SOUTH PETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Petherton Parish Office
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Public Session

There were no comments from members of the public present.

Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Jo Roundell Greene confirmed that her monthly briefing would be circulated the following day. Cllr Steve Ashton provided a brief update of news from Somerset Council including the administration of the Household Energy Payment of a £100 payment to households in Council Tax bands A to D in England, to help with their energy costs. He advised they were sponsoring a study on the effectiveness of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) in order to set standards for them.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Petherton Parish Council** held at the William Blake Memorial Hall, South Petherton on **Monday 2nd November 2026** at 7.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT Councillors N Wakely (Chairman), A Blake, B Swainson, E Brandal-Canns, R Killen, R Prins, S Carp and T New together with the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk. 6 members of the public were present.

FC11.1 To receive and agree any apologies for non attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Baker, A Dance, D Hodson-Wright, G Richards, S Gold & S Spiers. Cllr S Jones was absent.

FC11.2 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors.

FC11.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5th October 2026.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0.

FC11.4 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman noted the proposal from the Scout Group to clear a 2.5m strip of vegetation from the bank top area next to the Scout Hut as a future fire break had been completed. It was confirmed further works on the lower bank would be the responsibility of Somerset Highways. The Chairman advised that he had attended a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing at the David Hall. The Chairman asked about the Carnival Committee Contingency Plan and Cllr B Swainson advised he would be attending their AGM on 12th November and would report back to the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr R Prins agreed to accompany Cllr Swainson.

FC11.5 Items for debate and potential decision that may require action

a) To reinstate 1 weeks tree work within parish to budget line (£5,000), to include work at churchyard, cemetery, woodland and recreation ground. It was resolved to agree. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

b) V3 draft Parish Council budget 2027/28. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee noted the budget would look to be approved at the December meeting. Cllr R Prins suggested new planters for the Blake Hall and it was noted there was already a budget for SP in bloom. It was resolved to note the Council's draft budget V3 for 2027/28.

c) 1. Somerset Council play inspection report and quote for repairs. It was resolved to accept quote B at £9,432.80. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

2. Replacement of one or more items of play equipment. The Clerk advised of the S106 funding available and it was resolved to set up a working group to look at a 5 year plan to replace the play equipment. The working group to comprise of Cllrs A Blake, R Prins, S Carp and T New.

d) It was proposed to add £5,000 to new budget line every year for recreation ground equipment replacement 5 year plan. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

e) Grant application from Promise Works. Following a brief discussion Councillors felt the current provision provided by Reach and the Village Agent were sufficient and so the grant request was declined. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

f) Remove bin by pre-school building at the recreation ground due to Somerset Council emptying fees. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

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g) Open an instant access savings account with Unity Trust Bank. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
h) Use of the Care in the Community budget line for purchase of branded native wildflower seed packets for pollinators to be distributed through partners such as the schools and library and various community groups for use in the community on "Bee Squared" project (£1084 ex VAT). Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
i) Installation of protective barrier around road edge and pathway sides of recreation ground car-park. The Clerk advised that two quotes for a protective barrier had been received for £7,055 and £8,987.94. Councillors agreed to accept the lower quote of £7,055. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
j) Purchase of new exercise equipment at recreation ground from S106 funding application. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
k) Purchase of mobile goal or similar at recreation ground to protect new fencing. It was agreed the play equipment working group would look at options in consultation with other recreation ground users.
l) Amendment to Community Library Partnership agreement regarding DBS checks for volunteers following new legislation that came into force September 2026. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0
m) Request from Community Flood Group regarding culvert inspection at Hele Lane. Councillors expressed their frustration at the negative response from Somerset Council not undertaking their responsibility citing lack of funds. It was proposed that the Parish Council fund the inspection work and the account be sent to Somerset Council for the works. It was proposed that there should be an article in the TA13 magazine to explain why the Parish Council were carrying out the works. Proposed and seconded 8-0-0

FC11.6 Finance & General Purposes Committee

a) The items of expenditure and payments list were approved. Noted.
b) The all banks reconcillation and receipts list for September were noted.
c) The income, spending and Ear Marked Reserve figures to the end of 30th Sept 2026 (Q2), in line with budget were noted.

FC11.7 Planning Committee

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

FC11.8 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

The report of the Thrive Village Agent and speed indicator device was noted.

Cllr R Killen confirmed he had attended the Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Forum where the South Petherton Community Flood Group had been recognized with an award. He noted that South Petherton were in the third tranche for the £50m Government grant to help prevent flooding in the village. He advised that he had attended the recent LCN meeting at which the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset had spoken.

It was noted the Carnival Club AGM was being held on 12th November with Cllr B Swainson and R Prins to attend.

FC11.9 Other matters refered to officers

The Clerk advised that:

- The volunteers and Ranger were thanked for the Remembrance display for the community.
- The Christmas Light switch on was being arranged by the Folk Festival on 29th November. She thanked the volunteers who helped with the placement of the lights and Christmas trees.
- The summer hanging baskets had been removed and stored for next year.
- Both Clerks had attended the Somerset Parishes conference which was a useful networking opportunity.
- The Community Flood group had received certificates of recognition at the recent Somerset Prepared Local Flood Resilience forum.
- There were now over 700 cemetery burial records on the new digitised Scribe software.

FC11.10 Date of next meeting – Monday 7th December 2026 at The William Blake Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Dated:

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