

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Present: Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Ian Tait, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Ann White, Councillor Hugo Middleton, Councillor Eric Brunner, Councillor Deb Bateman, EK Parish Clerk, Councillor Wayman Wiltshire Council

Apologies: Councillor Rob McCarthy

Public Open Forum

Mr G Morant was in attendance. As a local farmer he appraised the PC on the extent of rural crime in the area, in particular poaching using catapults. He had recently reported 15 separate instances to the Police such that his pheasant stock had been entirely depleted resulting in a material financial loss. He requested that the PC be supportive of a Public Space Protection Order given the poaching was across bridleways. Cllr Bateman acknowledged the seriousness and extent of such poaching. Cllr Wayman volunteered to investigate options that EKPC could pursue in respect of this matter and report back at the next meeting. Chair thanked Mr Morant for bringing this matter to the PC's attention and all Councillors unanimously agreed to offer support as feasible.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2025

Draft minutes, subject to 2 amendments, were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Tait seconded Cllr Ambrose – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

None outstanding - all other matters covered in agenda items.

Planning Applications

PL/2025/0790. Proposed erection of a detached oak-framed garage building to replace an existing garage on site. No objection – subject to condition that external lighting be dark skies compliant Proposed Cllr Middleton seconded Cllr Tait. Unanimously approved

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman noted that she was continuing to lobby Dorset Council in respect of the new Shaftesbury household site's recycling charges for local Wiltshire residents. The implementation date had further slipped to the new year..

Cllr Wayman briefed the PC on her continuing actions regarding the A350 speed limit. Pursuant to a joint meeting between East Knoyle, Sedgehill and Semley PC's a jointly agreed letter of appeal had been submitted to Wiltshire Council. Further she had arranged for the Cabinet Minister for Traffic to drive the relevant part of the A350 to see firsthand the issue and concerns raised by both the impacted PC's and residents.

Highways – Parish Clerk

In Cllr McCarthy's absence the Parish Clerk shared a verbal report.

A list of the 5 gulleys in the Parish to be cleared by Wiltshire Council in November had been submitted.

The various salt bins around the village had been checked ready for winter.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) Cllr Staunton asked Cllr Brunner to update the Parish Council on the Fire Beacon initiative. A quote for £900 had been obtained from a local blacksmith for a compliant beacon. To this cost would need to be added a permanent concrete base. Wren's shop had generously agreed to offer £1000 for this project. Cllr Brunner proposed, seconded by Cllr Tait this project be approved in principle, subject to consultation via the East Knoyle News Letter. Unanimously approved.
- b) The Chair noted that a quote from PlayDale for £983 had been obtained to repair some of its supplied items in KHG playground. These works were necessary to ensure safe use of this equipment. Cllr Tait proposed and Cllr Staunton seconded that this cost be charged to the KHG restricted fund as directly related to equipment. Unanimously approved.
- c) Councillors discussed in some detail the opportunity to bid for a National Lottery grant to add items to KHG Playground. Both younger and older age groups needed to be considered. It was agreed as a next step that available Councillors would walk round the Playground to assess available space and then review equipment options.
- d) Councillor Staunton noted that the works at the Dips had been completed and thanked all involved in helping to resolve this community concern.
- e) Cllr Staunton noted Cllr White's resignation and expressed his thanks for her contribution to the PC over the last 4 years. Given her resignation the Chair noted that there were now 3 vacancies for Parish Councillors. Cllr Ambrose said she was in active discussion with an interested party. Parish Clerk was asked to include in the upcoming East Knoyle News Letter.
- f) Cllr Brunner noted that the football pitch grass needed a further cut. Contractor to be contacted.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait presented the 2025/26 Actual versus Budget analysis which showed that expenditure was tracking as predicted.

Cllr Tait noted that work would be starting on calculating the 2026/27 Precept which would need to be submitted by 20th January 2026

Cllr Ambrose requested that funding be included in the 2026/27 budget for PC funded community events. Important that the PC be seen to be supporting community activities.

Given Cllr White's resignation Cllr Tait requested that another Councillor be appointed to the Finance Committee. Cllr Brunner offered himself. His appointment was proposed by Cllr Tait and seconded by Cllr Staunton.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Cllr Bateman attended the recent Village Hall meeting her first one. Planning was underway in respect of required roof repairs and an EV charging point was being explored..

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose noted that the majority of agreed tree works at the Windmill had completed. 2 further small pieces of work for which quotes of £200 and £300 had been obtained was proposed to complete the Windmill view. These costs would be charged to the Windmill restricted fund. Proposed Cllr Ambrose, seconded Cllr Staunton. Unanimously approved.

A resident had requested to remove small dead branches from Haddon Wood. For habitat reasons Cllr's Ambrose and Bateman were not in favour of this request. However Cllr Ambrose identified some alternatives which would meet the residents request and would liaise directly.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait briefed the PC that the Christmas launch would be at 4.30pm on Saturday 29th November and would feature the East Knoyle village choir. All very welcome.

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KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton updated Councillors that a tree survey for the KHG Oak had been commissioned for 2nd December so that the PC could make an informed decision on next steps.

Infinity Playgrounds had been contacted and would visit KHG playground to provide advice and a quote for the minor repairs/maintenance identified in the Rospa annual report.

Cllr Staunton reported on the very positive collaboration with Seeds4Success which resulted in new bark and clearance works being completed as a community youth

project. Cllr Staunton proposed, seconded by Cllr Tait that the PC donate £100 to Seeds4Success in recognition of their excellent support. Unanimously approved.

Cllr Staunton noted that an attempted break-in at the KHG shed had resulted in a damaged lock such that the door could not be opened. Repairs would be required.

Parish Clerk briefed Councillors on a grant opportunity with Cranborne Chase to provide accessible furniture and was asked to explore further.

Correspondence Received

None.

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 9.15 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

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

Date: 3rd December 2025.....