequent to the May 7th election she would continue as the Cranborne Chase Representative and was also on the Environment select committee.

Cllr Wayman after visiting the Seymour Arms site, had decided not to call in this application which, as per her discussions, seemed likely to be changed.

Regarding the Waterdale Planning Application this remained under review with the designated Wiltshire Council Planning Officer.

Cllr Wayman noted that amendments to Wiltshire Council Planning Application were not included in the Weekly Lists and agreed that it would be preferential if they could be.

Cllr Wayman agreed to look into the new Bus Stops in East Knoyle though noted that Wiltshire Council had made available funding rural bus routes.

Cllr White raised the issue of the recent A350 Traffic report and as a Turnpike resident was bitterly disappointed with its findings. In particular it did not address the entrance to Hays House. Cllr Wayman noted that an appeal could be lodged possibly

in collaboration with Semley and Donheads Parish Councils. Chair agreed to explore this option with her counterparts.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy reported that limited patching had occurred at Sutton Bottom and Holloway Lane.

Chairs Report – Cllr Entwistle

- a) Expressed her thanks to Cllr Middleton in the development and preparation of accessible EKPC minutes and agendas.
- b) Chair formally acknowledged Steve Rooney for voluntarily repairing the bench at the Milton Triangles. She had already written to express the Parish Councils appreciation.
- c) Chair noted that it had been suggested that Councillors contribute a paragraph on occasion to the East Knoyle News Letter. Be more visible and promote the Parish Councils work. Councillors were not in agreement with this idea and Chair said that the option was open going forward.
- d) The Chair noted that Electric Vehicle charging grants were available to both Parish Councils and Village Halls in Wiltshire. Could be located in the Village Hall carpark. After debate the Councillors felt this was not feasible. Chair agreed to share the idea and materials with the Village Hall Chair.
- e) Chair noted that there were no disabled facilities at KHG. The Councillors questioned the need for this at this point in time also that the playground was fully accessible.
- f) Chair raised the issue of damage due to SSEN works on common land across the road from the Windmill. A number of the newly planted whips had been destroyed. The Parish Clerk was tasked to file a formal complaint with SSEN with a view to complete restitution of the site.
- g) Chair advised that subsequent to the Parish Councillor recruitment notice in the East Knoyle News Letter 2 individuals had expressed an interest in the role. Next steps would be an informal discussion.

Finance

Cllr Tait briefed the Councillors that the new budget report and matrix were still being worked on but would be ready for the next meeting.

The Finance Committee noted that a new voluntary Accountant was being sought. The immediate need to address the East Knoyle monthly payroll had been alleviated with Ian Small agreeing to continue until end March 2026 when a replacement would need to be in place.

Cllr Tait updated the Parish Council on his review and discussions relating to the existing Vat practise between the Village Hall and East Knoyle Parish Council who are the vat registered body. He noted that the current practise had provided benefits of circa £20,000 to the Community and as such the Finance Committee recommended retaining the status quo..

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

Village Hall – Cllr Ambrose

In Cllr Ambrose's absence the Chair attended the Village Hall AGM. The idea of the Village Hall being identified as a Safe Space and using solar panels was raised. Chair also notified the Village Hall committee that the Parish Council were reviewing its Vat registration to ensure remained appropriate.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose noted that 2 quotes had been received to undertake necessary tree works at the Windmill site. This will use ringfenced fens. One was for £5616 the other for £2550. Works would open up the view and commence in the autumn. Councillors questioned the large difference in the quotes for the same works. Cllr Ambrose advised that the lower quote was from an existing supplier and recommended its acceptance. Proposed by the Chair seconded by Cllr McCarthy, unanimously approved.

Cllr Ambrose advised the Parish Council that 2 lower limbs at Hilly Ground needed attention and was obtaining quotations.

Cllr Ambrose said she would share Clarow emails with the Chair to improve timely communication.

Cllr Ambrose noted that Wiltshire Council would be repairing the bridge over the river Lodden.

Cllr Ambrose noted that the Village map of rights of ways and public paths displayed at Wrens Shop was both tired and outdated. A new map would be requested from Wiltshire Council.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait updated the Parish Council on the outcome of the shop's security review subsequent to the robbery. A number of enhancements had been identified and actioned, including improved key security as well as sensor changes.

Cllr Tait noted that as of 9th June the Post Office would be digital replacing phased-out technology.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton noted that an old tree stump next to the KHG steps needed to be removed. Quote for the works was £160 plus vat. Cllr McCarthy proposed this quote be accepted, seconded by Cllr Middleton, agreed unanimously.

A quote for £400 had been obtained to cutback the tree overhanging the Wren Shop boundary with Wyndhams. Cllr Middleton proposed this quote be accepted, seconded by Cllr McCarthy, agreed unanimously.

Parish Clerk was asked to follow-up with P Buttress in respect of outstanding hedge-trimming on the road boundary at KHG.

Cllr Staunton noted that the Parish Councils shed on Knoyle House Grounds remained full of old equipment belonging to Wrens Shop. Cllr Tait said he would follow-up its removal.

Cllr Staunton noted that for the newly created area at KHG and new bench would be acquired. He had looked at both recycled plastic as well as wooden benches and strongly favoured going with the wooden option for cost reasons.

Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

Parish Clerk, with the approval of the Chair, submitted to the Parish Council the 2024/25 accounts and required Agar submission. Cllr Tait thanked Ian Small for auditing the accounts. No questions raised. Chair therefore proposed the Accounts be accepted, seconded by Cllr White. Chair and Parish Clerk then signed the Agar forms.

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 9.05 pm

Date of Next Meeting

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

Approved: Sue Entwistle.....Chair

Date: 2nd July 2025.....