

West Knoyle Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Ms H Hunt

Minutes of a meeting of West Knoyle Parish Council held on Tuesday, 21st April 2026 in West Knoyle Village Hall.

Present

Chair: Cllr Paul Yates (PY)
Councillors: Cllr Paul Vita (PV), Cllr Tony Davis (TD), Cllr Louise Davis (LD),
Cllr Matthew Dawson (MD)
Wiltshire Councillor: George Jeans (GJ)
Clerk: Harri Hunt (HH)
Apologies: None
Members of Public: None

293. Public Session.

The Chairman Cllr Paul Yates opened the meeting at 7.37pm.

294. To receive apologies for absence.

None.

295. Declaration of Interest.

None.

296. Minutes.

Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th February 2026 proposed and seconded by Cllrs PY and PV.

297. Matters Arising from previous meetings.

- a) Following the vote to elect Matthew Dawson to the role of Parish Councillor, a Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by MD.
- b) A recap of the issues surrounding the potential closure of Mere Fire Station was given by HH and GJ, with key dates being the 23rd April 2026 for an online consultation meeting, and 15th May 2026 as the end of the consultation period. GJ reported on the significant campaign to keep Mere open, and that MP's had met with the Fire Minister, and would provide more detail in his report (below).
- c) Defibrillator Training. HH reported that the First Aid and Defibrillator Training was attended by around 20 parishioners, and very informative. WKPC unanimously agreed to donate £75 to the St John's Ambulance who provided the training.

298. Wiltshire Councillor's Report.

Mere Fire Station. Cllr GJ gave details of the campaign so far, ensuring as many consultation surveys are completed as possible, and with response times to both fires and Road Traffic Accidents in particular on the A303 being a concern to local residents and those further afield. The campaign had also included residents of nearby towns who would also be affected even though their own fire stations were not at risk of closure. HH stated that all relevant information and links to the meeting and survey were on the new westknoyle-pc.gov.uk website (Latest News page), with paper copies of the survey to be made available in WK Village Hall on Friday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes. GJ also provided flyers for distribution door-to-door to ensure all residents are made aware of the potential closure. (Cllrs PV and MD to distribute).

299. Planning.

Clerk reported that no Wiltshire Council decision had been made yet on either of the applications under consultation.

300. Footpaths, Highways, Traffic & Transport.

- a) HH queried whether the proposed Wiltshire Council gully clearing (w/c 23rd March) had taken place, and Cllrs all agreed that they thought not. Cllr TD reported that he had not spoken to the Parish Steward for 2 months (allocated to potholes). Areas of concern were discussed again and HH said she would provide WhatThreeWords locations of these to GJ.
- b) Village signage - Cllr PY reported that he had repaired and reinstated another finger sign at the west end of West Knoyle.

301. Play Area.

- a) Replacement equipment. A recap was provided by HH of equipment considered in November 2025, but noting that prices were likely to have changed. Cllr LD reported that a new Baby Swing might be needed as some signs of wear are showing. Cllrs agreed that goalpost/s, swing/s, and picnic bench/es were on their shortlist of items to consider. It was also agreed that HH send an Expression of Interest in response to Cranborne Chase National Landscape's opportunity to create fully-funded Community Orchards.
- b) Cllr LD provided an update (and photos by email) of the cleaning that had taken place with the loaned pressure washer. Cllrs all agreed that it was a huge improvement and the PC would send formal letters of thanks to Martin Haskett and George Davis. A report on the newly clean playground had been added to westknoyle-pc.gov.uk (Latest News) and would also be sent to Mere Matters for possible inclusion as an item of local news.
- c) Cllr PY confirmed Chris Curtis had trimmed hedges around the play area but that inside the area was not possible to trim with a tractor so suggested he and others could trim these by hand in the autumn. Cllrs agreed.

302. Finance

- a) Recent payments and the current financial statement (which reconciles with bank account balances) were presented by the Clerk.
- b) New website ongoing costs noted.
- c) WALC membership was discussed and the training and legal protection they provide was noted. Cllr MD to investigate the level of legal cover included in membership and whether it still represents good value, and report back in May meeting.
- d) and e) Noted.
- f) HH and Cllr PY to arrange review of Annual Accounts and Audit.

303. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr TD reported a speeding motorcyclist seen multiple times.

304. Date of next meeting (APM and APCM) - Tuesday 12th May 2026.

The Chairman Cllr Paul Yates closed the meeting at 8.49pm.