

West Knoyle Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Ms H Hunt

Minutes of a meeting of West Knoyle Parish Council held on Thursday, 6th November 2025 in West Knoyle Village Hall.

Present:

Chair - Cllr Paul Yates (PY)

Cllr Paul Vita (PV), Cllr Tony Davis (TD) and Cllr Louise Davis (LD).

Clerk: Harri Hunt (HH)

Wiltshire Councillor George Jeans (GJ)

Members of Public - Wendy Croft, Jinny Brockway, Matthew Dawson.

The Chairman Cllr Paul Yates opened the meeting at 7.38pm

269. Public Session.

a) Village Hall Insurance.

Wendy Croft of West Knoyle Social Club (Village Hall Management Committee) asked if her request for the Parish Council to share Village Hall insurance costs had been received (posted to former clerk on 29/8/25). HH said that this had not been received. The Council confirmed their intention to share the costs, as in previous years. Wendy Croft to advise HH of the schedule of cover and costs for the PC to action a payment to VHMC.

b) Highways concerns.

Jinny Brockway (JB) reported a dangerously damaged bridge on Sawpit Lane. TD confirmed that this and other highways dangers (eg. manhole near The Old Cow Shed, refuse and bins left in The Street after collections) had been reported via the Parish Steward but no action had been taken by Wiltshire Council (WC). Cllr PY asked GJ if a more direct appeal to WC could be taken and GJ said he would forward photos of highways concerns to the relevant department in WC. TD and JB to send photos to GJ.

JB also reported a broken finger sign but GJ said the PC would be responsible for village signage repair. Cllrs PY and TD agreed to look into the repair. GJ advised PC to notify WC highways (David Button) dept of the repair. HH to action this notification as the repair takes place.

JB also reported multiple cars leaving the road on the "Z" bends between Park Corner Farm and the old bakery. JB said that the chevron road signs which were there many years previously ought to be reinstated. GJ said he would again approach WC but advised that it may not be deemed necessary and even if so, PC contribution may be required.

270. To receive apologies for absence.

Received from Cllr Alex Davies who has stepped down.

271. Declaration of Interest.

None received.

272. Minutes.

To approve Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th Sept 2025. Approval proposed and seconded by Cllrs TD and PY.

273. Matters Arising from previous meetings.

Cllrs PY and PV both confirmed that they are signatories to PC online banking accounts and the action to grant HH access is with Lloyds.

274. Wiltshire Councillor's Report.

a) Lloyds Bank in Gillingham is closing, GJ does travel to Salisbury so if any cheques need to be taken he has offered.

- b) GJ hopes that West Knoyle will again hold the renowned Christmas Lights Competition, perhaps to be advertised locally to encourage participation.
- c) Parking consultation in Trowbridge is due to be held and GJ encourages anyone who travels to Trowbridge and uses the town car parks to attend as there is talk of a car park closing. This could affect residents of rural areas even more than Trowbridge residents as rural areas are not well served by public transport and therefore need car parks.
- d) The Wiltshire Connect request bus service is operational and can be called on to take customers to nearby towns. connectingwiltshire.co.uk
- e) GJ is very pleased to report that Blue Badge Parking is now free of charge in Wiltshire.
- f) GJ also reminded Cllrs of policy/procedural matters such as the ability to obtain dispensations for declarations of interest, and complaint handling.

275. Planning.

- a) Applications to consider at the meeting - None.
- b) Applications considered / determined since the last meeting -
PL/2025/06803 - Full planning permission
Bush Farm, West Knoyle, Warminster, BA12 6AE.
WKPC Position - no objection, reported 31/10/25
WC Decision Date 28/11/25

276. Footpaths, Highways, Traffic & Transport.

- a) Wessex Water Main Replacement, Barrow Street, December 2025 - March 2026.
GJ reminded attendees that access to homes and businesses contained within the closure is not to be unreasonably withheld.
- b) Discussion of village signage as earlier in the meeting (see 269. b) above).

277. Play Area.

- a) Cllrs LD and PY confirmed that repairs to broken items are to take place soon.
- b) Cllr LD confirmed receipt of quotes for another item/s for the play area (CIL expenditure). Swings, a small roundabout ('flying saucer') and football goal/s were ideas suggested by children using the play area. The roundabout is expensive and after discussion invited by PY, attendees agreed that swings and one smaller goal were preferred ideas. The possibility of a mobile goal to prevent grass wearing away was suggested. LD to look into further/confirmed prices for swings and a goal.

278. Finance

- a) Clerk presented Cllrs with financial report for period 1 May 2025 to 31 August 2025.
- b) Budget considered for 26/27. After discussion about upcoming expenditure and increasing costs (and with input from GJ about the buffer required for general maintenance and unexpected costs), it was agreed to set the Precept with an increase of 5%.
- c) & d) Payments approved and HH to send invoices to Cllrs PY and PV for payment. Other imminent invoices eg grass cutting also to be sent in this way. PC also agreed a donation to Mere Matters as in previous years. Amount to be checked by HH.
- e) Defibrillator battery / training. It was agreed to check the date of expiry and then confirm the cost for the battery. After discussion about training (during which GJ mentioned it may be possible to organise through eg. the Red Cross) it was agreed that Cllr PY would discuss this (and a possible joint action) with Corinne Leonard on the VHMC.

279. Any Other Business

Cllr TD mentioned the usage and state of cleanliness of the former phone box on The Street. Cllr PY confirmed that the PC was responsible for it. Cllr LD and JB confirmed that the book exchange was used. Cllr TD agreed to remove damp/damaged books and Cllr LD to clean the phonebox.

280. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 3rd February 2026.

The Chairman Cllr Paul Yates closed the meeting at 9.08pm.