



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

Unit One, Frogmary Green Farm, West Street, South Petherton TA13 5DJ

Tel: 01460 241002 E-Mail: clerk@southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Public Session

Three representatives of the TWIG Group spoke of their proposal to develop a community space at Whitfield Lane, the positive mental health effect of green spaces, the funding achieved so far, the generational education, and the beneficial elements of biodiversity and physical and mental well-being.

A representative of the South Petherton Community Flood Group said the land at Whitfield meadow did not need to be taken out of food/farm production and the Parish Council could require some responsible measures through the Farm Business Tenancy to maintain a good soil structure and reduce flood impact.

Somerset Council Councillors

Prior to the start of the meeting, Councillor Adam Dance provided a brief update of news from Somerset Council and in his role as local MP.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 30th March 2026** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakey (Chairman), A Baker, S Carp, A Dance (to 7.45pm), S Gold (to 7.40pm), D Hodson-Wright, S Jones, R Killen, T New, G Richards, S Spiers and B Swainson together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk. 14 members of the public.

04.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Steel. Cllrs N Balfe and R Brown were absent.

04.2 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr Swainson advised that his wife was a member of the TWiG group.

04.3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 12-0-0.

04.4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that the South Petherton Scout Group were looking for a new Parish Council representative.

04.5 Items for debate and decision that may require action:

- a) Clerks final scale point increase (37) as per contract from 1st April 2026. Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
- b) Council insurance renewal of £11,361.84 in line with its three year commitment. Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
- c) Preferred contractor for recreation ground fencing as per 26/27 budget projects
Councillors expressed concern at the cost disparity in the 3 quotes and asked for clarification that the proposed fencing would be the same quality. They requested a small area of fence between pre-school and the pavilion be included in the quote. It was proposed and seconded the item be deferred for clarification on the fencing and additional area to be included. Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
- d) Preferred contractor for Prigg Lane car park wall and barrier
Cllr Swainson outlined the details of the 3 quotes to repair the wall and erect a barrier and it was proposed and seconded to accept quote C at £29,892 inc VAT. 10-0-0
- e) Recreation ground car park restrictions request from South Petherton Carnival
Following a brief discussion it was proposed and seconded to allow the South Petherton Carnival committee to marshal the use of the Lightgate Lane recreation ground car park on the day of the South Petherton Carnival on Saturday 12 September 2026. This request is to be reviewed annually and the Carnival Committee to advise the other recreation ground club users of this decision. 10-0-0
- f) Sponsorship banners on cricket nets for cricket season
Cllr Richards advised there would only be 4 banners on the cricket nets facing the playing pitch from May until August. It was proposed and seconded to allow the sponsorship banners and the decision be reviewed annually to be mindful of any complaints received. 10-0-0

- g) Biodiversity Policy and Plan
Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
- h) Library utilities as per report
Proposed and seconded to continue with EDF Energy as the gas and electric supplier on variable direct debit. 10-0-0
- i) TWiG proposal for change of use of Whitfield agricultural field (circa 3 acres) to be managed by TWiG
Following a lengthy discussion by Councillors on the issues and merits of the proposal, it was proposed and seconded to accept the TWiG proposal in principle, on the understanding that Councillors concerns regarding the proposal were answered satisfactorily by TWiG. Voting 4.5.0. – therefore the proposal was lost. It was then proposed and seconded that members of the TWiG group meet the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to discuss other ways to progress their ideas for Whitfield Meadow, or alternative sites possibly available. Voting 5.4.0 – Agreed (Cllr Baker left the room during the debate and so did not take part in the vote on this item).

04.6 Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a) Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd March 2026 and meeting report.
Proposed and seconded. 10-0-0
- b) Items of expenditure and the payments list. Noted.
- c) February 2026 receipts list and all banks reconciliation. Noted.

04.7 Planning Committee

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

04.8 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr Killen reported that the Flood Group had submitted a grant request to Somerset Prepared to purchase equipment for use by the Flood Wardens. He also reported the South Petherton Community Library had appointed a new librarian and there were some maintenance issues with the Library building which may result in a request for financial help from the Parish Council. The South Petherton doctor surgery was due to join with the Crewkerne surgery under the Symphony Project and they would be using the Ask my GP software. The Village Agent had held a very well attended Dementia Awareness Event at St Peter's and St Paul's Church on 18 March 2026.

Cllr Carp asked for a pay and play advert for the South Petherton Tennis Club be included on the parish noticeboards.

Cllr Hodson-Wright advised that the Community Land Trust (CLT) AGM would be held on Tuesday 16 June at 7.00pm in the Library.

The report of the Flood Group and Speed Indicator Device (SID) were noted.

04.9 Other matters referred to officers

The Clerk updated Council on:

- The storage container at Yeabridge Farm had been emptied and notice given and accepted.
- Both Clerks had completed and passed the PIALC (Internal Audit) qualification.
- The tenant rent reviews were ongoing.
- The financial year end work had started, the Internal Auditor was booked for April and the AGAR would be dealt with at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May.
- The official opening of the Mike Saint pavilion changing rooms would take place on Easter Sunday at 11.00am.

04.10 Date of next meeting – Wednesday 13th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm) at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton.

Meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed:

Dated: