

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

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

Present: Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Ian Tait, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Hugo Middleton, Councillor Deb Bateman, Councillor Leigh Williams, Councillor Eric Brunner, Councillor Rob McCarthy, Wiltshire Councillor Bridget Wayman, EK Parish Clerk,

Apologies: None

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

Cllr Ambrose read a letter from Mr James Doherty regarding the new KHG signage which he felt was confusing to children. Councillors, on reflection, acknowledged the wording could have been more welcoming. Cllr Ambrose agreed to provide a response.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2026

Draft minutes were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Tait seconded Cllr Brunner – 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/2026/01283 – KHG Playground Oak Tree. Remove the crown periphery by no more than 1 to 1.5 meters whilst retaining all live growth at pruning points. As this was an EKPC application it was not able to comment on it.

Councillors again raised the issue of planning rules in respect of Caravan's, also that EKPC were not being informed by Wiltshire Council in respect of permitted developments in their Parish. The only available option identified for Councillors to register their discontent with the current Caravan planning rules was to write to their MP requesting a change to the rules. Parish Clerk was tasked to do this.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman briefed Councillors that Wiltshire Council had approved a 5% increase in their budgets for 2026/27 which would be fully reflected in Council tax increases..

Lobbying was continuing in respect local Wiltshire residents having free access to the Shaftesbury Household recycling centre. A Waste consultation had been launched into Recycling centres and it was planned that Food collections every 2 weeks would be introduced this fiscal year.

Cllr Williams raised the issue of the quality of the recent road repairs in Friars Hayes Lane which was already breaking. Cllr Wayman agreed to view the damage.

Cllr Wayman said that Wiltshire Council would be borrowing an extra £5 million for Roads but this would inevitably be prioritised on high speed roads and flooding risks.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy noted that the Parish Steward remained assigned to other duties and no forward schedule had been shared.

Touchorne Lane drainage and flooding was raised by a new local resident. Cllr McCarthy noted that this problem had existed for circa 10 years and that Wiltshire Council did not have the funding to repair the broken drain as it was not considered a priority.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) 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. All planning was in hand. Councillors were invited to attend what hopefully would be the first edition of an annual Parish Council Community event.
- b) Chair briefed Councillors on a request by a resident to conduct another round of First Aid Training to be provided by the St Johns Ambulance team in September. Councillors agree to sponsor this worthy activity, another event for the benefit of East Knoyle.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait noted that the EKPC financial position, whilst worse than budget due to additional but necessary KHG equipment repairs and maintenance .and tree works at The Windmill aimed at improving the view, was sustainable.

The 2026/27 Budget would be finalized once the 2025/26 accounts had been prepared. He noted that EKPC's external accountant had agreed to continue this role in a voluntary capacity.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Nothing to report

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose said she was looking at a potential consultation to manage the recent planting of 500 whips. Cllr Williams indicated he would assist with this task thereby avoiding a third party fee.

Cllr Ambrose noted that a resident had kindly installed 2 shelves in the Milto Phone box thereby solving the book storage issue.

Councillors discussed the replacement of the prior posts and chains on the access path to The Windmill. Rather than go this route Cllr Williams recommended that cut tree trunks be used as the most effective barrier. Parish Clerk was tasked to approach Clouds Estate with a view to obtaining the required tree trunks.

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.

A milestone note for diaries -Wrens Shop would be celebrating its 20th Anniversary on Saturday 4th July

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton advised that the new signs designating the various play areas had been erected.

A quote had been requested for further clearance works on the KHG boundary wall to help protect its structural integrity.

The Planning application for the KHG Oak tree works had been submitted and work would commence immediately upon receipt of a favourable decision.

Cllr Staunton agreed to liaise with Cllr Ambrose to store the spare whip plastic stakes in the KHG shed. now that the lock had been repaired.

Correspondence Received

None.

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 8.38 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton...Chair

Date: 8th April 2026.....