SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office
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Public Session
The Section Team Leader for the 2nd South Petherton Scout Group spoke regarding the improvement works underway at the scout hut and in support of their grant application for a storage container.

Somerset Council Councillors
Councillors Steve Ashton and Mike Stanton provided a brief update of news from Somerset Council, including a £50m Government grant to alleviate flooding in Somerset.

The Minutes
Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 6th July 2026** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakely (Chairman), S Carp, D Hodson-Wright, S Jones, R Killen, T New, G Richards together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
15 members of the public present.

07.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Baker, A Dance, S Gold, D Steel, S Spiers and B Swainson. Cllrs R Brown and N Balfe were absent.

07.2 To receive any declarations of interest
Cllr Carp declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda item 07.5 (d) as a Trustee of the Blake Hall.

07.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 1st June 2026.
The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 7-0-0.

07.4 Chairman's Announcements
There were no announcements from the Chairman.

07.5 Items for debate and decision that may require action:

a) Community Flood Group report and agree the new Terms of Reference
The Chair, Deputy Chair and Co-Ordinator of the South Petherton Flood Group spoke regarding the work of the group and in support of their updated Terms of Reference. They spoke of the need for further volunteers to help and requested that the Parish Council support them to press agencies to assist them. Proposed and seconded. 7-0-0

b) Somerset Council devolution list. Following a short debate, it was proposed that the Parish Council do not take on any of the devolution proposed by Somerset Council, but remind them of their responsibility to maintain their assets. Proposed and seconded. 6-1-0

c) Determine memorial bench application in Cemetery. Following a brief discussion it was proposed that the application be refused. Proposed and seconded. 5-1-1

d) Confirm roles and responsibilities of Parish Council and William Blake Memorial Hall Charity. It was proposed that the Parish Council note the letter from Wellers Law regarding their Custodian Trustee status with William Blake Memorial Hall and therefore confirm their position. Proposed and seconded. 6-0-1

e) Parish Council Gifting Policy for memorial benches/plaques. Proposed and seconded. 6-1-0

f) Removal of box hedges in Cemetery memorial area and replace with more appropriate landscaping. Proposed and seconded. 6-1-0

g) Approval for Reach to site a bouncy castle on the Recreation ground for event on 15th/16th July. Proposed and seconded. 7-0-0

h) Agree the Clerk to submit quarterly articles to Crewkerne Flyer if time permits. Proposed and seconded. 7-0-0

i) Approval of siting of storage facility next to Scout Hut on Recreation ground and determine £2,000 grant application. Proposed and seconded. 6-0-0 Cllr D H-W left the meeting during consideration of this item and accordinglky did not take part in the vote.

j) Confirm the engagement of Stutt solicitors for quotes for outstanding legalities. Proposed and seconded. 7-0-0

07.6 Finance & General Purposes Committee

a) The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee asked Councillors to consider future projects as they would start the 2027-28 budget discussions at their next meeting in September. The minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st June 2026 were noted.

b) Items of expenditure and approve payments list. Noted and approved.

c) May 2026 All banks reconciliation and income list. Noted.

07.7 Planning Committee

Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1st June 2026 and meeting report. Noted.

07.8 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr G Richards advised that the contractor would start the fence replacement at the Recreation ground on 27 July 2026.

Cllr R Killen reported that he had attended the LCN meeting the previous week where several Somerset Council issues were discussed. He also reported that he had met the CEO of the Symphony Group regarding the joining of the Crewkerne, South Petherton & Martock surgeries, the South Petherton Library refurbuishment works were now complete and the Village Agent would be holding another Dementia Awareness event in the Autumn.

Cllr N Wakely reported two gates in need of repair at Mere Lynches (reported to Somerset Rights of Way)

07.9 Other matters refered to officers

The Clerk advised that:

- the grant to Reach made in February 2026 had been returned to the Parish Council as the Thailand trip had been postponed.
- the flood grant funding from Somerset Prepared had been received enabling the Flood Group to purchase their equipment.
- All the rental increase notification letters for April 2027 had been sent to the tenants.
- VAT return for Q1 had been submitted, however if large expenditure occurred returns would be done monthly.
- There were now 550 digitised Cemetery burial records out of a total of 4,500.
- The Sports and Social Club would not be issuing futher invoices for the public toilets at the Blake Hall.

07.10 Date of next meeting – Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.30pm at The William Blake Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Dated: