



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Members of the public and press are entitled to be at the following meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 Section 1 extended by Local Government Act 1972 Section 100 unless precluded by the Parish Council by resolution during the whole or part of the proceedings. Such entitlement does not however include the right to speak on any matter except at the commencement of the meeting given over specifically for that purpose. Although not a requirement to do so prior notification to the Clerk by noon the previous Friday would enable a full response when appropriate to be given.

Tuesday 6th June 2017

To: To all members of **South Petherton Parish Council Open Spaces Committee**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

You are summoned to the **Meeting of South Petherton Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee** to be held in **The William Blake Memorial Hall** on **Monday 12th June 2017** commencing at **6.30 pm** when the following business will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kate Alford', written in a cursive style.

Kate Alford
Parish Clerk

AGENDA

- OS11.1 To elect a Committee Chair**
- OS12.2 To elect a Committee Vice Chair**
- OS12.3 To receive any apologies for non-attendance**
- OS12.4 To receive any declarations of interest**
- OS12.5 To receive and confirm the Minutes of South Petherton Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee held on Monday 6th February 2017**
- OS12.6 Matters for report purposes only**
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|------|--|---------|
| (1) | Lockable Bollard | OS9.4.1 |
| (2) | Lightgate Recreation Ground Management Plan | OS9.4.2 |
| (3) | Lightgate Recreation Ground Maintenance Contract | OS9.5.1 |
| (4) | Updating current "Tots" Play Equipment | OS9.4.4 |
| (5) | Swan Paul Partnership – Forward Planning Programme | OS9.4.5 |
| (6) | Cemetery Chapels | OS9.5.3 |
| (7) | Memorial Garden – Maintenance | OS9.4.8 |
| (8) | Grass Maintenance Contract | OS9.5.1 |
| (9) | Tree Annual Inspection | OS9.5.2 |
| (10) | Cemetery Chapels | OS9.5.3 |
| (11) | Village Ranger Schedule | OS9.5.4 |
- OS12.7 Resolutions**
- (1) **To resolve that South Petherton Open Spaces committee recommend to SPPC to purchase the land as per Mr Peter Kidner's email report of 27.04.2016 (reports attached).**
- (2) **To resolve to make a final decision on the site to erect the cricket nets and to recommend to SPPC Parish Council that this site be given to SDDC to proceed with.**
- OS12.8 To receive reports – if any – from the following**
- (a) Blake Hall
(b) Cemetery
(c) SPIB
(d) Allotments
(e) Churchyard
(f) SPRUG
(g) SPRINC
(h) TA13
(i) Correspondent
(j) Web Site
(k) Memorial Garden
(l) LIC
(m) Youth Council
- OS12.9 Others matters referred to the Parish Clerk**
- OS12.10 Date of next meeting – Monday 7th August 2017**

MAINTENANCE OF SSDC RESIDUAL LAND POST TRANSFER OF HOUSING TO YARLINGTON

1. **Background:** At some time in the past SSDC's housing stock and land ownership was transferred to Yarlington Homes. For reasons not understood, SSDC retained ownership of some small pieces of land and hence retained responsibility for their maintenance. Some of these small pieces of land are adjacent to South Petherton highways, consequently SSDC's failure to adequately maintain can have an adverse impact on Parishioners' use of these highways.

Mare Lane

2. **Status:** The original Mare Lane is the track on which footpath Y24/12 runs from Silver Street towards Mere Lynches. Above this track there is now an unclassified road of the same name leading to Yarlington housing and the self-built houses. Between these two highways is a narrow strip of land retained by SSDC, on which there are several trees, bushes and brambles (see Attachment 1). In the past 10 years the Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO) has contacted SSDC on several occasions requesting that the overgrowth from the SSDC land be cut back as it was obstructing the footpath; additionally this overgrowth prevents "light and air" reaching the footpath, resulting in the surface becoming very muddy and puddled. It also hides users of the footpath, thereby encouraging some dog owners to omit to pick up their dog's poo, so that to Graham Gatehouse and others it is known as "Poo lane"; there are also reports of drug use. On one occasion there was also a dead tree that needed felling as it presented a hazard to users of both the road and footpath.

3. **Proposal:** It is understood that SSDC recognises the futility of its ownership of this narrow strip of land, and would be content to transfer it to Parish ownership for a nominal £1 fee. There has been no mention of any legal/land registration fees, so this would need investigation.

Advantages:

- SPPC would be able to actively manage this land for the benefit of parishioners, rather than have to contact SSDC whenever there is a problem or maintenance is required.
- Whereas SSDC does "the bare minimum", SPPC ownership would enable the land to be managed better such that it becomes a more attractive green space, the footpath surface improved and antisocial users discouraged.
- Transfer of land ownership would ensure that neither SSDC nor Yarlington utilise this land for a purpose contrary to SPPC's best interests.

Disadvantages:

- Whereas SSDC currently funds the maintenance of this land, if transferred such costs would lie with SPPC; however such devolution is nowadays the norm with greater responsibility being placed on PCs by DCs and CCs.
- The grass verge alongside the road is part of the SSDC grass cutting programme, and would have to be transferred to SPPC.
- Liability for any accident resulting from a falling tree or similar would lie with SPPC; however this would be mitigated by regular risk surveys and insurance cover.

4. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the SPPC Open Spaces Ctee consider and approve the above proposal, passing it to the full PC for endorsement prior to approaching SSDC formally to effect the transfer.

Peter Kidner

PPLO