



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

The Chairman of the South Petherton Community Flood Group spoke in support of their two grant applications to enable them to submit a pre-planning application to Somerset Council to seek approval to redesign the road and bridge in Silver Street and to de-silt North Mills Brook.

A local resident requested permission to erect poppies and soldier silhouettes on Parish Council controlled land during the Remembrance Day period.

A local resident noted that the flower planters at the entrance to the car park in St James Street had been dislodged by vehicles and needed attention.

Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Jo Roundell-Greene also spoke in support of the South Petherton Community Flood Group grant applications. She advised that the new Somerset Local Plan was under construction and public consultation on it would take place, Somerset Council were hoping to build new social housing in the area, the Get Somerset Working plan was a new government initiative to assist young people and those out of work for a long time into work and Yeovil had been removed from the Air Quality Management list as the quality of the air in the area had improved.

Cllr Adam Dance advised that there was currently a car parking consultation under way in Yeovil and he had attended a meeting regarding the refurbishment of the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil. He reported that the Yeovil District Hospital Maternity Unit was due to re-open shortly.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 6th October 2025** when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors S Carp, B Chitty, A Dance, R Killen, T New, D Steel, B Swainson, and N Wakely (Chairman) together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
10 members of the public were in attendance.

10.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Baker, R Brown and S Spiers. Cllr D Hodson-Wright was absent.

10.2 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

10.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025

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

10.4 To consider and approve a reason for non attendance under the LGA 1972 for Cllr Brown for a period of three months due to personal circumstances

The Chairman and Councillors voiced their support to allow a dispensation to Cllr R Brown for a period of 3 months. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.

10.5 Council Co-Option to fill vacancies

Two members of the public put themselves forward to be co-opted with application forms. Being duly proposed and seconded, Mr Grant Richards and Mr Nicholas Balfe received a unanimous vote, signed and stated their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their places on the Council.

10.6 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman noted the 3 Councillors that previously resigned: L Baker, C Bragg and K Jones. He said that he had personally thanked each of them for their service on the Parish Council and reiterated these thanks publically.

10.7 Update report from South Petherton Youth work - Reach

The Therapeutic Mental Health Lead and the Youth & Community Lead of REACH Alternative Education SW Ltd gave a short presentation on their work with the youth in the area.

The Chairman and Councillors thanked the two Reach officers for presentation to council and their work in the community.

10.8 Items for debate and potential decision that may require action

- A) Parish grass maintenance contract. Current contract ending 28.2.2026
The Clerk advised the contract now clarified current areas of concern around the outskirts of the recreation ground and details of insurance. Section 106 funding was available for pitch maintenance at the recreation ground and this could be used to purchase a mowing machine for this area. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.
- B) Report on allotment invoices
The Deputy Clerk reported that 90% of the allotment invoices had been paid. Report noted.
- C) Request from Yeovil Town Council for possible grant funds
Following a short debate it was proposed that a representative of Yeovil Town Council be invited to speak at Public Question Time at a future Parish Council meeting to explain their request for grant funding. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.
- D) 2025 and 2026 carnival and fair
The Chairman noted concern that the fair had accessed the recreation ground without the permission of the Parish Council in an unfortunate way. The cost of repairing the football pitch following the carnival and fair had been £900. Following discussion Cllr Swainson agreed to be the Parish Council contact with the Carnival Committee and it was agreed that discussion should take place regarding a Traffic Management Plan, a refuse plan and agree the siting of further additional toilet provision for future Carnivals. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.
- E) Lightgate Lane requested access for planning
Council resolved to discuss the item in public session and not to discuss any financial element of the proposal. Following a lengthy discussion, Council resolved that the proposal for access was not in accord with the Parish Council's expectations and unless the developer agreed to their previous proposal to appoint an independent land agent of the Council's choice to value the land at the developer's expense, the Parish Council would no longer engage in communication with them on the issue. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
- F) Inno House, Prigg Lane
Council resolved that they had no interest in purchasing Inno House, Prigg Lane at the current time for the price it was currently offered. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0
- At this point in the meeting, it being 9.30pm, the Parish Council resolved to suspend Standing Order 3x (a meeting shall not exceed a period of two 2 hours) and continue with the remaining business. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.**
- G) Grant applications from community flood group for use of flood budget
Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

10.9 Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a) Items of expenditure and payments list. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.
- b) To note CCS (now Thrive) information on VAT registration and historic VAT on invoices. Noted
- c) To note, discuss and instruct on draft budget v2.
The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee outlined the projects proposed within the 2026/27 budget. Proposed and seconded, 10-0-0.
- d) All bank reconciliations for August 2025. Noted.

10.10 Note last Planning meeting minutes agreed by Planning Committee

a) Council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1st September 2025

10.11 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

- (a) Cllr Wakely expressed his pleasure at the works to the turning circle and chapel roofs refurbishment at the cemetery.
- (b) Cllr Steel advised that the Library agreement with Somerset Council was expected to be signed following a Library Group meeting on 15 October.
- (c) Cllr Carp advised that the Blake Hall Committee had met and discussed the lease with the Sports and Social Club and they would take this forward.
- (d) Cllr Carp noted that there had been no increase in rent from the Tennis Club in 8 years and he asked that this be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

10.12 Other matters referred to Officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- The full application had been submitted to Somerset Council for the Section 106 funds for the pavilion changing rooms.
- Section 106 commuted sums for pitch maintenance at the recreation ground had been received. The Football and Cricket Clubs wished to purchase a multi use machine for pitch maintenance.
- The Bowling Club lease had finally been registered. Land registry of the recreation ground was still ongoing as was the Youth building lease.
- Christmas trees had been confirmed with the usual festive volunteers for the village.
- The Clerk will submit two TA13 articles on the refurbished turning circle and chapels at the Cemetery.
- Blake Hall, the Sports and Social Club lavatory facilities had been repaired and the Parish Council would pay one third of the cost.
- Cllr Killen and the Clerk had attended the Somerset Parishes conference.

10.13 Date of next meeting – Monday 3rd November 2025 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed:

Dated: