



SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office

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Public Session

The Chairman of the South Petherton Local History group advised that they established in 1976 and were celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2026 with two founding members still regularly attending. Their annual meeting would be held at 7.30pm on 28th May 2026 in the David Hall, South Petherton. He also outlined the various local projects they had completed and those which they were currently working on.

Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Steve Ashton of Somerset Council 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 the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on Wednesday 13th May 2026 when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors S Carp, D Hodson-Wright, R Killen, T New, G Richards, S Spiers and N Wakely together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
6 members of the public were in attendance.

5.1 To elect a Chairman & receive the signing of Statutory Declaration of Office for the Chairman

Cllr Wakely was nominated by Cllr New, seconded by Cllr Richards, voting: 6-0-0.

Cllr Wakely accepted and signed and made his Statutory Declaration of Office.

5.2 To elect a Vice Chair

Cllr New was nominated by Cllr Wakely, seconded by Cllr Killen, all in favour 6-0-0.

Cllr New accepted,

5.3 To receive any apologies for non attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Dance, S Gold, S Jones, B Swainson & D Steel. Cllrs A Baker, N Balfe and R Brown were absent.

5.4 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

5.5 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting and to receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting decisions held on Monday 30th March 2026

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 7-0-0.

5.6 To review and adopt appropriate standing orders (including the terms of reference for committees) and the financial regulations.

Resolved to adopt

All in favour 7-0-0

5.7 To appoint members to existing committees:

- a) Planning – Cllrs A Baker, Carp, Hodson-Wright, New, Swainson, Richards, Wakely
- b) Finance & General Purposes – Cllrs Killen, R Brown, Carp, Dance, Gold, Jones, New, Wakely

5.8 To appoint representatives to the following areas of Parish responsibility:

- a) Allotments, Whitfield Lane Meadow & Mere Lynchs Cllrs G Richards & R Killen
- b) Cemetery & Chapels Cllr N Wakely
- c) Footpaths & Bridleways PPLO Mr N Kinsman & Cllr N Wakely
- d) TWIG Cllr D Hodson-Wright
- e) Highways, Car Parks, Roads & Transport Cllr B Swainson
- f) Recreation Ground/SPRUG Liasion Cllrs T New, S Carp & S Gold
- g) TA13 publication Cllr S Spiers
- h) The William Blake Memorial Hall Cllrs S Carp & A Baker
- i) Community Land Trust (CLT) Cllrs D Hodson-Wright & B Swainson
- j) Library & LIC Cllrs S Carp, R Killen & D Steel

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| k) Youth Provision | Cllrs T New & D Steel |
| l) Patient Participation Group – PPG | Cllr R Killen |
| m) Local Community Network (LCN) | Cllrs S Gold & R Killen |
| n) Community Flood Group | Cllrs B Swainson, S Carp & S Spiers |
| o) Village Agent | Cllrs D Steel & R Killen |

5.9 Review of the Council’s policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21); and to re-adopt the Parish Council’s Publication Scheme and confirm the Parish Council’s Qualified Person under Section 36 of The Freedom of Information Act 2000

Reviewed and readopted. All in favour 7-0-0

5.10 Approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2027 which includes the APM and AMPC

Resolved to accept dates and times. All in favour 7-0-0

5.11 To review and adopt the Council’s Code of Conduct

Reviewed and adopted. Voting: 7-0-0

5.12 To review and adopt the Council’s Investment Strategy and Reserves Policy

Reviewed and adopted. Voting: 7-0-0

5.13 To review and adopt the Council’s Risk Register

Reviewed and adopted. Voting: 7-0-0

5.14 To review and adopt the Council’s Asset Register including verifying physical existence of items

Reviewed, verified and adopted. Voting: 7-0-0

5.15 To review and adopt all other Councils policies and procedures not listed as separate items including IT policy, GDPR training slides, Grants policy etc

Reviewed and adopted. Voting: 7-0-0

5.16 To re-appoint the Clerk as the Council’s Responsible Financial Officer

Resolved to re-appoint. All in favour 7-0-0

5.17 To note General Power of Competence for South Petherton Parish Council as it meets the criteria for eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI965 The Parish Council’s (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

Noted and agreed.

5.18 To approve Council’s subscriptions to outside bodies

Reviewed and adopted. Voting: 7-0-0

5.19 To approve the Council’s Bank Mandates – in all cases the Clerk is the administrator with 2 out of at least 3 (and more if appropriate – currently 4) Councillors registered to sign/authorise.

- (a) **Unity Trust** Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chair of Planning and Finance and General Purposes
- (b) **NatWest** Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chair of Planning and Finance and General Purposes
- (c) **CCLA** Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chair of Planning and Finance and General Purposes

Reviewed and approved. All in favour 10-0-0

5.20 To receive and approve the report of the Internal Auditor and note recommendations raised and receive and approve the AGAR.

The Parish Council formally approved the internally audited accounts for 2025/26 and the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2026;

Section 1: to approve the Annual Governance Statements.

Section 2: to approve the Accounting Statements.

The Parish Council authorised the signing of the Annual Return, announced and noted that the period of elector’s rights would commence on Wednesday 03 June 2026 and finish on Tuesday 14 July 2026, and noted that public notifications would be placed on Parish Council noticeboard and website.

The Clerk read out the 9 recommendations of the Internal Auditor and explained how these were being addressed. The clerk read out the governance statements and confirmed that all the relevant documents would be placed on Council noticeboard and Council’s website. Reviewed, signed and agreed. All in favour 7-0-0

5.21 To confirm the receipt of all Register of Interests forms

Reviewed and adopted. All in favour 7-0-0

5.22 Finance & General Purposes Committee

The items of expenditure and payments list, the March & April all banks reconciliation and receipt lists were noted and approved. All in favour 7-0-0

5.23 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr S Carp advised the current chairman of the William Blake Hall Trust had resigned however another member of the Blake family would now take their place.

Cllr R Killen advised that he had attended a meeting of the Patients Participation Group and on 9th June 2026 the South Petherton & Martock surgeries would merge with the Crewkerne surgery so residents could book appointments there. He confirmed all of the GPs were now permanent appointments.

Cllr R Killen expressed his dismay regarding the delay to the Flood Group application to the Environment Agency to de-silt North Brook and he said the application may be withdrawn. The grant application for flood warden equipment was still ongoing.

Cllr D Hodson-Wright noted that the Community Land Trust (CLT) AGM would take place on 16th June at 7.00pm.

Cllr D Hodson-Wright reminded all that the TWiG group were holding a Plant and Eco Fair on Saturday 16th May from 2.00pm in St Peter & St Paul's Church, South Petherton.

Cllr G Richards asked if a traffic incidence reported at the Whitfield Lane allotments had been passed to the relevant authorities. The Clerk confirmed this had been done.

Cllr N Wakely asked that an item be placed on the Council agenda in July 2026 to discuss CCTV placed in the South Petherton Cemetery, contrary to the rules and regulation of the Cemetery.

5.24 Other matters referred to officers

The Clerk advised that the decision regarding repairs to the car park wall in Prigg Lane would need to be reviewed as a full road-closure would now be necessary for the work to take place. Advised that the lease between the Blake Hall and the social club would be presented to the next Parish Council meeting in June 2026. The village hanging baskets had been filled by Reach, the Blake Hall plant troughs had been filled by TWiG with assistance from various community groups and a defibrillator had been installed in one of the Cemetery chapels.

5.25 Date of next meeting – Monday 1st June 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed:

Dated: