



# SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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## Public Session

A member of Reach Alternative Education, who provide the Youth Service in South Petherton spoke in support of their grant application to support 10 students and 4 staff to travel to Thailand for a cultural and voluntary experience. She answered Councillors questions on points of detail.

A representative of the South Petherton Folk Festival spoke in support of their grant application.

A representative of the Community Shed thanked the Parish Council for refurbishing the two chapels at the South Petherton Cemetery and asked them to reconsider their decision on the positioning of a new defibrillator at the site.

A representative of the TWiG group asked that the mowing of the wildflower meadow at Whitfield Lane be continued by the Parish Council in August 2026. The Chairman responded that he would ask an agronomist to check the variety of wild flowers at the meadow and members of the TWiG group welcome in that visit.

## Somerset Council Councillors

Councillor Jo Roundell-Greene thanked members of the South Petherton Community Flood Group for their work during the recent heavy rainfall. She advised that she had met with National Highways representatives regarding clearing silt from the A303 attenuation ponds and she was expecting a report from that meeting. In response to a question, she confirmed that Education, Health and Care Plans for children were taking longer to prepare than the expected 20 weeks but they were a statutory service of the Council and children would continue to be looked after.

## The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026** at 7.35pm when the following business was conducted.

**PRESENT** Councillors N Wakey (Chairman), N Balfe, A Baker (to 8.10pm), R Brown, S Carp, S Gold, S Jones, R Killen, T New, and B Swainson together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.  
22 members of the public.

### 02.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Dance, D Hodson-Wright, G Richards, S Spiers and D Steel.

### 02.2 To receive any declarations of interest

Councillors R Killen and N Balfe declared non-registerable Interests in Agenda item 02.5 (b): grant application from South Petherton Folk Festival and did not vote on this item.

### 02.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0.

### 02.4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked the South Petherton Library, Pavillion and Mr Kinsman (footpath representative) for their recent articles in the TA13 magazine. He also thanked the South Petherton Community Flood Group for their work, noting that no properties had been flooded during the recent heavy rainfall.

### 02.5 Items for debate and decision that may require action:

- A) To agree for Clerks to undertake Principles of Internal Auditing for Local Councils (PIALC) training/qualification. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0
- B) Grant application from South Petherton Folk Festival. Proposed and seconded 7-0-2
- C) To confirm current Internal Auditor 3 year projected costs as per quote. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0
- D) To complete the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Community Plan survey on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr R Brown agreed to complete on behalf of the Parish Council. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0
- E) To agree and accept the Somerset Council quarterly play inspections quote. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

F) Grant application from Reach for student Thailand trip. Proposed and seconded 7-2-0

#### **02.6 Items and reports to note:**

- A) Somerset Council quarterly play inspection report. Noted
- B) Village Agent case study and report. Noted
- C) SID report from siting in West Street December 2025. Noted
- D) South Petherton Community Flood Group report. Noted
- E) Citizens Advice report - LCN area Ilminster & Crewkerne (of which South Petherton is part of). Noted

#### **02.7 Finance and General Purposes Committee**

- A) Items of expenditure noted and the payments list approved.
- B) December 2025 all banks reconciliation and December 2025 receipts report. Noted

#### **02.8 Planning Committee**

Council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### **02.9 To receive any additional reports from Councillors**

Cllr Swainson noted the damage done by National Grid to an area of land at Whitfield Allotments which the Clerk confirmed they were due to rectify. He noted a loose handrail on a footpath and potholes in Silver Street (reported by Deputy Clerk to Somerset Council).

Cllr Killen reported that the Symphony project to join the local GP Surgeries had been postponed for 12 months.

#### **02.10 Other matters referred to officers**

The Clerk updated Council on:

- Section 106 funding secured to purchase a digital scoreboard for the recreation ground, including costs for ongoing maintenance.
- The Pavilion changing rooms were almost completed and commuted sums were secured and used for maintenance of project to refurbish the ladies lavatories to complete project overall.
- The St James Street car park re-lining was now being undertaken by Co-op supermarket following persuasive correspondence with their regional maintenance manager.
- The December VAT reclaim had been applied for and received. This would return to a quarterly claim unless a significant VAT re-claim was received.
- A new Dance Group had booked the Blake Hall every Monday until 6.15pm. Cllrs assistance would be needed to set up the room for the Finance and Planning Committees to be ready by 6.30pm.
- 2026/27 financial year projects. Cllr Richards had agreed to take lead on recreation ground car park project. Clerks to lead on the cemetery markers and Over Stratton Defibrillator. Requested that Cllr B Swainson take lead on St James Street car park wall/planters.

#### **02.11 Exempt session – Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Parish Council resolved that under Section 1, paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Reason: Information relating to any individual.

**HR matters.** Council resolved to increase the Parish Council pension contributions for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to 20% from February 2026.

#### **02.12 Date of next meeting – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.**

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

**Signed:**

**Dated:**