

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st July 2026 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Present: Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Rob McCarthy, Councillor Hugo Middleton, Councillor Deb Bateman, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Leigh Williams, EK Parish Clerk,

Apologies: Cllr Ian Tait, Cllr Eric Brunner, Wiltshire Councillor Bridget Wayman

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

No members of the public in attendance.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Draft minutes of the 3rd June 2026 EKPC meeting were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr McCarthy – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

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

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

No report.

Planning Application

PL/2026/03599 – The Old Rectory SP3 6AQ. G1 x 4 White Willows. Fell to ground level. Supported. Proposed Cllr Bateman seconded Cllr Middleton. Unanimously approved

The Chair then allowed the following Planning Application to be considered under AOB as received after the agenda was published and the impact of the summer recess on Parish Councillors to consider within the consultation timeframe.

PL/2026/04064 – The Old Rectory SP3 6AQ. Tulip tree – fell. Supported. Proposed Cllr Middleton seconded Cllr Ambrose. Unanimously approved

Note – Full details on all Planning Applications and any comments subsequently submitted by East Knoyle Parish Council are available on the Wiltshire Council website – under Planning and Building Applications.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy noted that some adhoc patching and fixing-in had occurred since the last EKPC meeting.

The Parish Stewards attendance remained irregular due to ongoing re-assignments. This was making it difficult to complete planned works.

Parish Council noted that the Windmill cross-roads needed urgent strimming and would arrange for this at its cost.

Cllr McCarthy noted that there was a material water leak at the end of Wise Lane. Cllr Williams noted that there was an ongoing material water leak causing damage in a local field which had been reported to Wessex Water but to no avail.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) Chair provided an update on the Wren's Shop 20th anniversary celebration at the Windmill common lands, in summary on was on track. An event Risk Assessment had been completed and submitted to the PC's insurers. The Police had been notified. The new concrete base had been installed, and the fire beacon had been erected in the right place. Chair thanked Kevin Stow and James Hyde for their invaluable assistance in installing the fire beacon. He noted that some metal shards were being made to ensure the fire beacon was upright. Cllr Ambrose noted that a large tree at the Windmill needed to be cordoned off due to a safety risk from old and large overhanging branches. Cllr Williams volunteered to move the metal barriers into position for the planned road closure. The wood for the fire beacon would be old pallets.
- b) Chair noted that EKPC now had a free subscription to the ONS database and that access details had been shared with Councillors. Cllr Middleton said he had used the portal to obtain information on church yard graves in the Parish but cautioned that the system was not intuitive to use.
- c) Chair noted that as both Cllr's Tait and Brunner the discussion on the new EDC legislation and implications for ACV's would be held over until the next EKPC meeting.

Finance Committee Report

In the absence of the Finance Committee the Parish Clerk appraised Councillors on the Q1 costs and related matters. Financials were tracking as per Budget. New arrangements for grass-cutting were yielding savings versus prior year. WALC subscription had not been renewed as not deemed value for money.

Parish Clerk introduced the 2025/26 Accounts that had been prepared by Ian Small, EKPC's external accountant. The Chair noted that whilst overall financial performance was within budget extra costs had been necessarily incurred implementing the Rospa recommendations and extra tree safety works He proposed and Cllr McCarthy seconded adoption of thee accountants as presented. Unanimously approved.

Parish Clerk noted that EKPC was subject to an AGAR independent audit of its 2025/26 Accounts. This required the completion of Governance, Internal Audit as well as Financial data under the scrutiny and approval of its external accountant. The

Chair presented the AGAR submission to Councillors. The AGAR submission was then put before the Parish Council. For acceptance. Proposed Cllr Middleton seconded Cllr McCarthy and was unanimously agreed. The Chair and Parish Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer then signed the requisite forms. The AGAR notice was published as of 1st July for a 30-day period ending 11th August 2026.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Nothing to report.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose confirmed that, with the support of the Natural History Society and Young Nature Watchers two successful pulls of Himalayan Balsam had taken place. A further pull was planned for the 3rd weekend in July.

Next focus for Clarow was to tackle the gorse on Windmill Green which was becoming overgrown.

Cllr Ambrose noted that footpaths across the Parish were reasonably clear and she thanked the volunteers who continued to assist in this regard

She noted the incidence of graffiti on several trees and asked that any further incidents be brought to her attention.

Felltec had been briefed to cut the Windmill grass and would do a cut in readiness for the 4th July celebration. Plan was to leave as far as possible swathes on natural grasses and wildflowers to help protect the landscape and habitat.

Cllr Ambrose noted the potential fire risk associated with lighting the fire beacon particularly given the dry conditions. Chair responded that fire extinguishers would be on site and that a 3-metre cordon would be erected around the fire beacon and volunteer fire marshals had been identified.

Post Office and Village Shop

No report

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton advised that the installation of the 5 new pieces of playground equipment had been completed and that the playground had now re-opened after its temporary closure. Chair thanked the National Lottery for their funding that made this upgrade of facilities possible. He noted that during onsite discussions with the contractor, RedLynch, a £250 saving had been realized by avoiding the hire of a skip.

The need for a fence behind the new basketball court had been mooted. Chair, based on discussions with users, felt this was not necessary.

He noted that a request had been submitted to Cranborne Chase National Landscape for funding in respect of the proposed TigerMulch pathway. No response thus far.

A quote had been obtained for £450 to remove some overhanging branches and trim the boundary hedge back to its prior size – this was accepted and the Parish Clerk was asked to instruct these works.

Chair briefed Councillors on a generous offer from a local resident to purchase and make available to all children in the Parish aged 16 and under a free table tennis bat and balls. The Parish Council welcomed this offer and tasked the Parish Clerk to liaise with the benefactor on the logistics of the offer. Keeping it as simple as possible. Cllr Ambrose volunteered to assist in this process.

Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

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

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd September 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton.....Chair

Date: 2nd September 2026.....