



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

Three members of the public spoke regarding the attendance recorded at Council meetings, the associated papers to agenda items, support for a second defibrillator in Over Stratton and the future maintenance of the South Petherton Community Meadow.

Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Jo Roundell-Greene advised that whilst visiting the Community Shed, she was pleased with the work on the replacement roofs at the Cemetery Chapels. She also advised that she was working to improve the mobile phone signal in the village and the importance of ensuring students returned to school that week. Somerset Council had funding for the installation of low energy electric vehicle charging points, possibly within lampposts.

Cllr Adam Dance felt everywhere should push for fast electric vehicle chargers to bring people into the village as low energy chargers were only useful at night. He noted that AI cameras were being trialled in the Frome area to tackle poor driving habits, Junction 26 of the M5 was to re-open early and the proposal to withdraw community beds at Crewkerne Hospital was being challenged.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the South Petherton Parish Council held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 1st September 2025** when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors A Baker, C Bragg, S Carp, B Chitty, A Dance (to 9.10pm), K Jones, R Killen, T New, D Steel, S Spiers, B Swainson and N Wakely (Chairman) together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
11 members of the public were in attendance.

9.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Hodson-Wright. Cllrs R Brown and L Baker were absent.

9.2 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

9.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2025

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 12-0-0.

9.4 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman advised that Cllr L Baker had tendered her resignation and he thanked her for her time as a Parish Councillor. He advised that he had received two letters from local residents regarding footpath and pavement issues. Councillors were invited to view Inno House, Prigg Lane, South Petherton (which had been offered for purchase) on Friday 5th September at 11.00am.

9.5 Items for debate and potential decision that may require action

- A) Parish grass maintenance contract. Current contract ending 28.2.2026
Councillors requested a map of the areas covered by the current contract to identify any gaps in the contract.
- B) Contract with Somerset Council for community library provision
Cllr Steel and a library volunteer to draft a proposal for a two tier volunteer training programme, to be forwarded to the two Unitary Councillors to pursue with Somerset Council officers prior to contract agreement. Proposed and seconded 10-1-1.

- C) South Petherton Sports and Social Club draft lease
Draft lease to be discussed, amended and finalised by the Blake Hall Committee on 25 September and when completed to be returned to the Parish Council for signature as the Trustee Custodians.
- D) Request from residents of Over Stratton to have a second defibrillator at the southern end of the village
Agreed with siting of the defibrillator to be agreed with local residents and potential landowner. Proposed and seconded 12-0-0
- E) Report from the annual play equipment inspection.
Quotes to be sought for the moderate risk repairs identified in the inspection and a second separate quote for the low risk repairs. Proposed and seconded 12-0-0

9.6 Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a) Items of expenditure and payments list. Proposed and seconded, 12-0-0.
- b) All bank reconciliations for June and July 2025. Noted.
- c) To note the conclusion of the external audit/AGAR feedback including asset list. Noted.

Planning Committee

- a) Noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 7th July 2025

Open Spaces Committee

- a) The minutes of the Open Spaces Committee held on Monday 7th July 2025 were approved as a correct record and duly signed. Proposed and seconded 12-0-0.

9.7 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

- (a) Whitfield Lane current Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) to continue until its end (Cllr Spiers)
- (b) Library user statistics (Cllr Steel)
- (c) Tennis courts 1 and 2 annual maintenance on 1st and 8th October (Cllr Carp)
- (d) Two free tennis taster sessions available (Cllr Carp)
- (e) The Blake Hall Committee meeting on 25 September (Cllr Carp)
- (f) The South Petherton Infant and Junior schools had merged to form a partnership and they were holding a silent disco on 19 September (Cllr Carp)

9.8 Other matters referred to Officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- Remembrance Sunday volunteers to assist with silhouettes and poppies.
- Remembrance poppy wreath laying representative (Cllrs Carp and Steel)
- The impact of 21 day Parish Council response to Somerset Council planning applications.
- Letter to Somerset Council Highways reference unacceptable 4 year cycle on clearing key drains. Copy to both elected Somerset Council members and MP.
- Update on the Chapel roofs project, the Community Shed to make good damage internally and their offer to increase the annual rent.
- Repairs to the Cemetery turning circle had started on site on 1st September
- Land at Lightgate Lane ref youth building etc
- Meeting at 11.00am on Friday 5th September to view Inno House, Prigg Lane, South Petherton.
- National Grid to replace a pole on the recreation ground after South Petherton Carnival.

9.9 Date of next meeting – Monday 6th October 2025 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton

Meeting closed at 9.26pm

Signed:

Dated: