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Minutes of a Meeting of South Petherton Parish Council held at William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on Monday 03 February 2025 at 7.30pm where the following business was conducted.

PRESENT: Councillors N Wakely (Chairman), L Baker, C Bragg, S Carp, B Chitty, B Elliott, D Hodson-Wright, K Jones, R Killen, T New, S Spiers, D Steel, B Swainson along with the Clerk: Miss C Paul, Assistant Clerk: Mrs A Cox and Locum Clerk: J Robinson.

55 members of the public were also in attendance.

Public Session (prior to the start of the meeting)

Several members of the public spoke regarding the flash flooding issues in the village the previous week and its impact to the community.

During discussion it was noted that Cllr Adam Dance, as MP for the Yeovil Constituency, was organising a multi-agency meeting to discuss the recent local flooding issues and look at options to mitigate future flooding across the area.

Cllr Mike Stanton of Somerset Council spoke of the flooding issues he had looked at in the village and outlined possible solutions for discussion. He encouraged a meeting with staff from the Environment Agency to talk through the issues and options to mitigate future flooding in the village.

Report from Somerset Councillor

Councillor Jo Roundell-Greene expressed her sympathy for those residents whose properties had been flooded. She advised that the Somerset Council could only raise its precept by 7% and they were hoping to be allowed a capitalisation project to assist with flood prevention measures. She recommended that affected residents contact the South Petherton Village Agent for assistance.

2.1 To receive and agree any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Dance and R Brown.

2.2 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

2.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of 2nd December 2024, Extraordinary meeting of 18th December 2024 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting from 27th January 2025.

Cllr Chitty noted that he was a member of the Allotment Association. The minutes were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meetings.

2.4 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

2.5 Reports:

- (a) Village Agent – Suzy Coombes advised she was available to speak with residents in the Library every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Cllr Steel noted that the Digital Café was also there to help residents with any IT issues.

- (b) Avon & Somerset PCSO – it was noted the new PCSO Caoimhe Hickey.
- (c) LCN Representatives workshop – Monday 10 February from 4.00pm – 6.00pm at the Guildhall, Chard to discuss the new Local Plan.
- (d) South Petherton road closures to note – Footway at Summershard closed for 3 days from 10 February 2025.
- (e) Flood warden newsletter – noted.

2.6 Items for decision which may require action:

- (a) Unprecedented weather events / multi agency solutions
 After discussion it was proposed to establish a working group and Cllrs B Chitty, S Carp, K Jones, R Killen and D Steel volunteered to form the group. Local residents were also invited to join. The Chair briefly suspended the meeting to allow Cllr Mike Stanton (Somerset Council) to speak. Cllr Stanton offered to draft a Terms of Reference for the working group and he also offered to act as Chair and contact for the group. Two local residents and a representative of the TWIG group also volunteered to join the working group.
 Resolved to establish a flood working group of Cllrs B Chitty, S Carp, K Jones, R Killen and D Steel with Cllr Mike Stanton and local residents. Duly proposed and seconded, 12-0-0.
- (b) To consider request from a resident of flashing speed signs at Knapp Hill.
 Resolved to place the Councils Speed Indicator Device (SID) at Knapp Hill to confirm if speeding traffic was an issue in that area prior to considering the installation of permanent speed signs.
 Duly proposed and seconded, 12-0-0.

2.7 Finance & General Purpose Committee

To note and agree the items of expenditure and approve payments for January 2025.
 Duly proposed and seconded, 12-0-0.

2.8 The Parish Council received reports on the following:

- (a) Recreation Ground/SPRUG – there was moss forming on the footpaths which would be referred to the Open Space Committee. A contractor had dealt with the local mole issue.
- (b) Blake Hall – the Committee had met and noted there was no lease for the hall. The Gigaclear contract to provide free broadband was being renewed under the Community Hall scheme.
- (c) Community Land Trust (CLT) – currently applying for charitable status
- (d) Library / LIC / Community Hub – the Community Hub group were alert to any suitable buildings.
- (e) Patient Participation Group (PPG) – a telephone hub had been installed above the doctors surgery to triage phone calls.

2.9 Other business referred to the officers

- (a) Registration of land
 The Clerk confirmed that the solicitors acting for the Parish Council had asked for a Statement of Truth to be signed by the Chairman as some of the land transfer documentation had been mislaid.
- (b) Parish Council Facebook
 The Clerk confirmed that the previous Parish Clerk had now closed the Parish Council Facebook page. She advised that the Parish Council already had a comprehensive website.

2.10 Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30pm in the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.

Meeting closed at 9.12pm

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Signed:

Date: