

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of South Petherton Parish Council** which was held in the **William Blake Memorial Hall South Petherton on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018** commencing at **7.30 pm** when **Mr Dave Williams** presided. There were some 45 persons present including a number of Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, Mrs K Alford.

**1. Welcome by the Vice Chairman Mr Dave Williams**

The Chairman formally welcomed everyone to the meeting where he hoped everyone would enjoy the meeting and take part in the refreshments laid on by the Parish Council.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

These were agreed and signed off as an accurate representation of the event.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Due to personal circumstances, the Chair was unable to attend the meeting, or to provide a report, and therefore this, and the up to date Financial Report will look to be received at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**4. Summary of the Parish Council draft accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

As per Agenda item 3.

**5. Peter Bland – South Somerset Speedwatch Presentation**

Mr Bland gave a thorough explanation of the Speedwatch programme, from its inception in Ash to the system that they are now working with alongside Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

He explained the system in place, the success that they have had with the Speedwatch groups and the process in which a Speedwatch group can be set up.

Primarily, 2 people are all that are needed to set up a group (Co-ordinator & Communicator) and initially they would contact the Beat Manager for the area to set up the Group. On a basis of a team of 10, volunteers would need to give approximately 2 hours per month of their time.

Kit is supplied by Avon & Somerset Police, as is a training course for the volunteers. The police will assess the sites that the Speedwatch Group wish to target – and there is a code of practice that volunteers must adhere to. Mr Bland encouraged anyone interested to either contact their Beat Manager or himself for further information.

**6. Oliver Woodhams – Somerset County Council – Library Consultation update.**

Mr Woodhams spoke on behalf of Somerset County Council (SCC) to again publicise and encourage the Parish to participate in the Library Consultation. He gave background on the challenging situation SCC are facing to reduce costs, and the options that are open to South Petherton library going forward after the consultation.

The review looks for South Petherton to either take over the responsibility & costs of running the library building and staff, possibly in conjunction with a Community Partnership Group or the Parish Council, or to move to the options of a mobile library, which would visit the village approximately once per month.

Mr Woodhams was keen to point out that this is still very much an open process and that the Parish should very much engage and respond to the Consultation process – which has now been extended to June 13<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Mr Woodhams then answered a number of questions from the public.

**7. Opportunity for the public to meet Councillors and guests individually, and informally chat about local projects.**

The meeting then moved into an informal process, with members of the public able to speak individually with Councillors from the Parish Council, the Youth Outreach team, South Petherton Care partnership group, including the Parish Link Worker and the Village Agent.

Speakers Peter Bland & Oliver Woodhams also stayed to answer further questions and chat.

Refreshments were provided in the form of cakes by the South Petherton WI.

**8. Closing address**

Meeting closed at 9.05pm