



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

The Director of Reach Youth Sevices introduced 4 local young people who had volunteered to start a Youth Council in South Petherton. He asked that it be publicised widely to encourage other young people to join. Four representatives of the TWIG Group spoke of their work in the community, their aspiration to develop a community space at Whitfield Lane, the positive mental health effect of flowering meadows and the Somerset Council Nature Recovery Strategy.

The tenant of the land at Whitfield Lane spoke of his wish to continue to farm the agricultural land.

The Chairman of Long Sutton Parish Council spoke regarding the diverse ways in which the Parish Council supported their local environment group.

The Chairman of the South Petherton Community Flood Group spoke in support of their grant application for PPE equipment for the volunteer flood wardens.

Somerset Council Councillors

Councillor Jo Roundell-Greene provided a brief update of news from Somerset Council. See full report on <https://southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk/publications/county-council-reports/>

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 2nd March 2026** at 7.55pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakey (Chairman), A Baker, S Carp, S Gold, D Hodson-Wright, R Killen, T New, G Richards, S Spiers and B Swainson together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
37 members of the public.

03.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from N Balfe, R Brown, S Jones and D Steel. Cllr A Dance was absent.

03.2 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr Gold advised that the Chair of the Carnival Committee was a close family member.

Cllr Swainson advised that he attended the Carnival club Committee meetings.

03.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026

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

03.4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that the annual staff appraisals had taken place with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, the Mike Saint Pavillion changing rooms were now complete, and he thanked the resident at the top of Knapp Hill who had removed a hedge which improved visibility at the roundabout.

03.5 Items for debate and decision that may require action:

- a) Parochial Church Council (PCC) Quinquennial report
Proposed that the works listed within the report be completed within the timescales. Any additional expenditure to carry out the work to be subject to prior approval by Council. Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
- b) Agronomist report on Whitfield Meadow
Proposed that both an Agronomist and a local botanist view the Whitfield Meadow and provide reports for the Council to make an informed decision on the flower content of the meadow.
Proposed and seconded. 9-1-0
- c) Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) on Whitfield Lane field ending September 2027 (12 months notice required September 2026)

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would have to give the current tenant 12 months notice if any changes were to be proposed to the new tenancy from September 2027. During discussion, the meeting was briefly suspended to hear from the current tenant. It was noted that the item would be considered again at the June or July 2026 Parish Council meeting.

- d) Quote for Blake Hall flower troughs for South Petherton in Bloom 2026
Following a brief discussion, it was proposed that the Clerk seek three quotes for the filling of the troughs for transparency. Proposed and seconded. 9-1-0
- e) Grant applications:
South Petherton Carnival Committee – Grant requested £1,140
Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
South Petherton Community Flood Group – Grant requested £686.16
Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0

03.6 Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a) Items of expenditure and the payments list. Noted.
b) January 2026 all banks reconcillation and January receipts list. Noted
c) Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee December 2025 and meeting report. Noted.

03.7 Planning Committee

Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 2nd February 2026 and meeting report. Noted.

03.8 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr Richards reported that he had met with the Chairman of the Allotment Society regarding parking at the allotments. He was also actively seeking updated quotes for the fencing of the Lightgate Lane car park which would be presented to the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Swainson reported that he had received a request from the South Petherton Carnival Committee to allow the use of the whole car parking area at Lightgate Lane on carnival day. Request to be included as a future Agenda item.

Cllr Killen reported that the new librarian had started work that week in the South Petherton Library

03.9 Other matters referred to officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- The Annual Parish Meeting in April would take place on Monday 30th March due to Bank Holidays. Community Groups had been invited to attend.
- A VAT refund of £17,933.20 had been submitted to HMRC for February 2026.
- The Parish Council had paid for the Flood Group permit from the Environment Agency (EA) as per their grant request confirmed in October 2025. The Parish Council and the Flood Group would press the EA along with other responsible bodies such as Somerset Council and National Highways to undertake their responsibilities themselves.
- Commuted sums for pavilion funds and the remaining changing rooms payments had been received back to the Parish Council.
- The light on a sensor near the Pre-School at Lightgate Lane recreation ground had been repaired.
- 280 burial records had now been entered onto the new digital Cemetery software.

03.10 Date of next meeting – Monday 30th March 2026 (Annual Parish Council Meeting at 6.00pm) at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed:

Dated: