

Minutes of the East Knoyle Parish Council

Convened at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at East Knoyle Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr Rob McCarthy

Notices of Interest

None

Public Open Forum

Mr Mark Gittins was in attendance.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 1st July 2026

Draft minutes of the 1st July 2026 EKPC meeting were recommended for approval. Proposed Cllr Ambrose, seconded Cllr Middleton – 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)

Cllr Wayman briefed Councillors on the WC scoping works in respect of a new Local Plan. Her view was that EKPC should continue to rely on being within the designated Cranborne National Landscape where appropriate and seek to maintain the current Housing Policy boundary. A free webinar related to these matters was being held on 17th September. Cllr Wayman to provide further updates as and when WC plans progress.

Cllr Wayman advised that the A350 report into speed limits on the section of road from Shaftesbury to the Hindon traffic lights had now been published. The only proposed change in speed limits was a reduction from 60mph to 50mph along a section by Hayes House. The report contained a provision that if the speed limit was changed EKPC would be required to contribute 25% of the costs (circa £2125) of the new signage. Chair, supported by Councillors noted this matter was a primary concern for residents, particularly those on The Turnpike. Councillors agreed that this report needed further review and consultation, so EKPC was best able to respond. Chair said he would have a conversation with Hayes House in this respect

given the proposed speed reduction would directly impact their entrance/exit from the A350.

Planning Application

PL/2026/05187 – Lugmarsh Farm SP3 6BX. Fodder and Machinery store. Application in respect of any prior approvals required. Supported. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Tait.. 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 submitted a written report noting that ongoing works included potholes, cutting of verges and road edges and further progress on some water leaks.

Chairs Report – Cllr Staunton

- a) Chair briefed Councillors on a WC Community Governance Review (CGR) that was being undertaken in SW Wiltshire. Councillors strongly felt that current Community Governance arrangements were correct and appropriate. Parish Clerk was tasked to prepare EKPC's formal response. Cllr Brunner said he would prepare a written report in support of EKPC to be attached to the CGR response.
- b) Cllr's Tait and Brunner briefed the PC on the proposed EDC legislation, in particular as it related to Assets of Community Value. The potential implications were noted thereby ensuring Councillors were aware of this new programme.
- c) Chair noted that a request had been received from St Mary's Church for a donation towards the maintenance of church grounds. Councillors discussed this request. Not all were in favour but a majority approved a one-off donation of £350.
- d) Chair updated Councillors on the St John's First Aid training that the Parish Council was sponsoring for the Community. Budget of £200 was unanimously approved.
- e) Chair noted that a PCC report into crime statistics over the last 12 months had been received which he would share with Parish Councillors. The new PCO would be invited to attend the next EKPC AGM.
- f) Chair thanked Cllr Williams for moving and storing the Fire Beacon. A metal plug now needed to safeguard the base. A budget of £100 for these works was unanimously approved.

Finance Committee Report

Cllr Tait noted that expenditure through August was tracking in line with the 26/27 Budget.

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 formally thanked Cllr Williams for cutting and baling the Windmill common lands for winter silage.

Cllr Ambrose raised the issue of an Ash Tree at Hilly Ground that needed attention. Chair noted that this was not on Common Lands and therefore not the responsibility of the PC. It was agreed no action to be taken.

Cllr Ambrose thank Mr David Hockem for voluntarily brush-cutting a number of pathways thereby ensuring their easy access.

Cllr Ambrose and the Chair raised the issue of the Windmill View. Over the last 40 years a number of trees had matured resulting in a much more limited view from the Windmill across the Blackmore Vale. The new Fire Beacon's visibility is similarly impacted. The topic of Future-proofing the View back to its earlier state was discussed. Chair noted he had obtained old photo's dating which showed how much the view was now obscured. EKPC agreed to further explore options and consult as to next steps. The possibility of a Village sub-Committee was considered given the effort that would be required to fully address this concept. This topic would be further discussed at the next EKPC meeting.

Cllr Ambrose noted that Mr Ed Knight had now voluntarily moved a number of logs into position at the entrance to the Windmill bridlepath thereby creating a deterrent for further fly-tipping. EKPC expressed their thanks and the Parish Clerk was tasked to formally write to Mr Knight expressing their appreciation.

Parish Clerk presented 2 quotes for tree works at the Windmill site. The £350 quote for the removal of fallen Oak tree branches was unanimously approved. The works to fell and remove a dead larch tree were not approved as the PC wished to obtain Planning consent given the tree's location, also whether it had succumbed to the UK Larch disease or natural causes.

Post Office and Village Shop

Cllr Tait noted that Wrens Shop turnover was up by 6.2% versus the prior year. In part this was due to ice cream sales of £1400 during August alone by users of KHG.

The Wrens Shop 20th Anniversary celebration had proved very successful as a Community event. The inaugural Fire Beacon lighting was a definite highlight.

KHG/Playground – Cllr Staunton

Councillors noted that the Playground had been extremely well used over the summer and the new equipment, particularly the Basketball mini court. Usage regularly now came from both East Knoyle residents and those of surrounding villages.

Cllr Staunton advised that Cranborne Chase were willing to fund £11,360 towards a new rubber pathway at KHG. Given the size of this potential grant 3 quotes were required to progress such an application. Parish Clerk was tasked to obtain and submit the necessary quotes. Chair noted that such a new pathway would be a material upgrade on the existing old tarmac.

Chair advised that he had cleared the logs left behind after an earlier tree-felling.

Grass-cutting would be resumed in September with further cuts in both October and November.

Chair noted that the annual Rospa Health and Safety inspection was scheduled for September.

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Correspondence Received

None

Urgent Items

None

Any other Business.

There being no other business the East Knoyle Parish Council closed at 9.10 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th October 2026 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Approved: Garry Staunton.....Chair

Date: 7th October 2026.....