

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Councillors Present- Cllrs Tim Hyde (Chair), Deb Bateman, David Pickering, Hugo Middleton, Ann White, Sue Entwistle, Neil Southerden.

Clerk - Martin Brown.

Guest - Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Members of the Public – Mrs J Hockham, The Hon. Diana Makgill

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Ian Tait, Mat Lake, Brian Williamson
2. **Notices of Interest** – none
3. **Public Open Forum/ Agenda item 11 EK Coronation Celebration** –
 - I. Mrs J Hockham outlined plans to hold a Coronation village event over the weekend of 6/8 May, organised by St Mary's PCC. Plans are still to be finalised along with the date, but it was suggested that it would be an evening event with the whole village invited to attend, taking place at KHG and/or the Village Hall. The PCC would fund the entire event as a fund raiser for St. Mary's. It was requested that the PC approved the use of KHG and to supply the village marquee to KHG or the Village Hall. Proposed by Cllr Hyde/Seconded by Cllr Entwistle – approved unanimously.
 - II. The Hon. D Makgill asked that the PC consider the planting of a Coronation Tree at the Windmill, funded by donations. This decision was deferred to the March PC meeting, prior to which a suitable site and tree would be investigated.

Actions – Cllr Hyde to diary use of marquee and to investigate potential site for a tree.

4. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 13 December 2022** – Signed as a true record.
(Note – January meeting cancelled)
5. **Matters Arising** –
 - I. Memorial Flowers at the Windmill. Cllr Southerden apologised for delay, will submit a note to the EK Newsletter suggesting that only seasonal and real flowers/foliage can be left and that these are likely to be removed or damaged during grass cutting/maintenance.

Action – Cllr Southerden to submit article to EKN via Clerk

6. **Chairman's Report – Cllr Hyde**
 - I. Windmill – Access to the common lands from New Road. The posts holding the chain restricting vehicle access are rotting and need replacing. Chain is still in place and can be reused.
 - II. Marquee use, 19th February for Wren 300 lunch. This will be erected on 17th (weather permitting). Concern raised as to safety aspects regarding heating of the marquee – eg not gas heaters as fire and fume risk.

Actions – i) Clerk to investigate replacing wooden posts

ii) Clerk to write to Mr John Reading re concerns as to heating marquee (emailed 8 February)

7. **Bridget Wayman Report**
 - I. Church Rails. WCC Highways engineer will survey the road and the retaining church wall to investigate any structural problems / issues impacting on road condition
 - II. Church Rails signage. The new sign approval might be delayed as the WC contractors are changing in April.
 - III. General update – Dramatic increase in pothole reporting, while increased costs will likely limit what can be done regarding road repairs. Blue disc parking holders are to be given a 1-hour grace period but still have to pay. Bus fares remain capped at £2 per journey for a limited period.

Action – Clerk to contact WC officer Paul Shaddock dealing with signage to update position.

8. **Town, City and Parish Council (four-yearly cycle) Election costs** – response from attending Cllrs to the notification that PCs will have to provide funding to WC for elections was determined as being very disappointing. Costs liable to councils with smallest budgets/not informed soon enough to budget effectively/potentially encourages uncontested elections.

Action – Clerk to respond to Elections Team/CEO WC with comments

9. Planning Applications

- **PL/2022/09296 - Barn at Chapel Farm, East Knoyle - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext).** Unanimously supported via email vote
- **PL/2023/00089 - 29, MILTON, EAST KNOYLE - Willow Tree** - Cut down to 1.5m above ground - Unanimously supported via email vote
- **PL/2023/00213 - 3 OLD MILL CLOSE, EAST KNOYLE, SP3 6EX** - Construction of single 2-bedroom cottage on part of garden – Support proposed Cllr Pickering / Seconded by Cllr Bateman Vote = 3 for/4 against. Application not supported on numerous grounds as per comments on the planning website
- It was noted that the Planning Application for the Wrens Statue near KHG is now online.

10. **Knotweed Update** - Cllr Bateman reported that the recommended weedkiller has been obtained (invoice presented) and that she would be getting together a team of volunteers to assist with the first spraying in the spring. PPE would be required, plus marker posts and tape to keep public away.

£100 budget for this was proposed by Cllr Hyde /Seconded Cllr Bateman – approved unanimously.

Actions – i) Cllr Bateman to organise volunteers and timings

ii) Clerk to confirm PPE requirements

11. **EK Fete and Coronation Celebration 2023** – see Public Open Forum

12. **Defibrillator Update** – Clerk has paid all outstanding invoices for last year, and is expecting 2023 invoices shortly. Person who checks the defibrillator has been identified (lives in EK). The volunteers list under the VETS scheme (phoned in the event of the defib. being needed) has been established – needs updating as some have moved from the village/do not want to do it anymore/need retraining. A new training course is required – cost will be around £250 – for existing and new volunteers. Contact with the organiser of the new Semley scheme has been established for future cooperation of events/etc.

Action – the whole scheme needs ‘rebooting’ to gain community involvement, raise awareness and ideally provide community funding. Clerk to work on ideas and provide EKN with ‘impact’ article for March edition.

13. **Wren 300 Festival 2023** – Clerk reported.

- I. Planning permission for Sculpture – Planning application to be discussed at March PC meeting with deadline for comments being 15 March
- II. Clerk noted that John Maine had been thanked for his input to the planning process

Action – Chair and Clerk to ensure wider communication of the application and encourage wider village views before next PC meeting

14. **Common Lands** –

- I. Wise Lane near Crossroads – tree work on private land has been carried out. On the other side of the road, the contractor is due to fell around 12 identified diseased trees on Common Land for the PC.
- II. Windmill View/Scrub clearance – Statements from several local residents had been received and distributed highlighting the need for works to be carried out to ensure the view was maintained, and offering their support to maintain it after works had been carried out. Quotes for the scrub clearance were presented. Cllr Hyde proposed the work should be carried out/seconded by Cllr Pickering – unanimous vote and contract awarded.
- III. Common Land status review – Clerk explained that a request from Wessex Internet to lay a cable under The Green had raised a potential problem in that it was showing as ‘unregistered’/no owner, creating a slight problem for legal paperwork, etc. This instigated a review of all records relating to common lands and WC kindly provided all documents proving our ownership of all our known common lands. This allowed Wessex Internet to draw up the correct legal documents (distributed prior to the meeting). It was requested that we agree to sign the Deed of Grant. Proposed Cllr Hyde/Seconded Cllr Middleton – approved unanimously.

Actions – i) Cllr Hyde to liaise with Contractors to ensure works carried out as planned.

ii) Clerk to inform tender winner and arrange date for clearance before nesting season

15. **Finance**

- I. Cash Flow Summary – Clerk submitted prior to meeting. No comments
- II. Clerk going to HSBC branch to attempt to resolve on-going problems on 8 February

16. Post Office & Village Shop – Cllr Tait

The East Knoyle Community Shop Association Ltd formally took over the Post Office contract on 9 January 2023, with the transfer audit taking place on Friday 6 January 2023. We had an On-Site Trainer from the Post Office 9 - 13 January and a final visit on 18 January. Annie Ellis is the Postmistress and Ian Tait is the Branch Manager. Both undertook a three-day training course in November 2022.

17. Correspondence

- i. Notification of 'Best Kept Village' competition – no action required
- ii. WC Highways notification of overgrown hedges, etc, on Wise Line deemed a safety hazard. PC to request owner/owner's representative to clear this area. Clerk has contacted representative and they have confirmed works will be done in next two weeks.
- iii. Thanks were received from several residents for clearing diseased/dangerous trees and the removal of the flat bed truck dumped at the Windmill lay-by

18. Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm, Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 9.24pm

Signed as a true Record*Thyde*.....Chair

Date.....14th March 2023

Martin Brown
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