

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Brunner

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

No members of the public in attendance.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th April 2026

Draft minutes were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Staunton, seconded Cllr Tait – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Non-outstanding - all other matters covered in agenda items.

Planning Application

PL/2026/01922 – Snaggs Farm SP3 6AU. Erect new detached barn (A) over an area of existing concrete yard to cover slurry/manure storage area. EKPC supported this application. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved.

PL/2026/01923 – Snaggs Farm SP3 6AU.. Demolition of detached barn (B) and erect new detached barn. EKPC supported this application. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved.

PL/2026/10922 – Snaggs Farm SP3 6AU. Erect new detached barn (B) over an area of existing concrete yard. EKPC supported this application. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved.

PL/2026/02448 – Old School SP3 6AE Holm oak – remove limb towards garden. Bay – reduce in height by up to 6 meters. . EKPC supported this application. Proposed Cllr Staunton, seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved

PL/2026/02447 – Knoyle Place SP3 6AF. Ash – pollard canopy. Reduction of up to 10 meters. EKPC supported this application. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Staunton. Unanimously approved

PL/2026/02119 – Prospect House SP3 6AR. Demolish existing single story side extension and erect new single story side extension. EKPC had No Objections subject to external/lantern lighting being dark skies compliant. Proposed Cllr Tait seconded Cllr Middleton. Unanimously approved.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman briefed Councillors on the new Wiltshire Council Community Lottery and its mission.

Cllr Wayman advised that the EK Parish Steward as of mid May had been returned back to parish duties .

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy noted he was progressing improved road signage adjacent to the playground with Wiltshire Highways, in response to queries raised at the EKPC Annual meeting.

Cllr McCarthy was glad to hear that the Parish Steward was back on Parish duties and would liaise with him on the pending list though some limited patching had occurred.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) The Chair updated Councillors on his discussions with the Wren's Shop Chair regarding their proposed 20th anniversary community event on 4th July. The event would be led and managed by a Wren's Shop team of volunteers and supported by EKPC. EKPC would provide access to the Windmill common lands, also use of its marquee and fire beacon. EKPC would need to ensure the requisite special event insurance was in place, also that a specific risk assessment had been undertaken by mid-June. Cllr Staunton had been approached as to whether EKPC could entertain contributing 50% of any event shortfall but fiscally was not able to support this request.
- b) Chair formally announced that the new fire beacon had been delivered. Next steps were to construct a safe and secure concrete base on the Windmill common lands for its use in support of EK being a designated national beacon site.
- c) Cllr's Ambrose and Bateman appraised the PC on the status of their discussions regarding the possibility of EKPC hosting/co-hosting Starfest 2027. They would provide an update at the next PC meeting, though noted that the timings were the same as the planned March 2027 World Book day event
- d) Chair confirmed that the PC had received no further updates regarding the late Margaret Barton's estate. To be discussed at a future date.
- e) Parish Clerk briefed Parish Councillors on the contractual position of the defibrillator located in the phone box outside Wren's Shop as it was entering the 10th year of a support contract with hearbeat. The 2 paddles needed to be replaced every 2 years at a cost of £140 and the battery every 4 years at a

cost of £345. The defibrillator needed to be regularly tested, and data provided to a number of services. He had agreed that the management of the defibrillator would continue to reside with Martin Brown. Cllr Williams noted that having a defibrillator was a real asset for the local community and Cllr Bateman expressed a desire for further defibrillators to be placed in the parish. The Parish Clerk was tasked to liaise with the private owners of the relatively new defibrillator on Brickworks Lane to see if there were any synergies.

- f) Chair noted that EKPC had been approached to sponsor a Poetry reading by a Wiltshire poet at the Village Hall. Councillors asked that Cllr Bateman pass this opportunity onto the EKVH committee.
- g) Chair briefed the PC that, despite several conversations with contractors, the PC had only received one quote for grass-cutting at KHG, The Windmill and The Triangles – split between each site. The quote was comparable with the prior years and was therefore unanimously accepted by the PC. Given the specific nature of the grass-cutting at the Windmill and the Triangles Cllr Ambrose agreed to meet with the news contractor to ensure the actual works were correctly and fully specified.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait informed EKPC that a year end contingency was in place though lower than budgeted due to extra KHG costs incurred during the year.

The 2025/26 accounting records were with Ian Small who was now preparing the actual accounts as the PC's external accountant.

Cllr Tait noted that the first instalment of the 2026/27 Precept had been received.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Nothing to report.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose advised the PC that a working party of specialists and Clarow was being arranged to tackle the spread of Himalayan Balsam over a weekend in early June.

Cllr Ambrose noted she was arranging with Ed Knight to move the identified logs to create a barrier at the entrance to the right of way at The Windmill.

Cllr Williams raised the issue of 2 settling ponds adjacent to the A350 that were in need of repair and whether funding was available to resolve the regular flooding. Parish Clerk was tasked to identify any potential sources of funding.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait noted that the Wren's Shop 20th anniversary community event would be on the evening of July 4th.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton advised that the Laurel that was causing damage to the boundary wall had been cut down, also the Oak tree works were underway. In response to a resident's enquiry he confirmed that EKPC had received written confirmation that no pesticides had been used when treating the laurel stump.

PC discussed a request from Felltec subsequent to the Oak tree works that a small sign be placed recognising their work. PC agreed to this request for a limited time and to provide an online review.

Cllr Staunton advised that a team of volunteers had now constructed the new accessible picnic bench and that Cllr Williams had kindly transported the bench, which weighed 170 kgs, to the selected site in the playground.

Cllr Staunton appraised Parish Councillors of a looming issue with the haha along the KHG boundary. A 4 meter section had collapsed into the adjacent field which was owned by Clouds Estate. The Parish Clerk was tasked to identify who was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the haha. Cllr Tait noted that the likely costs of repairing the haha would need considerable funding over and above EKPC's current financial envelope.

Cllr Staunton noted that the KHG hedging had been damaged by "hedge-jumping" activities. EKPC discussed possible responses and will continue to monitor the situation.

Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council closed at 9.10 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton...Chair

Date: 3rd June 2026.....