

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Present: Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Ian Tait, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Hugo Middleton, Councillor Deb Bateman, EK Parish Clerk,

Apologies: Councillor Eric Brunner, Councillor Rob McCarthy, Councillor Bridget Wayman (WC)

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

Mr Leigh Williams

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2026

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

Matters arising

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

Planning Application – taken as AOB due to late arrival

PL/2026/00521 - Notification of proposed works to trees in conservation area. Due to this planning application being received after the meeting agenda was published and the short response timeframe the Chair allowed this planning application to be discussed.

Cllr Middleton briefed the Parish Council on the proposed tree reduction work. Given the age of the yew tree the PC requested that its tree expert be consulted so it would be best able to respond. Parish Clerk was tasked to submit the PC's response once advice received.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman had submitted a written report in advance of the meeting which had been shared with Councillors. Its contents were noted.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy noted by email that there was nothing new to report – the Parish Steward remained reallocated to other duties.

Whilst the Salt bins remained at least half full Cllr McCarthy asked to obtaining further supplies for EKPC.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) Grants of Access. Chair informed Councillors that he had spoken with Mr Andrew Knight regarding the Fox+Hounds grant of access. Mr Knight confirmed he would like to renew the existing Grant of Access on the same terms and conditions. The Chair therefore proposed, seconded by Cllr Tait that the current 4 Grants of Access all be renewed on the same terms and conditions for a further 12 months. The Parish Council unanimously approved this proposal and tasked the Parish Clerk to formally communicate these renewals to the concerned parties.
- b) Cllrs Ambrose and Bateman updated the Parish Council on plans for the planned World book day event on Saturday 7th March 10.30am to 12pm, at the Village Hall. Parish Clerk confirmed the main Village Hall had been booked. This EKPC event would be offered as a free community activity and be targeted at children aged 3 to 7. Would feature a number of book readings, a book swap and free refreshments, these being offered on a sale or return basis by Wrens Shop. The event was being communicated through a variety of channels, and it was hoped some 30 children would participate in this celebration of World book day.
- c) Co-opting of a proposed Parish Councillor. The Chair invited Mr Leigh Williams to express his interest in becoming an EK Parish Councillor and offer ideas and areas of interest that could add-value to the role. Cllr Bateman indicated her support for this proposed Co-opting as did Cllr Ambrose, both of whom provided examples of areas the Parish Council would benefit from his experience and network. The Chair asked a number of questions aimed at ensuring both parties had a common understanding of the role and its requirements. Given Mr Williams continued interest in becoming an EK Parish Councillor, Cllr Tait proposed, seconded by Cllr Staunton that Mr Williams be co-opted onto the East Knoyle Parish Council effective immediately. This proposal was then voted on and unanimously approved. The Parish Clerk was tasked to set Mr Williams up as an EK Parish Councillor.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait noted the 2025/26 actual expenditure was tracking ahead of budget due to additional tree works and equipment repairs at KHG playground. 2026/27 Budget would be adjusted to better reflect primary cost areas. He noted that grass-cutting across the Parish was now the primary cost for EKPC.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Cllr Bateman briefed the Parish Council on the latest EK Village Hall meeting. Bookings for the year were positive reflecting good demand. Village Hall were actively seeking grant funding for the required main roof repairs, also looking into the provision of Electric Car charging ports. Committee was also considering a pub evening.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose noted that an upcoming Clarow task would be to rake-off cut grass as required on common lands.

Monarchs Way.

The FP leading East of the 350 has become overgrown in a particular area. Cllr Williams provided the name of the contractor who he understood to manage the hedgerows on behalf of the Landowner. Cllr Ambrose will follow this up although she recognised that the hedge cutting season will end at the end of February s time was limited

Cllr Ambrose asked and Cllr Staunton agreed to the storing of surplus plastic tree tubes in the KHG shed.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait noted that the annual stock take would take place on the weekend of 21st-22nd March, all volunteers welcome.

Wrens Shop would be celebrating its 20th Anniversary on Saturday 4th July via an event at the Village Hall. Parish Clerk confirmed that the EKPC marquee had been booked.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton advised that a Locksmith had been called out to attend to the vandalized lock on the KHG shed. Lock had been repaired allowing access again to the shed. Work to be invoiced.

Cllr Staunton advised that vegetation had been cleared from the KHG boundary wall facing the road. Further works were now required to similarly clear and treat the side wall and interior boundary wall. Quotes would be obtained for these works to include removal of cleared items. Cllr Williams indicated that full strength Round-up or equivalent should be used to treat roots embedded in the wall.

2 quotes for the same value had been received for the Oak tree mitigation works. Cllr Tait requested that the payment for these works be deferred until the new fiscal year for budgetary reasons, Parish Clerk was asked to discuss and agree work timetable to accommodate this request,

Cllr Staunton advised that Infinity Playgrounds had undertaken the agreed equipment repairs and that their works to the tunnel where a material improvement. They had agreed to return to the playground to drill the necessary holes to erect the new signs.

Cllr Staunton advised that the new Accessible Picnic bench had been delivered on a pallet to his home in kit format. Cllr Williams said he would use a tractor to move the pallet into position in the playground once ground was less sodden. A team would need to then construct the new accessible picnic bench and relocate the existing table..

Correspondence Received

None.

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 8.30 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton...Chair

Date: 4th March 2026.....