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

A Reach Youth representative gave an update on youth provision in the community and urged everyone to be plesant and engage our young people because they have a lot to offer. The Council thanked Reach for all their youth work. The Chairman of the Mike Saint Sports Pavilion spoke in support of their grant application. The Chairman of the Allotment Committee spoke about the importance of soil structure and that they would welcome some measures from the FWAG suggestions implemented at Whitfield in support of TWiG. A representative of the TWiG group spoke in support of their request for a community green space (using no public funds only their own funds) on parish owned land Whitfield field. A Library Management Group representative provided an update on the library refurbishment and future plans and the relaunch of the friends group in May. A member of the public urged caution with the proposal on Whitfield field and asked the PC to continue to look at options for a dedicated village hall. A representative of the Carnival Committee stated the current committee were resigning and noted their disappointment in the communications with the PC. The Council wished to note their thanks for all the Carnival Committee do.

Somerset Council Councillors

Councillor Steve Ashton provided a brief update of news from Somerset Council including devolution, car parking charges and information on Cllr Jo R-G. Cllr A Dance repeated the information about Cllr Jo R-G and the car parking situation. A member of the public then asked a political question of Cllr Dance as a parliamentarian.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 7th September 2026** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakely (Chairman), A Dance, B Swainson, D Hodson-Wright, R Killen, S Gold, S Jones, S Carp, S Spiers and T New together with the Parish Clerk. Independent clerk in attendance for agenda item 9.4. 24 members of the public were present.

FC9.1 To receive and agree any apologies for non attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Richards and Cllr Baker.

FC9.2 To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Gold declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda item 9.6 (a) as treasurer of the Pavilion Committee and did not participate in the vote.

FC9.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th July 2026.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0.

FC9.4 To consider co-option for Councillor vacancies

As one Councillor prior to the meeting, had chosen to query what they viewed as a conflict of interest in the co-option process, the Clerk had advised NALC and SLCC (and the Monitoring Officer) and confirmed the decision to employ the services of an independent Clerk to conduct the co-option process to safeguard the council and the Clerks professional reputation.

Mrs Lisa Ulf-Hansen is the clerk at Bruton Town Council and agreed to clerk agenda item 9.4.
Mrs Ulf-Hansen took over from the Parish Clerk as Proper office for agenda item 9.4 at 8.05pm, and has compiled the minutes for this agenda item only.

Applications had been circulated to councillors previously for consideration. The Chair invited applicants to speak briefly. There were five applications for the three vacancies.
The Parish Council Standing Orders (3s) state that voting shall be by a show of hands. Mrs Ulf-Hansen explained that a vote by paper ballot could be undertaken. This would mean suspending standing orders by proposing that the ballot could be conducted on paper.

Cllr Dance suggested that three of the five candidates could be proposed, and then that proposal could be voted upon. Mrs Ulf-Hansen pointed out that this was perhaps not the most fair way to consider all applicants. but agreed if councillors wanted to proceed with the suggestion, again a proposal was required.

Councillors were keen to make the vote completely anonymous, and that a ballot was considered to be the fairest way.

It was proposed by Cllr Killen and seconded by Cllr New that the co-option process is conducted by a ballot.

It was RESOLVED [10-0-0] to conduct the co-option by paper ballot.
Mrs Ulf-Hansen handed out the ballot papers to councillors. It was important to note that it was considered that this could take multiple rounds of voting, as there were five candidates for three vacancies. Ballot papers were collected, and the voting collated by Mrs Ulf-Hansen, and independently verified by Dave Williams.
The ballot was decided in the first vote. The candidates with the most votes, in no particular order: Ariane Blake, Esme Brandal-Canns and Rosemary Prins.

It was proposed that Araine Blake be co-opted onto South Petherton Parish Council, proposed by Cllr Dance and seconded by Cllr Wakely.
It was RESOLVED [9-0-1] that Araine Blake is co-opted as a member of South Petherton Parish Council.
It was proposed that Esme Brandal-Canns be co-opted onto South Petherton Parish Council, proposed by Cllr Carp and seconded by Cllr Swainson.
It was RESOLVED [10-0-0] that Esme Brandal-Canns is co-opted as a member of South Petherton Parish Council.
It was proposed that Rosemary Prins be co-opted onto South Petherton Parish Council, proposed Cllr Killen and seconded by Cllr Gold.
It was RESOLVED [10-0-0] that Rosemary Prins is co-opted as a member of South Petherton Parish Council.

Cllr Blake read aloud and signed the Declaration of Office, and Mrs Ulf-Hansen countersigned the Declaration of Office. Cllr Blake took their place with councillors and joined the meeting.
Cllr Brandal-Canns read aloud and signed the Declaration of Office, and Mrs Ulf-Hansen countersigned the Declaration of Office. Cllr Brandal-Canns took their place with councillors and joined the meeting.
Cllr Prins read aloud and signed the Declaration of Office, and Mrs Ulf-Hansen countersigned the Declaration of Office. Cllr Prins took their place with councillors and joined the meeting.

The Chair thanked the applicants. He welcomed new councillors to the meeting, and encouraged those unsuccessful candidates to apply for future vacancies on the parish council, should they arise, or to stand for election in May 2027.

Mrs Ulf-Hansen completed the clerking for the agenda item 9.4 at 8.33pm and handed back to the Parish Clerk.

FC9.5 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman thanked the departing members of South Petherton PC for their public service.

FC9.6 Items for debate and potential decision that may require action

a) Consider grant request of £2000 from pavilion committee for new storage container to replace old
It was resolved to award the grant. Proposed and seconded. 10-2-1
b) Confirm access agreement or not to recreation ground in case of unsuitable conditions for carnival and address and confirm responsibility for returning ground to original state in event of any damage.
It was resolved for Cllr Swainson to assess the recreation ground conditions and have delegated authority from Council. Cllr Swainson confirmed he had attended the latest committee meeting and the carnival committee would be repairing any damaged ground. The Chairman requested any new carnival committee improve the communications between themselves and the PC. Proposed and seconded. 13-0-0
c) Confirmed quote of £750 plus VAT from Stutt Solicitors for each documentation required for outstanding lease/heads of terms documents, subject to no lengthy negotiations on terms
It was resolved to accept, subject to bringing any additional fees to council. Proposed and seconded. 12-0-1

d) Agreed to allow the Scout group to remove part of the earth bund/bank to allow easier vehicle access to the Scout Hut – revisit of previous (3 years ago) Open Spaces topic, never ratified through full Council Resolved to allow Scout group to undertake this work. Proposed and seconded 13-0-0

e) Noted and confirmed the final external auditor report & conclusion of external audit AGAR. It was noted and confirmed as a clear audit. Proposed and seconded 13-0-0

FC9.7 Finance & General Purposes Committee

a) The Chairman of Finance provided a brief overview from the earlier Finance Committee meeting. Noted

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

c) June and July all banks reconciliation and receipts lists. Noted.

d) Cllr G Richards was appointed to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Proposed and seconded. 13-0-0 At this item Cllr A Dance resignation from Finance Committee was given and accepted.

e) The first draft budget was considered by Finance Committee. Noted

FC9.8 Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee provided a brief overview from the earlier Planning Committee. Noted

FC9.9 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr B Swainson reported on the excellent car park wall progress

Cllr R Killen reported on the continued good work of the flood group

Cllr S Gold reported that the facia and soffitts needed attention on the pavilion building

Cllr S Carp asked if members were aware of a fire at the bank/fence of the Scout area – which they were.

FC9.10 Other matters refered to officers

The Clerk advised that:

Somerset Council panel dismissed a school crossing point as not achievable - A site visit has been requested. Cemetery memorial wall area work underway, markers have arrived and Ranger will be setting in place along with Deputy Clerk when ground conditions allow. Recreation ground fencing project is under way. St James's street Car park wall underway. Scout group container (part of which council provided with a grant) is in place. First quarter VAT return was received 9th July totalling £6260.46. Village Hall Committee meeting is on Monday 21st Sept @ 7.30pm (Venue - Stratton and District Village Hall). Flood group moving to amended meeting structure and using BH committee room in addition at a cost of £6.00 per month coming from the flood group budget. The clerk, along with Cllr Spiers is in meaningful communications with the Post Office in an attempt to explore bringing post office services back to South Petherton.

FC9.11 Exempt session – Exclusion of the Press and Public

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 3: Information relating to financial or business affairs.

Proposed and seconded. 13-0-0

Whitfield agricultural land

Councillors discussed the need to adhere to the current Farm Business Tenancy on Whitfield Land and confirmed the requirement to provided the current tenant with 12 months notice as per the FBT. Letter to be produced by Symmonds and Sampson. Proposed and seconded 13-0-0

Councillors discussed the proposal by the TWiG group on parish owned land at Whitfield field.

A lengthy discussion was had about the proposal from TWiG. Two councillors questioned the legal advice that had been provided to the clerk and questioned the need to consult if the Secretary of State's permission was required. Council instructed the clerk to go back to legal advisors including the information provided by those members on legal and procedural matters. There was a proposal to not take this TWiG proposal further on this land whilst recognising the aspirations and to look at alternative land offered again, which was seconded and voted on 4-6-3 so this proposal fell. Clerk is to bring back more information on investigations to future council meetings. Councillors discussed the need for a new amended Farm Business Tenancy to be drawn up taking into consideration the flood group/FWAG requirement and future maintenance of the land and the potential new rentable value. FBT to be drawn up by Symmonds and Sampson again.

FC9.12 Date of next meeting – Monday 5th October 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed: **Dated:**