



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

The Clerk to Yeovil Town Council spoke in support of their request for a grant towards the refurbishment of the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil. The Chairman of SP Folk Festival thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the festival for their grant contribution and offered to answer any questions on the follow up report provided from the festival. The Village Agent gave a short report on the work within the community including the well attended Talking Café. The Chairman of the Mere Lynches Trust asked that a Cllr consider supporting them as the previous Councillor representative had stepped down, and informed Council that the Christmas lights were being put up w/c 24th November and the Christmas trees were going up same week.

Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Jo Roundell-Greene advised there was a lot of information in her report which would be sent. Jo mentioned about the SEND protests which were happening frequently outside County Hall. Somerset Council had asked Government for more money for the service. Somerset Council was currently working on its budget.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 3rd November 2025** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Balfe, S Carp, D Hodson-Wright, R Killen, T New, G Richards, S Spiers, D Steel, B Swainson, and N Wakely (Chairman) together with the Parish Clerk.
8 members of the public were in attendance.

11.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Baker. Cllr A Dance was absent.

It was noted that Cllr R Brown had a dispensation from attending Parish Council meetings.

11.2 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

11.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2025

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0.

11.4 Councillor Co-option

A member of the public put themselves forward to be co-opted with an application form. Being duly proposed and seconded, Mrs Stephanie Gold received a unanimous vote, signed and stated her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her place on the Council. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0.

11.5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked the volunteers who had put the poppy display up for Remembrance Day for the community.

11.6 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 minor amendments following Cllr Richards suggestions. Final version to be posted online. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0.
- (b) Parish Council budget for 2026/27 and precept draft v3
The Clerk and Chairman of the Finance Committee outlined the detail of the budget. Cllrs engaged by raising further ideas and consideration was asked to be given to the car park wall. The draft budget was agreed. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0
- (c) St James's Street car-park turning entrance planters
Council debated and resolved that Cllr Spiers will approach the Co-op to engage their CCTV to ascertain if the continual knocking (and therefore subsequent repeated repairing by the PC) of the planters would justify their removal in future. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0.
- (d) Appointment of new Councillors to Committees
Cllr G Richards appointed to Planning Committee

Cllr N Balfe and Cllr S Gold appointed to the Finance Committee

Proposed and seconded 11-0-0

- (e) Increase in Clerk's scale point level and pay by one scale point after completing CiLCA as per Clerk's contract from 1st November (completed 15th October 2025)
The Chairman congratulated the Clerk on achieving her qualification. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0.
- (f) Annual Play Inspection 2026
Proposed and seconded 11-0-0
- (g) Land at Lightgate Lane
A thorough debate about how the land was left to the Parish Council and prior to instructing a Land Agent, it was resolved that Cllr S Carp and Cllr B Swainson would investigate further and consider the legalities of land ownership. Proposed and seconded 10-0-1.

11.7 Finance & General Purposes Committee:

- (a) Items of expenditure and approve the payments list. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0.
- (b) VAT Q2 submission. Noted
- (c) Q2 income, spending, reserves and VAT claim figures to end 30th Sept 2025. Noted.
- (d) September 2025 all banks reconciliation. Noted.
- (e) Report from the Folk Festival in response to the grant received from the Parish Council. Noted. Council commented positively on the report.

11.8 Planning meeting minutes agreed by Planning Committee

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 6th October 2025

11.9 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr Spiers suggested some investigative work could be done around the use of CCTV in the centre of the village, costings, GDPR implications, monitoring etc.

Cllr Steel advised that the Flood Group report had been circulated, highlighted the Flood Café and noted frustration at the PPG and in future would like to see more representation.

Cllr Carp noted that he requested rent reviews where possible on all Council rentals. The Clerk apologised that this work had not been completed but would be added to the Finance Committee Agenda for December 2025.

Cllr Gold advised the refurbishment works for the changing facilities at the Pavillion were due to start in January 2026.

11.10 Other matters referred to Officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- Land registry of the recreation ground was completed. The Youth building lease was also completed and awaiting land registry documents and a paper copy for Chairman to sign.
- The full Section 106 claim had been submitted and granted for changing facilities at the Pavilion.
- Further CIL funds had been claimed and would be used from earmarked reserves to pay the final chapel roof invoices as this needed to be spent within 5 years.
- A grant of £2,500 had been received from the Community Council for Somerset to contribute towards heating the Library as a designated 'warm space' during the winter months.
- Somerset Council had issued a Planning update however the information was more relevant to architects, private applicants and agents.
- An application had been submitted to the British Heart Foundation for a free defibrillator in Over Stratton.
- The Clerk and Deputy Clerk had attended an LCN engagement consultation exercise in Ilminster.

11.11 Date of next meeting – 7.30 pm on Monday 1st December 2025 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:

Dated: