

Clerk to the Parish Council
South Petherton Parish Office
Frogmary Green Farm, West Street,
South Petherton, TA13 5DJ

Telephone: 01460 241002
Email: clerk@southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of South Petherton Parish Council held at William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on Monday 07 April 2025 at 8.15pm where the following business was conducted.

PRESENT: Councillors N Wakely (Chairman), S Carp, B Chitty, A Dance, D Hodson-Wright, K Jones, R Killen and D Steel along with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.
6 members of the public were in attendance.

Public Session (prior to the start of the meeting)

A member of the public spoke regarding her difficulty in accessing the Parish Council agenda papers on the website.

Report from Somerset Councillor

Councillor Adam Dance gave the apologies of Councillor Jo Roundell-Greene. He noted that a question raised earlier at the Open Spaces Committee meeting by a resident regarding speeding traffic in the village would not be allowed to be resolved by installing speed bumps and he encouraged the community to set up a speed watch group. He noted the announced withdrawal of the cashpoint in St James Street but said that as there were cashpoints in the Co-op and at the petrol station at Hayes End, there was little chance of retaining a 24 hour cashpoint in the village.

4.1 To receive and agree any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Bragg, L Baker, R Brown, T New, S Spiers and B Swainson.

4.2 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

4.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of 3rd March 2025.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.

4.4 Chairman's Announcements.

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

4.5 Items for decision which require action:

- (a) Resolved that the grant request from Lost Lady Society be refused due to the lack of demonstrable benefit to the residents of South Petherton. Proposed and seconded, 8-0-0.
- (b) Resolved to agree the revised Cemetery fees as proposed with immediate effect. Proposed and seconded, 7-1-0.
- (c) Resolved to agree moving of all council emails from Webmail to existing Microshade Citrix (Outlook) cloud based system. Proposed and seconded, 7-1-0.
- (d) Resolved to agree the subscription to Scribe Cemetery and Allotment packages for future digitization and efficient management. Proposed and seconded, 8-0-0.

4.6 Finance & General Purpose Committee:

- (a) To note & agree the items of expenditure and approve payments for March 2025
Taken on block. Proposed and seconded, 8-0-0.

4.7 Open Spaces Committee:

To agree Open Spaces Committee recommendation on;

- 1) Request from the Tennis Club to allow the installation of gravel boards on the outside of the surrounding fence between the Tennis Clubhouse and the path to the Bowls Club. Request to replace floodlights from tennis club. (Agreed)
- 2) Twice yearly planting of the troughs around the Blake Hall including a sum for replacing split and broken troughs as well as an estimated sum for upgrades to the automatic watering. (Agreed)
- 3) Public footpath which runs parallel to South Street up to Hele Lane removal of unsafe bench. (Agreed)
- 4) Pitway allotment field 5 year FBT term continuation 1st June 2025 – 31 May 2030. (Agreed)
- 5) Resident request of “no cycling” sign in conservation area of George Lane. (Refused)
- 6) Second non parish council white notice board in Over Stratton. (No action)
- 7) Consider quotes for long term cemetery improvements around memorial wall plots. (Deferred for site visit)

4.8 The Parish Council reports:

Cllr S Carp provided an update on the Community Flood Group who had recently published the South Petherton Parish Council Flood Working Group Interim Report – March 2025.

Cllr K Jones advised that the Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG) were providing support to those residents whose properties had flooded in January 2025. She also requested that Cllr Dance, in his role as local MP, request that National Highways clear the attenuation ponds.

Cllr D Steel advised that following discussion with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water there was a possibility to install experimental monitoring equipment in the North Mill brook to give an early warning of rising floodwater.

4.9 Other business referred to officers:

The Clerk provided an update and plan of action for the parish hanging baskets working collaboratively with Reach Alternative Education. Members were content with the project and direction of travel.

- 4.10 **Date of next meeting:** Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Signed:

Date: