



PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE 2026 AT 19:00 AT THE BUNGALOW HMP ASHFIELD.

PRESENT.

Cllrs G Boyle, L English, R Dunning, A Hemmings, S Reid, J Hawkins, and D Freestone
In attendance: Clerk D Dunning

Councillors met with Shea Shew Emersons Green Town Council Youth Liaison Officer and his staff and discussed the Community hub on wheels (CHOW).

Public Participation.

None.

2026/06/17 No 1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Parker & Symons. Ward Councillors Palmer and Stokes

2026/06/17 No 2. Declarations of interest (if any) and dispensations

Non-pecuniary interest by Cllr Freestone in 5a as Chair of Pucklechurch Cricket.

2026/06/17 No 3. To approve minutes and sign as correct records of the council meetings.

Resolved to approve the minutes of 13th May 2026. Minutes were duly signed by the Chair of meeting.

2026/06/17 No 4. To receive report from ward councillors.

Ward Cllr Palmer submitted a written report:

- The temporary traffic lights at Tormarton and Henfield will be removed on 10th July. National Highways provided both sets of lights as mitigation works, during the closure of the A432.
- The M4 overbridge works are complete, and the road reopens this weekend.
- The removal of the traffic lights at Tormarton in particular is a matter of concern and I would like to urge Pucklechurch PC to write to SGC in support of finding a permanent solution at Tormarton.
Agreed to write to Peter Walley, Richard Gillingham and Darren Davison to support lights at this junction on safety grounds.

Ward Cllr Stokes submitted a written report:

- Opening of Badminton Road Bridge and the removal of traffic mitigation measures such as the Henfield lights (19.6.26).
- Final week of Local Plan EIP. The inspectors are taking heed of my comments about Green Belt and advocating for reduction in South Glos housing numbers.
- Your Voice meeting - reminder 27th June 12-4pm
- Reform of Council planning including taking over from Planning Committee numerous areas for officer delegated decisions.
- Armed Forces Day on Saturday in Page Park.
- Scrutiny Committee handling Special Expenses Sub -Committee.
- There's a new AI tool available for Carers (called Bridgit).

2026/06/17 No 5 AGENDA ITEMS TO ACTION.

2026/06/17 No 5a. To receive any updates and agree any actions relating to the Community Centre.

Updates covered progress on the fire alarm, external stairs and proposed lockers and possible planning permission.

Resolved to write to PCA.

2026/06/17 No 5b. To receive any updates on the Scout hut and agree any actions.

- A vote of thanks to SERCO for the works undertaken around the Scout hut was passed
- Green waste removal agreed at £120.
- Agreed to ask the community for volunteers to help finish painting the Scout hut. Authorised the purchase of further paint.
- Cllr Hemmings reported that he was hopeful that two air conditioning units will be donated.

2026/06/17 No 5c. To receive any updates and agree any actions on other projects including:

- i) Recreation ground improvements project
Aeration works completed.
- ii) Pucklechurch woodland
New Tuesday dates advertised throughout the summer to undertake maintenance, A Friends for Pucklechurch Wood group is being set up contact Jette for more information Jette.Halling@southglos.gov.uk
Bat Walk 4th August 8.30 (back up 6th August). Maximum 20-25 adults (under 16 numbers not so much an issue).
- iii) Leigh Farm wind turbine project.
Correspondence has been received from Barry Wyatt. **Resolved** to submit a further response Appendix 1.
Noted a further public consultation on another wind turbine/solar/battery site at Springs Farm Codrington (Dodington parish).

2026/06/17 No 5d. To agree responses to South Gloucestershire Council's special expenses consultation <https://specialexpensespolicy.commonplace.is/>.

Resolved to submit the agreed response Appendix 2 and resend the information submitted to the Special Expenses Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

2026/06/17 No 5e. To receive a request to instal a commemorative litter bin on the Recreation Ground and agree any actions.

The parish council is supportive in principle of a memorial but further bins on the Recreation ground are not required. It may be willing to consider a 'blue plaque type' memorial which could be sited on the Scout hut.

2026/06/17 No 5f. To receive a quotation to clear brambles and restore dog wood hedging at St Aldams and agree any actions.

Resolved to approve quotation for works.

2026/06/17 No 5g. To consider and approve revised policies including:

- I. Environmental
- II. Equality and Diversity
- III. Community Engagement
- IV. Customer care
- V. Outdoor events

VI. Training.

Resolved to accept suggested amendments and approve policies.

2026/06/17 No 5h. To consider appointing a working group to review opportunities for using the CHOW and prepare an options paper for council.

Resolved to form a working party - Cllrs Hemmings, Reid and Hawkins – who will present an options paper to council.

2026/06/17 No 5i. To consider South Gloucestershire Council's consultation on Climate and Nature Strategy and agree any action <https://cns26.commonplace.is>

Resolved to delegate response to Cllr Dunning.

2026/06/17 No 5j. To consider issues around the new South Gloucestershire Council programme of waste collection in Pucklechurch and agree any actions.

Resolved to delegate preparation of a formal complaint to Cllr Boyle

2026/06/17 No 5k. To consider suggestions from South Gloucestershire Council for an accessible bus stop following a recent incident and agree any actions.

Resolved to submit application for investigation although the parish council wishes to minute that it has no budget for any contributions.

2026/06/17 No 5l. To consider the request for the Clerk to attend the SLCC National Conference in October 2026.

Resolved to approve attendance at the National Conference.

2026/06/17 No 5m. To consider and agree the council's action plan for 2026_27.

Agreed councillors should further consider the content for approval in July.

2026/06/17 No 6. AGENDA ITEMS TO NOTE

2026/06/17 No 6a. To note items of correspondence:

Meeting with Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath Parish Council and Places for People on 24th June at 6.30pm at Westerleigh Village Hall was noted.

It was noted Ward Councillors are being invited at the request of Place for People. Cllr Boyle to attend.

2026/06/17 No 7. PLANNING.

2026/06/17 No 7a. Planning applications.

To note comments submitted under delegated powers.

2026/06/17 No 7ai. P26/00979/HH 38 Becket Court Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9QG

Replacement of existing greenhouse. (Retrospective).

Comments submitted: no objections. **Noted.**

2026/06/17 No 7aii P26/01053/F 82 Shortwood Road Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9PJ

Change of use from dwellinghouse (Class C3) to children's home (Class C2).

Comments submitted: no objections. **Noted.**

Adjacent parish

2026/06/17 No 7aiii. P26/01219/PIP Land At Windmill Bungalow Westerleigh Road Coalpit Heath South Gloucestershire BS36 2UP

Permission in principle for the erection of a minimum of 4no and a maximum of 8no dwellings

Resolved to delegated preparation of a response to Cllr Boyle.

Application received after agenda issued

2026/06/17 No 7aiv. P26/01291/F Land At Westerleigh Road Westerleigh Road Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9PY

Regularisation of alterations undertaken during the implementation of an approved stable conversion (ref P25/00141/RVC (formerly P22/06238/F)).

Noted and no objection.

2026/06/17 No 7b. Planning decisions. All noted

2026/06/17 No 7bi P26/00925/TRE Applebee House The Old Orchard Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9AR

Works to crown reduce 1no Oak Tree And 1no Beech Tree by 2m covered by Tree Preservation Order SGTPO44/14 dated 11th May 2015. Approved with conditions.

Adjacent parish

2026/06/17 No 7bii P P25/02994/F Barn At Barley Close Barn Hinton Road Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9SJ

Conversion and extension of agricultural building to form 1no. self-build residential dwelling with parking and associated works. Approved with conditions.

2026/06/17 No 7c. Planning enforcement and any other actions.

2026/06/17 No 7ci. DOE Appeal Reference: APP/P0119/C/26/3378285 Enforcement Reference: COM/24/0660/OD/13 Land North Of Meadow View Shortwood Road Pucklechurch Bristol South Gloucestershire

Appeal against without planning permission, the change of use of land to the stationing of residential caravans and the associated operational development including the laying of hardcore and the erection of a day room and fencing. Hearing date 14th July 2026.

2026/06/17 No 8. REPORTS.

2026/06/17 No 8a. To receive report from the Clerk.

- Submitted AGAR and associated papers.
- Notice of Public Rights added to Noticeboard 1st June 2026.
- Attended and spoke at South Gloucestershire Council's special expenses sub-committee hearing on 26 May 2026 and continue to monitor meetings and liaise with other Officers.
- Submitted annual return to Grantscape for the Suez grant.
- Arranged works and equipment for HMP Ashfield volunteer day.
- At request of Rainbows following move to three weekly bin collections, trialling rubbish collection of non-recyclable waste from Scout hut using PPC waste bin in car park.
- FOI training being arranged for Cllrs Freestone, Hemmings, Reid, English and Symons. Data Protection training being arranged for Cllr English Several councillors interested in Understanding Data Compliance & Assertion 10 but date clashes with next council meeting. Ask ALCA for further dates.
- HMRC mileage rate increase to £0.55p/Mile for up to 10,000 miles. Rate of £0.25p/mile over 10,000 miles remains the same.

2026/06/17 No 9 FINANCE.

2026/06/17 No 9a. To approve contractual and other obligations for June 2026

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
-------	-------------	-----	-----	-------

Instant Landscapes	Rec, St Aldams and Eagle Crescent grass cutting	£2,675.00	£0.00	£2,675.00
SLCC	Membership	£376.00	£0.00	£376.00
CPRE	Membership	£36.00	£0.00	£36.00
Prestige Grounds	Year 2 pitch improvements	£7,400.00	£1,200.00	£8,600.00
All Things Clean	April cleaning Scout hut	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00
HMRC	Tax & NI	£733.59	£0.00	£733.59
D Dunning	Salary	£2,186.55	£0.00	£2,186.55
D Dunning	stamps	£7.28	£0.00	£7.28
D Dunning	Rail tickets Regional seminar	£12.20	£0.00	£12.20
D Dunning	Postage returning defibs	£8.75	£0.00	£8.75
D Dunning refund for Wickes	external painting	£157.50	£31.50	£189.00
D Dunning refund for Next Day Paint	Hammerite paint	£54.53	£10.91	£65.44
Primrose Gardening	Contract 285	£1,585.00	£0.00	£1,585.00
Primrose Gardening	Litter 286	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
Primrose Gardening	Waste disposal 287	£65.00	£0.00	£65.00
SERCO	82122779 Pucklechurch News June	£384.46	£76.89	£461.35
PATA	Payroll admin	£66.30	£0.00	£66.30
SLCC	National Conference	£550.00	£85.00	£635.00
		£16,588.16	£1,404.30	£17,992.46

Invoices checked and confirmed for accuracy against payment list – Cllr English **Resolved** to approve payments. Cllrs Hemmings and Freestone to authorise.

Direct debits.

Supplier	Goods	Net	VAT	Total
o2	phone	£12.50	£2.50	£15.00
BT	broadband	£49.82	£9.98	£59.80
NEST	Pension Contribution	£148.75	£0.00	£148.75
EDF Energy	Electricity Eagle Crescent	£11.37	£0.00	£11.37
EDF Energy	Electricity Parkfield	£15.66	£0.00	£15.66
EDF Energy	Electricity Scout hut	tbc	tbc	£0.00
Reconomy	Monthly waste collection	£51.12	£10.22	£61.34
Reconomy	Fuel surcharge	£3.83	£0.77	£4.60
Microshade	IT services	£62.59	£12.52	£75.11
Unity	Charges	£11.65	£0.00	£11.65

Noted. Invoices checked for accuracy against direct debit list – Cllr English

2026/06/17No 9b. To receive and agree reconciliations for May 2026.

Balance per bank statements as at 01/05/26	£
Unity Bank current	£111,687.84
Unity Instant access savings	£91,676.60
Hinckley and Rugby BS	£76,206.99
Unity Bank current	
Less: payments for May 2026	£11,172.25
Plus: Unity income for May 2026	£875.00
Balance as at 31/05/26	£101,390.59
Unity Bank instant access savings	
Less: payments for May 2026	£0.00
Plus: Income for May 2026	£0.00
Balance as at 31/05/26	£91,676.60
Hinckley and Rugby BS savings account	
Less: payments for May 2026	£0.00
Plus: income for May 2026	£0.00
Balance as at 31/05/26	£76,206.99
Balance as at 31/05/26	£269,274.18

Figure 1 Print screen of May 2026 accounts.

Total receipts	76,206.99	91,676.60	112,562.84		0.00	0.00	11,172.25
Less: payments in month	0.00	0.00	11,172.25		0.00	0.00	18,821.70
Balance c/fwd	76,206.99	91,676.60	101,390.59				
	A	B	C				
Combined balance	D	269,274.18		Bank rec at 31 5 26			
				Hinckley and Rugby 90	76206.99		
				Unity instant access sa	91676.60		
				Unity	101,390.59		
Balance as at 1st April 2026		181,893.93			269,274.18		
Plus: recelpts in year to date		106,261.95		Less: uncleared chqs			
Less Payments in year to date		18,821.70		F should equal D & E	269,274.18	Diff	0.00
Balance as at 31st May 2026	E	269,274.18					

Figure 2 Print screen Unity Bank current account statement May 2026.

Transactions for Current T2 account 20461111

Date	Type	Details	Paid Out £	Paid In £	Balance £
21/05/2026	Direct Debit	Direct Debit (NEST)	£148.75	£0.00	£101,206.45
26/05/2026	Direct Debit	Direct Debit (MICROSHADE)	£75.11	£0.00	£101,131.34
26/05/2026	Credit	[REDACTED]	£0.00	£50.00	£101,181.34
27/05/2026	Credit	[REDACTED]	£0.00	£20.00	£101,201.34
28/05/2026	Credit	DIGNITY FNRLS PAYI	£0.00	£200.00	£101,401.34
31/05/2026	Fee	Service Charge	£10.75	£0.00	£101,390.59

Figure 3 Print Screen Unity savings account May 2026.

Transactions for Instant Access account 20529914

Date	Type	Details	Paid Out £	Paid In £	Balance £
30/04/2026		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£91,676.60

Figure 4 Print Screen Hinkley and Rugby BS savings account as at 01/05/2026.

Savings Accounts Summary	
Pucklechurch Parish Council	
Local Council 90 Day Notice 17011058069	Interest rate: 2.8 %
Available balance £76,206.99	Pending balance £76,206.99

All approved. Reconciliation checked for accuracy against bank accounts – Cllr Hawkins

Date of next meeting 15th July 2026

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Appendix 1 Response regarding wind turbines at Leigh Farm

From: Daphne Dunning, Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council

To: Eileen Paterson, Chief Planning Officer, South Gloucestershire Council

Cc: Barry Wyatt; Nigel Riglar; Ian Dubber; Cabinet Members Maggie Tyrell, Ian Boulton Louise Harris, Sean Rhodes and Chris Willmore; Ward Councillors Palmer and Stokes

Date: 17th June 2026

Subject: RE: Leigh Farm Wind Turbine Project – Pucklechurch Parish Council Updated Position

Dear Eileen,

I am writing on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council (PPC) following our full council meeting on 17th June 2026. We would like to thank Barry Wyatt for his correspondence dated 10th June 2026, which outlined the emerging planning policy context and the feedback from the Local Plan Inquiry regarding community energy schemes.

In light of this guidance, PPC has formally reviewed its position in relation to our original correspondence, which was submitted to South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) on 12th March 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, PPC notes Barry's points regarding predetermination and material planning considerations. However, we must clarify that PPC has never suggested or requested that the Community Benefit Fund be treated as a material planning consideration. As explicitly stated, our focus is on the direct relationship between the developer, the landowner, and the host community.

To move forward productively while respecting SGC's dual roles, PPC submits the following updated position and formal requests for clarification:

1. Request for Planning Definition: "Host Community"

In our previous correspondence PPC made it clear that it believes Pucklechurch Parish is the host community that will bear the direct landscape, heritage, and amenity impacts of the proposed turbines. We note from national best practice (such as the DESNZ guidance) that community benefits are explicitly intended to mitigate and reward the specific locality hosting the infrastructure. In this respect, PPC requests clarification on how the Local Planning Authority geographically and operationally defines the "host community" and in this case the primary zone of impact for the Leigh Farm site?

2. Direct Community Benefit Funding Strategy

Subject to plans for the turbines being approved, PPC has always viewed community benefit funding as a direct arrangement between the host community and the developer. However, PPC does feel that the parish has been put at a disadvantage in this by not being brought into the conversation regarding the community benefit framework at an earlier stage. Had local representatives been engaged as key stakeholders closer to the outset of the landowner discussions, we could have established a transparent, direct parish-level pathway much sooner and avoided any procedural confusion.

3. Separation of Roles as Landowner

We reiterate our hope for ongoing procedural transparency between SGC's commercial discussions as the landowner of Leigh Farm and its statutory duties as the Local Planning Authority. We hope that SGC, as a responsible public landowner, will encourage its chosen developer to engage openly, constructively, and directly with the host parish moving forward.

Yours sincerely,

Appendix 2 submission to Special Expenses Policy consultation

As a unitary authority, South Gloucestershire Council has a statutory cap on how much it can raise in council tax each year without a referendum. Town and parish councils currently have no such caps. This consultation on the Special Expenses policy proposal is premised on the ability and willingness for town and parish councils to raise unlimited precepts and aims to shift the financial responsibility for non-statutory maintenance of local facilities away from the unitary authority and directly onto town and parish councils.

Whilst not opposed to the principles of devolution and highly supportive of democratic accountability, Pucklechurch Parish Council feels South Gloucestershire Council has pushed this consultation forward without providing critical supporting data. Pucklechurch Parish Council believes it is fundamentally wrong to consult on a policy that will have profound implications for many councils without it being supported by accurate information and detailed delivery plans from the outset. Indeed what minimal information has been provided has been shown to be inaccurate and insufficient. As the parish council has already pointed out, it is not unreasonable to request data and calculations to enable it to understand the financial impact on residents and council tax payers and to undertake due diligence. It would be fiscally irresponsible for the parish council to agree to accept the devolution of services when South Gloucestershire Council cannot - or will not - provide a clear, audited breakdown of what it actually costs to run these facilities.

The policy itself states its purpose is to ensure “that, so far as is practicable, local services are delivered equitably across the South Gloucestershire area at the most appropriate level of democratic accountability”. Yet it has become apparent from the questioning at the three Special Expenses sub-committee meetings that SGC Officers have not been asked to explore how this policy can be applied equitable across all Town and Parish Councils nor indeed if SGC actually has the additional resources needed to implement such a policy fairly.

The policy further makes clear that special expenses are a classification within the overall council budget. Again despite repeated requests for clarification that this measure will be cost neutral and the continued assurances at meetings and all Special Expenses sub-committee meetings that this proposal is not a tax rise for residents, the example detailing the impact on council tax bills finally provided by South Gloucestershire Council shows otherwise. Far from removing special expenses and reducing the overall council tax burden, the effect of this policy will be to incorporate any savings from special expenses into the basic rate of council tax. This results in the overall council tax remaining the same despite the reduction in special expenses. Any costs (former special expenses) associated with this proposed transfer of services to town and parish councils which they will need to raise via their precepts are immediately a tax rise and take no account of any additional costs town and parish council may incur to implement these changes. For a parish like Pucklechurch which is already among the top five most expensive council tax areas, this could have profound implications.

This leads to the conclusion that this policy is essentially a backdoor way for the Unitary council to balance its own books by forcing parish councils to take the political and financial heat for massive percentage increases to the parish precept.

In summary

Pucklechurch Parish Council opposes the policy on the grounds that it is an inequitable cost-shifting exercise that lacks financial transparency, places an unfair administrative burden on

small local councils, and forces an uncapped tax burden onto Pucklechurch residents to fix a district-level budget deficit.

Submission to Special Expenses scrutiny sub committee

a) Whether you are supportive of the principle of the policy?

Devolution and asset transfers may be a hugely positive way forward and Pucklechurch Parish Council (PPC) welcomes the need for discussions. However to enable PPC to constructively engage in the consultation and make informed decisions, it requires time, transparency and accurate information. Decisions made without due consideration of facts, consequences and financial implications could be subject to a future legal challenge.

b) Do you agree with the draft terms of the policy as to what is included as a special expense?

No comment.

c) What elements, if any, should be added to/removed from the policy?

No comment

d) What impacts you foresee if the policy is implemented, generally and from your own perspective?

According to South Gloucestershire Council's (SGC) presentations, this proposal to offload special expenses is aimed at supporting SGC's medium term financial plan. With the likelihood that the 27/28 SGC budget will increase by 4.99% (capped increase without a referendum), SGC appears to wish to exploit town and parish councils' ability to increase precepts without cap. In addition this move from special expenses charges being recouped by the special expenses levy means future maintenance associated with the former special expenses will become an income stream for SGC.

SGC's rationale claims by stopping funding special expenses and transferring responsibility to individual town and parish councils from 2027/28 will "allow more local choice' and provide "a fairer, more consistent approach to funding, which ensures that local people can decide what they are willing to pay for".

The proposal is being marketed as a simple transfer of costs from SGC to town and parish councils via their precepts in what appears to be partial devolution of legal powers to enable this to happen. At this stage SGC intends to retain ownership of these facilities/spaces. SGC further states there is no need to physically take on responsibility for maintaining those spaces/facilities from 2027/28 as it is happy to continue with the current maintenance regimes at the advised costs.

Pucklechurch Parish Council notes that nowhere in the consultation is there confirmation that devolving maintenance of special expenses to T&PC will be cost neutral for residents ie not only will the special expense levy be removed from bills and added to the parish precept but the special expenses budget will be fully removed from the total SGC budget. If SGC intends to absorb the £3,184,904 into other budget lines, the transfer of special expenses will then result in an unacceptable and fundamentally underhand tax rise on parish residents and will jeopardise PPCs own plans for the future especially as the tax base is only 965. Yet when asked (SGC meeting on 21st May), the Chief Financial Officer declined to give an answer saying an explanation will be circulated before 19th June.

Pucklechurch Parish Council does not agree that this is a simple transfer. Agreeing to increase the precept to cover special expenses is no small matter, especially when 30% of councils are facing precept rises of between 20-187%. However PPC does not have

sufficient data to make an informed decision. Currently, as part of this consultation the only supporting information SGC has provided to inform this momentous decision is a poor quality map and a generalist list of services shown below.

Category	Town & Parish Council	Budgeted Cost or Special expense	Where are the Facilities or Space		What does the service cover	Any other commentary
Green Spaces, Parks and Opened Land	Development	£1,000	Green Cot - 40700 Square Metres, Hedge Cot - 200 Square Metres, Compton Cot - 700 Square Metres, South Hill - 400 Square Metres, Little Hill - 4000 Square Metres	See Annex 1 (Map)	Grass Cutting, Trees (and associated) management, Hedges, Litter picking and cleaning of sites, path & associated maintenance	

Not only does this limited information make it very difficult to accurately identify each area of land and any maintenance requirements but a quick check suggests there may be some duplication with land already covered under the localism contract for Pucklechurch parish.

Acting on instructions from my council as Proper Officer I have attended numerous meetings on its behalf and requested further information. Despite SGC stating it would support councils through the process, my requests and a FOI request has elicited a blanket refusal from SGC to provide any information to aid the parish council's decision making. While the FOI was quite comprehensive, it is not unreasonable to request and expect a breakdown of costs, accurate maps and clarification that there is no overlap with sites covered under the localism contract. Nothing has been forthcoming and it feels my council's concerns have simply been dismissed. This is exacerbated by the fact SGC claims to have scheduled maintenance programmes and the April minutes for this sub-committee implies data is available.

"Minutes show assurances were sought that the special expense costs cited reflect the actual costs of providing the service and it was confirmed that relevant officers would be able to provide this as part of evidence gathering".

These April minutes also raise further concerns that Green space could become at risk of sale/transfer to private ownership if T&PCs and local residents are unable/unwilling/cannot afford to take ownership. There is no mention of this implied threat of the potential of loss of facilities within this consultation. This apparent refusal to engage and co-operate with Pucklechurch Parish Council and indeed some other councils is not only disappointing but conflicts with the agreed principles in the South Gloucestershire Town and Parish Charter of trust, understanding and partnership.

Other concerns include:

- The one-size-fits-all proposal despite the fact that town and parish councils vary from councils with minimal precepts and a clerk working a few hours a week to large councils with multiple staff, assets and services funded through large precept.
- If the contractor (SGC) and costs remain the same, where are the implied anticipated local choice? Lacking economies of scale, a small council costs could easily rise.
- Is this policy discriminatory against councils with small tax bases or those who can't take the work in-house, rely on procuring contractors (although there is no evidence that supply will match demand for these services) or are forced to rely on SGC whose cost could dramatically increase if less councils use their services.

While the consultation is asking Pucklechurch Parish Council to agree to increase its precept by £31,420, this is not the final cost to the parish council. This is not a simple a transfer from one organisation to another, there are risks and hidden costs. The timescales to respond to this policy do not allow town and parish councils enough time to consider and evaluate the true impact of these proposed changes including the impact and cost of:

- Workloads, as excess workloads can negatively affect performance, job satisfaction and can contribute to high staff turnover.
- Training costs, if skill sets do not match the needs of the additional work.

- Work related stress and mental health support.
- Changes to the employment contracts.
- Risk to home working staff from harassment, intimidation and abuse from disgruntled parishioners.
- Resignations – of both staff and councillors
- Equality at work - keeping workers happy and motivated, ensuring organisational success.

e) *Whether you think the items included in special expenses are of wider benefit than just your parish?*

Yes green spaces and play grounds are essential for well-being.

f) *Whether timescales for implementation are workable?*

Current timescales are unrealistic and not workable.

g) *Any other comments.*

The hurried nature and lack of openness and transparency together with the refusal by SGC to engage constructively with parish council Officers who are simply doing their jobs is worrying and disrespectful. It is unacceptable for a council to feel it is being coerced into accepting SGC's proposal without question and our interactions to date with SGC have undermined trust and confidence in SGC's commitment to genuine collaborative working.

Draft minutes subject to approval at meeting