

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting,

Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall

Councillors Present - Sue Entwistle (Chair), Neil Southerden, Hugo Middleton, Ann Ambrose, Ann White, Deb Bateman, Ian Tait, David Pickering.

Clerk - Martin Brown.

Guest – Cllr Bridget Wayman

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs McCarthy and Williamson
2. **Notices of Interest** – None required
3. **Public Open Forum** – N/A
4. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2024** – Proposed Cllr Tait/ Seconded Cllr Bateman - Approved and Signed as a true record.
5. **Matters Arising** –
 - i. Cllr Wayman had been asked to find out when we might receive responses to the questions raised before and during the Highways Matters, Area Board Meeting – EKVH 29th November. Awaiting response
 - ii. Cllr McCarthy awaiting reply from Mr Clerk (Highways) re road conditions identified.

Actions

- 1) **First Aid Course - Cllr Williamson to liaise with Mrs Dawson/Clerk to include a provisional request for volunteers in EKN**

6. **Bridget Wayman's Report**

- i. Cllr Wayman outlined some of the increased areas of spending for Wiltshire Council, including the possible investigations into air quality.
- ii. Planning Application fees are to increase by 25%
- iii. Traffic Survey for A350 – potentially ordering this for the EK by-pass – possibly near the Millbrook Lane junction and in association with Hayes House. The data recently recorded on the A350 shows a number of vehicles exceeding 60mph during the day, with many of these exceeding 70mph. Cllr Wayman has again requested a Police presence to monitor speeding, but it appears this is currently a resourcing issue.
- iv. Church Rails signage – EKPC will be receiving a review in February which they will need to respond to, after which the plan will be to carry this work out in March (2024)
- v. Septic Tanks – there are grants available to ensure these tanks are efficient and do not have a negative impact on run-off/water quality.

Actions

- 1) **Councillor Wayman to include details for septic tank grants in next EKN**

7. **Planning Applications:**

Planning Applications:

- i. **PL/2023/08634 - The Cottage, Church Rails, East Knoyle, SP3 6AD - Proposed outdoor swimming pool. (Note - extended deadline for comments under review).** Approved with conditions. Proposed Cllr Tait/Seconded Cllr Ambrose – 7 votes for/1 abstention.
- ii. **Application to divert Footpath East Knoyle 24 (part) (EKNO24) in relation to planning application PL/2023/09442 New Leaze Farm. (Note – this was not a planning application as such)** Comments were submitted to the Footpaths Officer that expressed EKPC agreement to the diversion, with conditions relating to the access and fencing to restrict livestock access to the footpath.
- iii. **PL/2024/00601 - THE PADDOCKS, THE STREET, EAST KNOYLE, SP3 6AJ - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - Oak tree - 50% crown reduction.** Objection – unanimous.
- iv. **PL/2024/00986 - HINDON ROAD, EAST KNOYLE, SP3 6AA - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - Norway Spruce tree - fell.** Approved with conditions. Proposed Cllr Middleton/Seconded Cllr Entwistle. Vote – 5 for/3 against

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. Chair's Report – Cllr Entwistle

- i. Meeting with Village Hall and Wren's Shop committee chairs went well, and it has been agreed that this should be a regular meeting 2 or 3 times a year to look at ways of jointly improving village amenities and the like.
- ii. Chair would encourage site visits to properties submitting Planning Applications.
- iii. Wren's Shop Management Cttee Meeting – Chair attended this and proposed some shop support for improving Playground facilities. This support was confirmed and PC should submit projects needing funding to the Shop Cttee.

Actions – 1) Cllr Entwistle to set-up regular EKPC/VH/Shop meetings as per item 8.i.

9. **PC Meetings – Proposal to reschedule start time to 7pm.** This required a vote of unanimous approval – not received. PC meetings will continue to have a start time of 7.30pm.

10. Finance

- I. Clerk presented Cash Book reconciliation, and Cllr White (Finance Cttee) confirmed balances as correct.
- II. Payments due presented for approval – approved unanimously.

11. Common Lands –

- I. CLAROW Group Report - Cllr Ambrose described the last meeting of the group as very successful and that the group continue to be very positive and engaged, plus active in replacing signage, etc. It has been identified that Himalayan Balsam (a highly invasive plant with little value as a pollinator) needs to be removed from the FP opposite the Fox and Hounds. This should be pulled up before July to stop it spreading even more.
- II. Management of the grassland at The Windmill – Cllr Ambrose outlined the results of meetings with a local environment specialist and the grass cutting contractor. She presented a plan for this year's Windmill grass cutting that will ensure that specific areas of growth are encouraged by less cutting due to their rare status. Thus will not impact on costs but will require help from volunteers once or twice a year. Proposed Cllr Entwistle/Seconded Cllr Bateman. Approved unanimously.
- III. Tree Works – Clerk confirmed all previously identified tree works (primarily roadside) had been completed, but that two trees from Sandpit Lane Common Land had fallen into a privately owned paddock in Underhill and the owner had requested they be removed and damaged fencing repaired.
- IV. Decision on Tree - FP/BW 39/51. – Clerk to obtain quote to fell only the diseased part of the tree that is leaning towards Wise Lane, leaving the other trunk standing.

Actions 1) Cllr Ambrose to organise volunteer help when required for removal of Himalayan Balsam and grass cuttings from Windmill Area 2) Clerk to obtain quotes for tree works at Underhill and FP39/51

12. **Village Hall Update** – Cllr Pickering reported from the recent VH Cttee Meeting as follows –

- i. Village Archives – these are being reviewed and sorted with the aim to potentially digitising them as records. Funding for this and better storage is being investigated.
- ii. It was verbally confirmed that the PC is not a creditor in relation to the monies lost when the flooring contractor went into liquidation.

13. **Highways** – No report

14. **Post Office & Village Shop** – Cllr Tait reported –

- i. Following the approval of the plans for the Shop, Burfitt and Garrett have been engaged to carry out the works.
- ii. Post Office – is running at a small loss and is subsidised by the shop. This had been expected and planned for.
- iii. Shop Lease – a subgroup has been formed to look into a new lease agreement for 2025.
- iv. Shop Cttee reported a positive response to the EKPC Chair attending their last Cttee Meeting
- v. Cllr Southerden requested a vote of thanks to the Shop Mgt Cttee – approved unanimously.

Actions – 1) Clerk to convey thanks to Mgt Cttee.

15. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor** – Clerk reported that we could now advertise for a new co-opted Councillor and that the official advert had been posted on Noticeboards, as well as in the EKN. No responses have been received, though one person had shown an interest prior to the advert. Current Deadline for applications is Friday 1st March

16. **KHG/Playground**

- i. Clerk presented outline of work required and priorities.
- ii. Clerk informed PC that there was now a working group of volunteers and that they would meet soon to work out what can be done.

Actions – 1) Clerk to setup action / priority plan for works, plus costings 2) Clerk to liaise with volunteers.

3) Cllr McCarthy to present findings on Just Giving

17. **Defibrillator –**

- i. Clerk confirmed that EK is no longer subscribe g to the VETS system.
- ii. Handover of administration deferred.

Actions – Clerk/Cllr Williamson to meet to hand over administration

18. **Correspondence Received –**

- i. Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Cllr Ambrose has asked the organisers if any other dates might be offered as she could not make the proposed date.
- ii. Revised National Planning Policy Framework – made available to councillors.

19. **Urgent Items –**

- i. Wrens Stone – Cllr Middleton presented a proposal from Mr John Maine for a descriptive plaque for the base of the Wrens Stone. Unanimously approved, with suggestion for slight amendment to the wording.

Action – 1) Cllr Middleton to liaise with Mr Maine regarding wording

20. **Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 6th March 2024 @ 7.30pm East Knoyle Village Hall**

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm

Signed as a true Record*Sue Entwistle*.....Chair

Date.....6th March 2024.....

Martin Brown, Clerk to the Council
Oak Dell, The Green, East Knoyle, SP3 6BN
clerkeastknoylepc@gmail.com