



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

A local resident spoke on the removal of the Parish Council's poppy wreath from the war memorial at the church and the Clerk responded.

Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Jo Roundell-Greene advised that Somerset Council were receiving extra help for Adult Social Care through extension of the Adult Support Fund, the Government would be taking responsibility for the Special Educational Needs (SEN) children from 2028, 6 SEN units had opened in primary schools and another 7 were due to open by Easter 2026, the Council Tax increase for 2026/27 would be capped at 4.99%, the National Living Wage was increasing but this was impacting small businesses, Parish Council's may be asked to take on more responsibilities in the future, and, charging for parking in Somerset Council owned car parks on Sundays was still under discussion.

Cllr Adam Dance advised that in his MP capacity he had held a very successful business forum meeting that morning with over 50 businesses attending and raising diverse issues. He advised that a new NHS dental surgery had opened in Chard and another was due to open in Crewkerne very soon. He commended the work of the South Petherton Community Flood Group and suggested that a good news article be sent to local newspapers.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 1st December 2025** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Balfe, A Dance (to 8.05pm), S Gold, R Killen, T New (Chairman), G Richards, D Steel and B Swainson together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
1 member of the public.

12.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Baker, S Carp, D Hodson-Wright, S Spiers, N Wakely. It was noted that Cllr R Brown had a dispensation from attending Parish Council meetings.

12.2 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

12.3 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 8-0-0.

12.4 Councillor Co-option

The Chairman advised that there remained a Cllr vacancy on Parish Council and he urged Council members to seek candidates from the community and refer them to the Clerk for information about the role.

12.5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked the members of the South Petherton Community Flood Group who had recently undertaken clearance work in Hele Lane and vegetation from North Brook. He suggested that an article in the TA13 magazine and local newspapers to highlight their work was appropriate. The Chairman also thanked the volunteers who had helped with the erection of the Christmas lights in the village.

12.6 Finance & General Purposes Committee

- A) The Chairman of the Finance Committee advised that they had discussed a grant to Yeovil Town Council for the Octagon Theatre project, additions to the Remembrance poppy display for 2026, the Council's budget and precept for 2026/27, possible increases to tenants rent (deferred), and moving funds to the CCLA account to increase the Parish Council's investment income. Report noted.
- B) The payments list for November 2025 was noted with one additional payment to be added for the erection of the Christmas lights in the village. This would be recorded in the January 2026 payments list. Noted and agreed.

12.7 Items for debate and potential decision that may require action

- A) Following update from Finance Committee, adopt the Parish Council budget for 2026/27 financial year. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
- B) Agree the Parish Council precept of £379,210 to submit to Somerset Council in January 2026 for 2026/2027. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
- C) Address Litter/dog bins quote from Somerset Council
It was proposed that the Ranger take responsibility for emptying the litter bins at the recreation ground and Somerset Council be asked to empty the two litter bins in St James's Street car park. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

12.8 Planning Committee

Council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 3rd November 2025.

12.9 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr Swainson provided information he had sought regarding the request for access across Lightgate Lane recreation ground by a developer. Councillors discussed the information at some length.

Cllr Richards advised that he had met with the Chairman of the Allotment Society and he would follow up some points raised with the Clerk.

Cllr Killen advised that he had attended a Mere Lynches meeting.

Cllr Steel advised that the Community Library agreement had been signed and footfall had increased with use by the village agent, groups and Flood Group Café. The Community Flood Group had applied for permits to de-silt the brook.

Cllr Swainson advised that he had met with representatives of the Carnival Committee and they were compiling a list of issues to discuss.

12.10 Other matters referred to officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- The Deputy Clerk had obtained the CiLCA qualification in under four months.
- The backdated VAT for the Village Agent project of £18,000 had been reclaimed from HMRC.
- Cllr G Richards had agreed to be the Whitfield Lane Allotments representative.
- She had contacted Highway and conservation officers at South West Heritage regarding repairs to St James's Street car park wall/road options. This would involve the closure of Prigg Lane to traffic during the period of the works at the Parish Council's expense.

12.11 Date of next meeting – Monday 5th January 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.

Meeting closed at 8.36pm

Signed:

Dated: