



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

A local resident spoke regarding the Christmas decorations in the village and asked for volunteers to help put them up and take them down in the future.

Somerset Council Councillors

There were no Somerset Councillors in attendance.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 5th January 2026** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakey (Chairman), N Balfe, R Brown, S Carp, R Killen, T New, G Richards, S Spiers, D Steel and B Swainson together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
3 members of the public.

01.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Baker, A Dance, D Hodson-Wright and S Gold.

01.2 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

01.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025

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

01.4 Councillor Co-option

A member of the public put themselves forward to be co-opted with an application form. Being duly proposed and seconded, Mr Sam Jones received a unanimous vote, signed and stated his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place on the Council.

01.5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked the team of volunteers who had helped with the Christmas decorations in the village. The Chairman noted the large funeral which had taken place recently, the large number of floral decorations on surrounding memorials and the surveillance taking place. He felt the Parish Council should be mindful of this and noted the disappointing conduct.

01.6 Items for debate and decision that may require action:

A) Yellow lining in Prigg Lane Car Park

The Chairman briefly suspended the meeting to hear from a local resident who advised that the Co-op supermarket were responsible for the 1m strip of land in the car park. On resuming the meeting, it was agreed to ask the Co-op supermarket for a contribution towards the re-lining in this area. It was agreed to ask the two companies who had submitted quotes for the re-lining to provide a guarantee on the expected length of wear and the type of produce used. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0

B) Grass maintenance contract for 3 years

Following a lengthy debate it was proposed to accept Tender 3 but remove the maintenance of the Whitfield meadow and the additional cuts at the cricket field at Lightgate Lane. Maintenance of the meadow to be agreed at a future meeting. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0

C) Review of rental agreements

Following discussion it was proposed that the Council's rental agreements be reviewed annually to achieve a fair and acceptable cost to all parties. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0

D) Adoption of SPPC IT policy to comply with assertion 10

Proposed and seconded 11-0-0

E) Draft Action Plan for SPPC

The Draft Action Plan was agreed with the additional ideas of potential works to the War Memorial steps, a Parish Resilience Plan, Councillor ownership for each project and a quarterly review of the Plan. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0

01.7 Finance and General Purposes Committee

- A) To agree the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1st December 2025. Proposed and seconded 11-0-0
- B) Payments list, Receipt list & all banks reconciliation of November 2025. Noted.
- C) Cllr Balfe stepped down from the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Noted.
- D) Unity Bank and Biffa Waste Collection notification of new charges. Noted.

01.8 Planning Committee

Council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1st December 2025.

01.9 Items for noting

The Local Boundary Commission for England consultation was extended until 14 January 2026.

01.10 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Clerk advised that funding had been set aside for the re-building of the Prigg Lane car park wall in the 26/27 budget although it could be a 2 – 3 year ongoing project. It was noted that visitors to the Cemetery should be respectful of other graves and it was not acceptable to drive across the grass.

It was noted that Somerset Council only gritted the road from South Petherton roundabout to the Community Hospital. No other roads or footpaths were gritted.

Cllr Brown felt it would be useful to know the locations of the Parish Council grit bins and to ask the Council Ranger to re-fill them.

Cllr Carp reported that grass and moss was growing through some of the paths at the recreation ground. The Clerk agreed to notify the grass maintenance team.

12.10 Other matters referred to officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- The VAT claim of £23,134.29 had been received from HMRC.
- Agreement in principle had been received for further Section 106 funds.
- Work on the new changing rooms at the Sports Pavillion had commenced.
- A Level 3 Business Management Student would be joining the Parish Clerk on Friday's for work experience.
- In response to a Cllr question, the receipt of the Parish Council precept in two separate payments in April and September should not affect the Council's cash flow.

12.11 Date of next meeting – Monday 2nd February 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm

Signed:

Dated: