SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office
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Public Session

A representative of the Scout Group spoke regarding a recent grass fire on the bank adjacent to the Scout Hut. The Clerk advised that this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 2nd November 2026.

A local resident and member of the Christmas lights team suggested that festive flags be purchased in future rather than Christmas trees which would be easier to erect.

A local resident noted the attendance of Cllr Dance but questioned if his presence as an elected MP may politicise the Parish Council. Cllr Dance responded that he would not be seeking re-election in May 2026.

Somerset Council Councillors

Councillor Steve Ashton provided a brief update of news from Somerset Council including the distribution of the £50m flooding grant, an increase of 10% on all car parking charges, and was now Chairman of SRA.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 5th October 2026** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakely (Chairman), A Blake, A Dance, D Hodson-Wright, E Brandal-Canns, G Richards, R Killen, S Gold, S Spiers and T New together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk. 6 members of the public were present.

FC10.1 To receive and agree any apologies for non attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Baker, B Swainson, S Carp, S Jones & R Prins.

FC10.2 To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr G Richards declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda item FC10.6 (c) as a member of the South Petherton cricket club. Cllr S Gold declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda item FC10.6 (d) as treasurer of the Pavilion Committee.

FC10.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 7th September 2026.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 9-1-0.

FC10.4 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman noted how pleased he was with the rebuilt car park wall at St James Street/Prigg Lane.

FC10.5 Items for debate and potential decision that may require action

a) Approve for Flood Group to pursue becoming a Watermark (Wessex Water) parish (town)
It was resolved to agree. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0

b) Council's draft budget for 2027/28. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee noted that the Grants Budget had been increased from £8,000 to £10,000 in the new budget. He noted the playground equipment at Lightgate Recreation Ground was in need of repair and suggested a rolling programme of funding to repair and replace the equipment. There was some discussion on the cost of South Petherton in Bloom. It was resolved to note the Council's draft budget V2 for 2027/28.

c) Annual Play Equipment Inspection. It was resolved to note the annual Play Equipment Inspection and request 3 quotes for remedial work or to replace the equipment. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0

d) SPPC draft Community Resilience Plan
The Clerk advised the document was still work in progress and when completed and agreed it would be posted on the Councils website and widely circulated to other local groups. Noted.

e) Community Flood Group's Flood Emergency Plan
The Ccouncil confirmed minor amendements to the Plan. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0

f) To appoint new councillors to committees and areas of responsibility
Cllr E Brandal-Canns be appointed to the Planning Committee. Cllr E Brandal-Canns to represent the Village Agent. Cllr G Richards to represent the Patient Participation Group. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0

FC10.6 Finance & General Purposes Committee

a) The items of expenditure and the payments list were approved. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0

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b) The August all banks reconciliation and August receipts list were noted.
c) The use of S106 pitch maintenance sums for cricket pitch maintenance £1277.49 inc VAT were approved. Proposed and seconded 10-0-0
d) Works to soffits, fascia and guttering on the pavilion at recreation ground: quotes being A) £4620. B) £4950. C) £6793.21 inc VAT. The Clerk advised that a further quote D) £5285 had been received. Following a short debate, it was proposed to accept quote B. Proposed and seconded. 4-2-2

FC10.7 Planning Committee

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

FC10.8 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

Cllr G Richards confirmed that the new fencing at the recreaton ground had been completed. A query was raised about the anti climb nature of the fencing by a recreation ground user group and Cllrs felt this fencing was appropriate. Cllrs who have not seen the fencing were encouraged to go and view.

Cllr R Killen reported that visitors to the Martock Surgery would be required to enter their car registration if parked in the car park. A new window had been fitted in the Library. The Chairman of the South Petherton Community Flood Group had been nominated for a Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Award.

Cllr S Gold, on behalf of the Pavilion Committee thanked the Council for their grant towards a new storage container which would be in place soon.

FC10.9 Other matters refered to officers

The Clerk advised that:

- There had been no significant damage by the fair or carnival to recreation ground this year and the £500 deposit had been returned to the fair.
- The final lease payment for Whitfield land has been received in line with the fbt.
- Council was waiting further legal information/confirmation on the process of applying to Secretary of State regarding Whitfield field. A call between solicitirs would be happening the following day.
- The recreation ground fencing project contractors had hit a electric cable placed only 4" below ground with no marker tape. This was rectified by contractor and marked appropriately.
- Council had secured £5406.23 in S106 funds through Somerset Council and the developer, Stonewater (West End play space) for facilities at Lightgate Lane. This could only be used for facilities and not general maintenance.
- The Q2 VAT return been submitted for £5941.14
- The Clerks would be attending conference day at Canalside Bridgwater on 8th October.

FC10.10 Date of next meeting – Monday 2nd November 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:

Dated:

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