

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Present: Councillor Sue Entwistle, Councillor Garry Staunton, Councillor Ian Tait, Councillor Ann Ambrose, Councillor Ann White, Councillor Rob McCarthy, Councillor Hugo Middleton, Councillor Bateman, EK Parish Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Wayman Wiltshire Council

Public Open Forum

No member of the public attended.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Proposed Cllr Tait, Seconded Cllr White – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

None outstanding - all others matters covered in agenda items

Planning Applications

No new Planning Applications were received for review. Councillors raised a concern in respect of tree felling relating to a prior Planning Application, PL/2025/02196. Councillors agreed to appraise Cllr Wayman of these concerns.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman sent her apologies and did not submit a report for consideration at the meeting. Councillors congratulated Cllr Wayman on her re-election in Nadder Valley and looked forward to continuing to work collaboratively with her.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy reported that Wiltshire Council had a list of logged items and repairs but no real progress of late. Parish Steward continues to attend East Knoyle on a monthly basis to undertake ad hoc remedial actions.

Chairs Report – Cllr Entwistle

- a) Expressed her thanks and gratitude to service Neil Southerden had afforded East Knoyle Parish Council over the last 20 years. She read out and email she had sent to him expressing her appreciation for his unstinting support which all Councillors endorsed. Email was shared with Cllr Bateman for inclusion in the next edition of the East Knoyle Newsletter.

- b) Chair formally acknowledge the work and humour of Martin Brown who has now left his role as Parish Clerk.
- c) Chair noted that it had been brought to her attention that the Parish Council should obtain absolute clarity on its Vat position. Cllr Tait said he would contact external accountants for a definitive position.
- d) The May 7th election had resulted in East Knoyle Parish Council having 8 Councillors and 3 vacancies. A recruitment drive was needed to fill these vacancies. The Parish Clerk was tasked to develop communications to post in the Councils Notice Boards and the East Knoyle News Letter.
- e) Chair was really appreciative of the work of all Councillors in making the Annual Parish meeting such a success. Feedback from members of the public who had attended was very positive and appreciative of the Parish Councils efforts.

Finance

Cllr Tait briefed the Councillors on the new budget report that was being prepared to allow greater monitoring and control of the Parish Council's funds, would be ready for the next meeting. Noted that the first tranche of the precept had been paid.

The Finance Committee were aware that Ian Small the current accountant would be stepping down after completing the 2024/25 accounts and assisting with the Agar report. Chair requested that the Parish Clerk formally thank Mr Small for his support.

Parish Clerk presented payments due for approval – Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Entwistle

Village Hall – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose noted that she had shared with the Village Hall committee an email from Wiltshire Council regarding safe spaces. As she was unable to attend the Village Hall's AGM on 21st May the Chair said she would attend. Cllr Ambrose noted that the Village Hall Committee were considering a wooden Honours Board.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose noted that a review of the soil at The Triangles in Milton had been helpful in terms of any future plantings. Despite the dry weather the recently planted whips, except for the Hawthorn whips, were growing.

She was continuing to look for suitable grants to fund additional plantings and improvements. The key question for the Parish Council was "What do we Want". Councillors agreed that further consultations were required to ensure that any grant funding sought met the needs of the Community.

A discussion followed on regarding the use of the Windmill lands for a Beacon. It was agreed that quotes for a metal fire basket should be obtained, this being seen as the least intrusive approach.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait updated the Parish Council on the recent robbery at Wrens shop and the immediate actions that had been taken in terms of security.

Chair fully briefed the Parish Council on the status of the renewal of the Wrens Shop lease. After discussions with the Wrens Shop Chair and with the support of external legal advice a new 20 year lease had been drafted, Rent would remain at £2,000 per annum payable quarterly to East Knoyle Parish Council. 5 year lease reviews were included in the lease. Only changes made to minor to correct land boundaries pursuant to the shops expansion. At this point the Chair was able to consult with her fellow Councillors on the final draft and sought their approval to sign on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Staunton proposed and Cllr McCarthy seconded that the Chair sign the new lease. Unanimously approved.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton noted that the remedial works to the boundary fence and vegetation clearance had been completed, This had created a new area for use within the grounds.

Cllr Staunton noted that the Parish Councils shed on Knoyle House Grounds was full of old equipment belonging to Wrens Shop. Cllr Tit said he would arrange for its safe disposal.

Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council finished at 8.35 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Sue Entwistle ...Chair

Date: ...4th June 2025.....