

# Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 8th April 2026 at East Knoyle Village Hall

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Williams, Ambrose and Brunner

## Notices of Interest

None

## Public Open Forum

Attendees Andrew and Doreen Knight. Andrew Knight updated the Parish Council on his thinking regarding the Fox+Hounds pub. His intention is to seek the necessary licenses and for him and his son to operate the Fox+Hounds on a limited hours basis. He hoped this would happen within the next 3 months. Would serve drinks only at the start. Pub to remain on the market but Mr Knight viewed this as the best short-term option which would benefit the Community. Chair thanked Mr Knight for sharing his thinking directly with the Parish Council and offered any support if required.

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2026

Draft minutes were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr McCarty seconded Cllr Middleton – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

## Matters arising

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

## Planning Application

**PL/2026/01606** – Laundry Cottage SP3 6AA. G1x8. Overgrown hedgerow. Reduce to 2.5 m above ground level. Plant new hedge along western boundary. EKPC supported this application. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Bateman. Unanimously approved.

**PL/2026/01931** – Old Rectory SP3 6AQ. G1x7 willows. Fell 2 middle trees and re-pollard remaining to prior pollard points. T1 Cupressus sp. Remove 2x protruding limbs to match canopy. T2 box Elder – reduce entire crown by up to 2 meters in all directions, balance shape. T3 Elm. Fell dead tree. EKPC had no objection to these works subject to the condition that dead tree(s) removed where replaced by a native species. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved.

Parish Clerk appraised Councillors on a new online NALC tool that allowed a Parish Council and individual Councillors to contact their local MP and raise concerns. This represented a quick and easy route to raise local concerns, such as the A350 speed limit and planning law as related to Caravans. Would share the link.

## **To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)**

Cllr Wayman briefed Councillors on a new Pothole Taskforce that had been created to increase focus on and ensure optimum processes.

The Wiltshire Council Waste Survey closes on 17<sup>th</sup> April and requested as many submissions as possible, particularly as they relate to the new booking system and fees at the Shaftesbury Household recycling centre.

Changes to waste collections. Food waste collections will be commencing on a weekly basis. Blue bin recycling will continue to be bi-weekly but black bin collections will be moving to every 3 weeks.

## **Highways – Cllr McCarthy**

Cllr McCarthy noted that although the Parish Steward remained assigned to other duties and no forward schedule had been shared a number of potholes had been filled.

Cllr McCarthy agreed to liaise with Cllr Wayman on the broken drains in Touchorne Lane and Holloway to be included on Wiltshire Councils list of works on C roads.

## **Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton**

- a) Chair noted how successful the March 7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day event had been and thanked all those who had made it so. Cllr Bateman noted that this would become an annual Community event.
- b) Chair formally announced that the EKPC National Lottery bid for new KHG Playground equipment had been successful. He thanked the Parish Clerk for leading this initiative. Plan is for the 5 new pieces of equipment to be installed by end June ready for the school summer holidays. He noted that the Parish Council would need to maintain regular contact with the supplier, RedLynch Leisure in respect of the planning and timing of work.
- c) Chair shared a letter from Nick Wright, RBL Chair, who thanked EKPC for all its work and positive contributions to the East Knoyle Parish
- d) Chair shared a request to undergo another round of First Aid training, to be delivered by the St John's Ambulance team in September. Councillors unanimously approved a budget of £200 for this Community event.
- e) EKPC had been invited to be a host/co-host of the Cranborne Chase Starfest 2027 Event next March. Councillors felt this was an good opportunity for EKPC, submit an Expression of Interest and investigate all it would entail. Cllrs Bateman and Ambrose agreed to lead on this opportunity.
- f) Chair raised the topic of the late Margaret Barton's estate and noted the provisions included in her will. Chair was of the opinion that EKPC should obtain external legal advice on how best to administer this legacy. Councillors

agreed with this approach and consequently the Chair will seek the necessary advice

- g) EKPC had been aware of grant funding for the creation of a Community Orchard. This included land acquisition as well as trees. Parish Councillors felt this was worth considering and Cllr's McCarthy and Ambrose were nominated to look into this option.
- h) Whilst agreements are in place for grass cutting on the common land opposite the Fox+Hounds and the War memorial a new contractor is actively being sought for The Windmill, Milton Triangles and KHG Playground grass cutting. Contracts for 2026. Cllr Bateman agreed to reach out to her network, Chair to seek further information on a quote obtained by Cllr Ambrose and contact the prior contractor again.
- i) Chair noted that EKPC had received an invoice for £195 from a third party in respect of annual maintenance costs for the defibrillator located outside Wrens Shop. Councillors were unsure exactly what this cost included and therefore asked the Parish Clerk for further information. Cllr Bateman noted that involvement of a local GP needed to be better understood.
- j) Chair noted that the Wiltshire Council Gigabit Broadband voucher scheme had been announced which would feature Parish-led local engagement. Scheme is open now and ends in August. EKPC believe this scheme presents a valuable opportunity for our parish to help residents and local businesses access fast, reliable full fibre broadband. Cllr Brunner agreed to work on this opportunity.

## **Finance Committee Report**

Cllr Tait informed EKPC that the HSBC Bank Account manual signatory list needed to be updated and a set of manual forms completed and submitted. This would automatically remove existing signatories. Councillors unanimously agreed that the 3 new signatories would be Cllrs Tait and Brunner (Finance Committee) and the Chair. Parish Clerk was asked to complete the EKPC sections and then return to Cllr Tait.

It was agreed that the Finance Committee would work with the Parish Clerk to both reconcile the final 2025/26 Accounts with the original budget as a precursor to finalizing the draft 2026/27 budget. To be completed ready for next EKPC meeting.

Parish Council unanimously resolved to update its manual bank account signatories to include 2 current Councillors and the Parish Clerk

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

## **Village Hall – Cllr Bateman**

Cllr Bateman attended the Village Hall AGM. A key discussion topic was the Margaret Barton estate legacy.

Village Hall bookings are up, as are revenues. It is in a sound financial position.

Capital works on the horizon include roof repairs and an interior wall survey.

## **Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose**

Parish Clerk confirmed that tree trunks were available from Clouds Estate to be used as a barrier on the path to the Windmill. Chair confirmed there was no need to new signage.

## **Post Office and Village Shop**

Cllr Tait noted that the annual stocktake had taken place, every item in the shop had been counted and thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

Loyalty card programme continued to be a success, some £5,000 had been repaid into the Community to date. It was a key driver of the Q1 26 6% increase in shop revenues.

## **KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton**

Cllr Staunton advised that further works on the KHG boundary wall had been completed. During these works a local resident had highlighted the damage being caused by a Laurel tree which was compromising the integrity of the wall. A quote of £550 has subsequently been obtained to fell the Laurel tree, eco treat the stump and remove resultant chippings. Cllr Staunton proposed and Cllr Middleton approved the acceptance of this quote.

Parish Clerk noted that Planning permission had been obtained on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to undertake the necessary remedial works to the landmark oak tree at KHG. Works to be scheduled as soon as feasible.

Cllr Williams agreed to move the new accessible table in situ at KHG and assist with its assembly.

## **Correspondence Received**

Councillors discussed a request from a Chilmark resident to conduct specialist dog training on the Windmill common land. For a number of reasons including car parking, EKPC insurance, existing users and business use of common land Councillors were not in favour of approving this request. Parish Clerk was tasked to respond accordingly.

Councillors considered an early request to place a Memorial bench on common lands. Parish Clerk was tasked to seek further details and clarifications so an informed decision could be reached at a future EKPC meeting.

## **Urgent Items**

None

## **Any other Business.**

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 8.58 pm

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

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

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026.....