



Tatworth and Forton Parish Council Newsletter

June 2026

Contents: Parish Councillors and Vacancy, Amenities, Looking After our Community, Tatworth Cemetery, Youth Work, Annual Parish Meeting, 2026 Grants for Local Organisations, Policing, Reporting Crime, Diary of Community Events,

Hello, and welcome to our second newsletter of 2026 for the residents of Tatworth and Forton Parish.

With the weather improving, we are all hopefully looking forward to a long and dry, but not too hot, summer packed with events around the community – please look at our Youth events and Diary of Community Events on the last page to see which you want to support.

Parish Councillors and Vacancy

As a Parish Council we have 12 Councillors coming from different walks of life living in Forton as well as Tatworth. They are volunteers who work for the benefit of the residents of Tatworth and Forton. Some are retired, others still work, but they all have a desire to improve our community and the area we live in and are prepared to give up a few hours of their time to try to achieve this. However, we do have a vacancy and if anyone is interested in serving the local community as a Parish Councillor please email the Clerk at clerk@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.uk Closing Date 30th July ***This is your opportunity to have an influence on how the area changes.***

We would like to offer our thanks to Peter Chapple who donated many hours to support the Council, being Chairman of the Planning Committee. Peter involved himself with Bus provision and local concerns such as litter. He has decided to devote his time to other matters.

Councillor Richard Down has been appointed as Parish Council Chairman for a further 12 months. We thank him for his commitment to our community.

Amenities

The last Amenities Committee meeting was 21st May 2026, 7.00pm at Forton Community Hall where a full and comprehensive range of subjects were covered. This committee has a very wide remit and covers a number of wonderful amenities in the Parish.

The Amenities Committee are always pleased to see members of the public at their meetings. Keep your eye on the Parish Council website and noticeboards for details of when the meetings are to be held. They take place every two months in Forton Community Hall. I have now taken over as Chair of this committee but would like to say a huge thank you to Councillor Les Matthey who has chaired the Amenities Committee for many years. He remains on this committee and has a wealth of experience and knowledge to offer. Thank you Councillor Matthey.

Councillor Rebecca Jacobs

Jubilee Field



The recent dry weather has made the field much firmer, and access for visitors to the field is much better. The fruit trees are largely healthy and this is something the Parish Council monitor.

Dog walkers continue to enjoy the dog walking field and this is a popular place to let your dog off the lead. We would prefer that dogs remain on the lead in the main field. One big request is that people do not block the main gate up into the field with their vehicles. The main reason is that in the event of an emergency, the emergency services would be unable to access the field. It also helps allotment holders who rely on using their vehicles to take heavy and bulky goods/equipment up to their plots. Please comply with this important request and do not park in front of the entrance to Jubilee field. Thank you.

The Allotments

Allotment holders have been working hard on their plots this spring and there are some lovely plots taking shape. The Tatworth Allotment Association is now formed and has had a meeting. There are lots of exciting plans for developing a community plot and sharing ideas and resources. This is a long term project as the plot needs to be prepared prior to it being offered for community use. Most plots are taken now and the rent rise this year was minimal. If you are interested in taking on a plot, please email the Clerk at the Parish Office and he will advise you on your options.



The Parish Council has donated a cup and vouchers for Tatworth Horticultural Society to present to the best kept Jubilee allotment; judging will be Mid-August with presentation at the Village Horticultural show on 29th August. The cups will be awarded by our Parish Council Chairman Richard Down. We are hoping that allotment holders will enter their produce.



Shelters, Bins, Notice Boards and Seats

All our bus shelters are provided and kept clean and maintained by the parish and additional bins have been installed and some older ones replaced.

Benches can be installed in memory of members of the parish; details of this plan can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Notice boards are installed and maintained around our community please contact the Parish Clerk with a notice if you wish to use them. The Parish Council are in the process of replacing the main noticeboard outside Morrisons. Please bear with us whilst this is done. The end result will be durable and stylish!

Coombses Pond



This amenity is looking very beautiful at this time of year, we have replaced the picnic bench for your added enjoyment. Several visitors have commented that they didn't even know it was there! Please be advised that if you visit the pond you are most welcome. If you do enter the site it is at your own risk and there are hazards, including deep water and uneven ground. The pond is a natural habitat and as such requires

careful management. Each stage of looking after the pond requires thought as to its impact. At present the Amenities Committee are looking at 2/3 practical steps that can make the pond even better. This will be based on the recommendations of the Recent Pond Management Plan that was requested. It is a very comprehensive document. The pond is currently very congested with duckweed and Irises. There is little natural light getting in which makes the water more likely to 'green up'. The footpaths are uneven in places. Finally, the pond needs to act as a retention pond for excess water flowing down the Coombses Brook.



Channels and pipes to and from the pond need regular maintenance. So, there is plenty to be getting on with to make Coombses Pond a nice place to enjoy, and further develop it as a habitat for wildlife.

In the meantime, please enjoy this amenity but do not drop litter and please close the gate when entering and leaving.

Drains, Gullies, Potholes and Problems on the Road: How to Report a Problem

You can report a problem on the roads via the Somerset Council website. It is very easy to follow. If you see an issue such as a blocked drain or poor road surface PLEASE go on the Somerset Council website and report it. It is very easy and if they will follow this up.

Go to the Somerset Council Website: Visit the official website for roads and parking.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Select the Problem Type:

Choose the specific issue from the list, such as:

Potholes, road damage, and edge loss
Flooding on the road

Drains and gullies
Hazard on the road

Provide Details:

Fill out the online form, including the location of the problem, and submit it.

Call for Urgent Issues:

If the problem is urgent and a risk to public safety, or if you are reporting outside of Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, you can call 0300 123 2224.

What to Expect:

Inspection: Your report will be assessed, and an inspection will be arranged.

Action: The Somerset County council will determine if a repair is needed based on the risk and severity. Serious issues are prioritised for faster repair.

Follow-Up: You will be able to track the progress of your reported issue using the reference number you receive.

Looking after our Community

A Small Effort, A Big Difference: Caring for Our Shared Spaces

Our community is at its best when we all play a part in looking after the places we share — the roads we walk, the footpaths we enjoy, bus shelters we wait in and the green spaces that make our area special.

Recently we've seen an increase in litter, dog poo left on paths, and fly tipping in a few spots. These issues affect everyone, from families with young children to older residents and visitors exploring our beautiful surroundings.

We're asking all residents to help by taking simple steps that make a big impact.

Please take litter home and recycle it where possible — Somerset waste bins are not recycled, so home recycling is the best way to keep waste out of landfill. Dog owners, please continue to pick up after your pets so our paths stay clean and safe for all.

If you come across fly tipping, reporting it to Somerset Council quickly helps us keep the area tidy and prevents further dumping. Your vigilance genuinely helps protect the places we all value.

This is a community appeal, not a complaint. When each of us does a little, the whole village benefits. Let's continue to show pride in where we live and keep our shared spaces clean, welcoming and cared for.

Tatworth Cemetery

The improvement of our cemetery is ongoing. We have approved the contract to remove; sandblast and powder coat the front railings – to be completed during the Summer. In the Autumn we are planning to plant a yew hedge around the Garden of Remembrance.

The 2026 memorial testing will commence soon where the memorials identified for annual testing in the top four sections will be tested first before we move on to the newer part of the cemetery. Last year 18 memorials were laid flat as they were considered dangerous.

If your family memorial is one of those laid flat please contact the Clerk who will inform you who to contact to replace the memorial subject to modern regulations.

The cemetery extension planning application is awaiting a response from the Environment Agency to our application. Once approved we can move onto the topographical and ecology surveys.

YOUTH WORK

The youth events working party are looking to arrange a range of events for the youth of the Parish during the year. We supported the Wild Church visit to Seaton Wetlands which was enjoyed by all that went. During the summer we are organising a coach to Lyme Regis on 31st July and to Crealy Theme Park (entrance tickets not included) on 21st August. We are really hoping these will be fully supported as we will need to reassess our priorities if these buses are not nearly full.

We have arranged for an outdoor family cinema event for the evening of 26th September in the Playing Fields – please mark it in your diary.

Please look out for posters/Facebook for more details.

Annual Parish Meeting



We held our Annual Parish Meeting in May where Fire Responder, Michelle Young, explained the work of the First Responders in our Parish. We also heard from 2025 grant winners how the funds were spent.

Our first ever winner of our award for “Outstanding Contribution to the Residents of Tatworth and Forton” was Tony Parfoot who has been a Governor at Tatworth School for over 30 years. He has been involved with many things for the school and community and was a very well deserved winner.



2026 Grants for Local Organisations

Please look out for application forms for £300 grants for Tatworth and Forton based organisations.

Policing

The Parish Council and PCSO Gareth Allington are holding a joint surgery every 4 weeks: 26th June, 24th July, 21st August. Please come to the Brewer Room at Tatworth Memorial Hall between 11:00-12:00 on Friday mornings to talk to Gareth and Parish Councillors.

Reporting Crime

Without logged reports of crime, the police are unable to take much action. If you are aware of something you feel the police should investigate, then please go onto the [Avon and Somerset Police website](#), where you can submit a report. It does not take long. This builds up a vital bank of evidence, and enables the police to investigate. Without this information, the police do find it hard to act. It is a simple process, and greatly helps the local police in their role. Thank you!

DIARY OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Forton Community Association

4 July Music Festival
9 August Crazy Golf
17 October Race Night
Quiz Night last Friday of the month

Playing Field Association

28 June Military Rally
15 August Bruce's Big Big Bash in support of
Veterans in Action
4th & 5th September Sausage, Cider and Gin Festival

Tatworth Memorial Hall

Monthly Events - Bingo 3rd Friday
Flower Club 1st Thursday
Horticultural 2nd Thursday
WI 3rd Thursday

Weekly Events – See Memorial Hall website for details
TAPS, Zumba, Tai Chi, WI, Table Tennis, Choir, Yoga,
Art, Fitness, Children's Dance

Perry Street Club

Perry Street Club are pleased to host Julie's Café.
Julie provides Wednesday Roasts, Thursday night alternative special nights including fish & chips and curry evenings also Saturday morning breakfast.
We also host monthly Quiz night & Open mic
Also look out for our live music, disco nights and bingo. Everyone welcome
07453509899 for more info

Tatworth and District Horticultural Society

9 July Trip to Abbotsbury Gardens & Swannery
29 August Annual Village Show
10 September Talk: Otters – Coming to a River Near You

Dates of next Parish Meetings: 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September

Residents are very welcome to attend these meetings and have an opportunity to speak before the meeting about any matter not on the Agenda. If you have any questions or feedback arising from this Newsletter, please send them to admin@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.