

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 17 July 2024 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Councillors Present - Sue Entwistle (Chair), Neil Southerden, Deb Bateman, Ian Tait, David Pickering, Hugo Middleton, Ann White, Rob McCarthy, John Tyson,

Clerk - Martin Brown. **Guest** - Cllr B Wayman

Members of the Public present – Mr and Mrs Stranter-Coombes, Mrs L Gascoyne, Mr D Jenkins

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Ann Ambrose, Garry Staunton
2. **Notices of Interest** – None
3. **Public Open Forum** – Deferred to relevant Items – 6 and 7
4. **Minutes of Parish Annual Assembly held on Wednesday 5 June 2024** – Proposed Cllr Pickering / Seconded Cllr McCarthy - Approved and Signed as a true record.
5. **Matters Arising** –
 - i. Church Rails signage situation – still no response from WC Department – **Cllr Wayman to investigate**
 - ii. Bridleway/FP29 (EKNO29/10) – holes still there and Clerk unable to ascertain situation with Wessex Water – **Cllr Tyson to liaise with Cllr Wayman to progress.**
 - iii. Replacement trees – **Cllr Tyson to suggest possible sites/plans for replanting on Common Lands.**
6. **The Dips** –
 - i. Cllr McCarthy provided a summary of the ongoing antisocial behaviours, vandalism, axe throwing, digging and littering at The Dips and confirmed Police involvement.
 - ii. Clerk confirmed that an article on this activity – including details of how to report to 101 – will be in the July EK Newsletter. And that correspondence had been received and distributed to the council.
 - iii. Mrs S Stranter-Coombes spoke outlining the activities and the negative impacts on local residents.
 - iv. A number of initiatives were suggested and discussed. Some would be taken up by local residents and involve The Green’s Neighbourhood Watch Group.
 - v. The PC proposed the following assistance – 1) EKPC officially writes to Warminster Police to seek assistance and action 2) Residents given permission to remove the vegetation roadside, providing clear sight lines into the Dips and therefore not ‘hidden’. Proposed Cllr McCarthy / Seconded Cllr White. Approved unanimously.
 - vi. Cllr Wayman offered to assist by contacting Seeds4Success for help/advice

Actions 1) Clerk to write to Warminster Police 2) Residents to organise safe vegetation clearance 3) Cllr Wayman to contact Seeds4Success for help/advice
7. **Planning Applications:**
 - i. **PL/2024/04937 - Land Adj. Paddock Wood, Holloway Lane, East Knoyle, SP3 6AF.** The erection of a self-build dwelling and associated works. Mr D Jenkins spoke regarding this application as the applicant. Application supported, with comments. Proposed Cllr Tait/ Seconded Cllr Tyson.
Note – Planning Applications and any comments submitted by East Knoyle Parish Council are available on the Wiltshire Council website – under Planning and Building Applications.
8. **Wiltshire Council Planning Meeting** – Cllr Middleton – Reviewed the key points from attending a recent county wide meeting with WC Planning Officers. There was an emphasis on developing Neighbourhood Plans, which require extensive resources, time and expertise to determine. There were also plans for future meetings to be held for similar sized councils as issues vary so much.
Action – Revisit need for a small village requirement of a Neighbourhood Plan
9. **Highways** – Cllr McCarthy
 - i. Underhill road surface continues to deteriorate and is becoming potentially unusable in some areas. Reported again through usual channels. Recent work has been seen by a team from WC contractors filling potholes. Road Diversion/Closure signs are being left in place well after works have been carried out (or not in some cases). Clerk has reported to Highways and MyWilts as fly-tipping with no success. A resident recently took some to a WC highways unmanned ‘depot’ near Willoughby Hedge.
 - ii. Proposed A350 speed assessment – Following confirmation of costs it was agreed that we would pay 1/3 of the costs required (£258.33). Proposed Cllr McCarthy / Seconded Cllr White. Agreed unanimously.

10. **Bridget Wayman's Report** – WC are allocating more funds for road repairs, which it is hoped will be used on C and minor roads.
11. **Chair's Report – Cllr Entwistle**
- i. The Chair wished to thank Chris Cox, Cllr Staunton and the KHG repair team for all their hard work. She has had several very positive comments on their work and how the playground is improving.
 - ii. Chair attended two excellent village events – Clouds Reunion proved very interesting and worthwhile, and the Age UK Wiltshire Jazz afternoon was a great success – they are looking to run another in the village hall before the end of the year.
12. **Village Hall Update** – Cllr Pickering
- i. Village Hall bookings/usage has increased, with several additional exercise classes.
 - ii. Costs have increased so the VH Cttee has had to raise charges for short term hires.
 - iii. The new main hall floor has received positive feedback and is 'working' well.
13. **Common Lands –**
- i. CLAROW update – Cllr Ambrose (read by Cllr Tyson) 1. Thanks to David Pickering for stepping in for me at the last CLAROW meeting and for John Tyson who provided me with valuable feedback at my request. 2. Whilst the group remains interested and response is generally good, there is potentially some frustration within the group due to the restrictions relating to H&S. it is no fault of the PC I realise, but it greatly curtails what we can do, and in turn leads to disappointment in what we can achieve. Tisbury FP group use power tools and they work in conjunction with WC whose contact is Alex Howson (to whom I have emailed). The volunteers had to go through suitable training which was mostly paid for by their PC. The WC insurance covers them for injuries to the general public. They themselves are currently going through the process of covering volunteers through the Ramblers Association which I am looking into. 3. Following feedback from a resident I have made contact with farmer Lee Williams as he would like to explore the moving of the end of FP40 to along the hedge line. This could be a win-win for both walkers and farmer, but will require applications through the proper channels – that is Wiltshire Council – before the PC can comment. 4. Still concerned about BW 29 (EKNO29/10) that still is in a dangerous condition - particularly now the grass has grown high around the holes.
 - ii. Tree Works – Clerk
 - a) Milton – diseased ash felled successfully. Many residents have commented on the excellent work and behaviours of the contractors.
 - b) KHG – Oak tree at entrance to KHG has had dead branches removed.
 - iii. Japanese knotweed – Cllr Bateman has sprayed problem areas again.
14. **Post Office & Village Shop** – Cllr Tait
- i. Shop (EKCSA Ltd) Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 25th July – 7pm for 7.30pm
 - ii. Recruiting – Shop needs to recruit more members (who can attend the AGM – apply at the Shop) and more Management Cttee members.
 - iii. New Coffee machine has been installed and working well.
 - iv. New Veg boxes – Installed and in use, receiving many positive comments.
15. **KHG/Playground – report deferred to September.**
- i. It was recommended that the team be allowed to spend up to £4k incrementally over the next two months, subject to invoices being approved by email by a minimum of 2 parish councillors. This will stop any delays in their work. Proposed Cllr Tait/ Seconded Cllr Tyson. Unanimous approval.
16. **Finance**
- I. Cash Book reconciliation – Clerk presented current cash book/accounts reconciliation.
 - II. Payments due for approval – Presented and Proposed Cllr Tait /Seconded Cllr Pickering. Unanimous approval.
 - III. Cllr Tyson volunteered to join the Finance Cttee and to review accounting systems.
- Actions – Clerk and Cllr Tyson to review possible improvements to accounting systems. Report September.**

17. **Correspondence Received –**

- i. New local Police Sergeant
- ii. The Dips – See agenda item 6

Actions – Clerk to invite new Sergeant to the October PC meeting.

18. **Urgent Items –** none submitted

19. **Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 4th September 2024 @ 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall.**

Meeting Closed at 9.24pm

Signed as a true Record *N. Southerden* Vice Chair

Date4th September 2024.....

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