

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at East Knoyle Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr McCarthy

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

No members of the public in attendance.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 7th May 2026

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

Draft minutes of the EKPC meeting were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Tait, seconded Cllr Williams – unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

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

Planning Application

PL/2026/02805 – Section 37 Notification. EKPC had no objection to this application to replace an existing electricity pole.

To receive a report from Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Wayman briefed Councillors that Wiltshire Council had withdrawn its Local Plan due to it not meeting Government new housing targets, A new Local Plan would be prepared over the next 36 months. She noted that the absence of a Local Plan could open the door for more speculative developments.

Cllr Wayman advised that the Planning Approval process was being amended with a sharper focus on key priorities. Under this new process a Wiltshire Councillor would no longer be able to call-in local planning applications. Parish Councils however would still be able to respond to planning applications.

Cllrs Brunner and Williams raised concerns on a perceived attempt to speed-up new builds and the absence of links to ensure the necessary associated infrastructure was provided, particularly water and electricity

Digital Wiltshire was looking into “Mobile Not-spots” and Cllr Wayman advised how such areas should be reported. Cllr Bateman said this would be included in the next EK News Letter.

Highways – Cllr McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy had submitted a note for the meeting which indicated nothing new to report.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) Chair provided an update on his discussions with Andrew Knight regarding the Fox and Hounds. A temporary, renewable, weekly license had been obtained, and it was planned that the pub would open Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime/evening and Sunday lunchtime. This weekly rolling-license would continue until a full licence was issued, potentially in 3 months. It would be run by the Knight family and would not offer food per se. Future plans would be dependent on trade. EKPC supported this re-opening of this community asset. Cllr Brunner shared with Councillors a briefing note he had prepared on the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 and what impact it might have on the Fox and Hounds as a designated Asset of Community Value. After some discussion Cllr Tait agreed to read the Act and confirm the position at the next PC meeting.
- b) The Chair updated Councillors on his latest discussions with the Wren’s Shop Chair regarding their proposed 20th anniversary community event on 4th July. Special event insurance cover had been obtained from EKPC’s insurers. An event risk assessment was being completed and would be reviewed and agreed by 15th June. EKPC would promote this community celebration on its website and notice boards.
- c) He had agreed with Burfitt and Garrett that they would install the new fire beacon’s base plate at the designate Windmill common lands site free of charge, to be ready for the 4th July event. Cllr Williams had agreed to store and provide logistical support for the fire beacon. It was noted that once lit the fire beacon would not be replenished with further wood for safety reasons.
- d) In response to a request from Cllr Middleton the Parish Clerk advised that EKPC now had access to the ONS data base. This access was free to EKPC as a Parish Council. Chair noted this would be a benefit for the community.

Finance Committee Report

The 2025/26 accounting records were with Ian Small who was now preparing the actual accounts as the PC’s external accountant. Cllr Tait noted that EKPC might need to request an extension to its Agar reporting deadline.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Bateman

Nothing to report.

Common Lands – Cllr Ambrose

Cllr Ambrose confirmed arrangements with the Natural History Society and Young Nature Watchers to conduct a Himalayan balsam pull on the Saturday mornings of 6th and 13th June. This would be supported by Clarow and volunteers, Meet at 10am at the Fox+Hounds.

Cllr Ambrose had met with Felltec to discuss their quote for grass-cutting at The Windmill and Milton Triangles. Based on these discussions a more favourable quote had been obtained. She had also agreed with Cllr Williams that he would organize a late August cut and remove cuttings ready for the autumn.

Cllr Ambrose advised that brush-cutting of footpaths was ongoing but was an increasing challenge.

Cllr Ambrose asked whether it would be a good idea to add further notice boards in the Village to improve inclusivity. After discussion Councillors agreed it was a better option to signpost residents to the Village website(s).

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait noted that the Wren's Shop AGM would be on 23rd July at the Village Hall and all members were invited to attend.

A revaluation of assets had taken place for Insurance cover purposes.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Cllr Staunton advised that representatives from Cranborne Chase had inspected the new accessible picnic bench they had funded. Represented an opportunity to showcase the KHG playground and discuss future needs.

New contractor had undertaken a first-cut of the grass. A further cut was now required. Cllr Brunner noted that the football pitch surface should be improved and would benefit from a specific grounds programme going forward. Parish Clerk was tasked to contact contractor to request a closer cut, particularly for the football pitch and that strimming be much tighter to all boundary and equipment edges.

Cllr Staunton advised that RedLynch Leisure were looking to install the new playground equipment week commencing 15th June. Actual works would take 3 days but the concrete bases would need 7 days to fully harden. Given the nature and scale of these works Cllr Staunton proposed that the Playground be closed during this time for health and safety reasons. Councillors unanimously agreed with this proposal. A series of communications across all mediums would be developed to communicate this information.

As previously discussed by the Parish Council the main path through the playground needs attention. A sustainable option to use Tiger Mulch had been identified and Cllr Staunton, based on a site survey, obtained a quote from the leading supplier of this solution which is effectively bonded rubber. Cost is £68 per square meter and 170

square meters would be required at a cost of £11,220 plus vat. The Parish Council cannot afford this solution itself; therefore the Parish Clerk was tasked to investigate grant funding options.

Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council closed at 8.40 pm

Date of Next Meeting

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

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

Date: 1st July 2026.....