



Tatworth and Forton Parish Council Newsletter

June 2025

Contents: Councillor vacancy, Parish Survey, Amenities, Cemetery memorial, Youth work, Dates for your Diary.

Hello, and welcome to our second newsletter of 2025 for the residents of Tatworth and Forton Parish. Please read on, as we have lots of information about our community

Councillor Vacancy

We are sorry to say that Peter Rosser has decided to resign as a Councillor as his health problems have become long-term and will affect his ability to support the Parish Council and the community. We all wish him well and thank him for his support.

We therefore 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.

This is your opportunity to have an influence on how the area changes.

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

Parish Survey – Final Few Weeks

In our last Newsletter we introduced our Parish Survey to find out the views of our community over certain issues. We have had over 100 replies and will be closing this down on 30th June. Please spend just 5 minutes to complete. If you live in Tatworth go to www.tatworthopinions.co.uk and if in Forton go to www.fortonopinions.co.uk, or use the QR codes below.

Tatworth Forton



Amenities

The last Amenities Committee meeting was held at 7pm on 29th May 2025, at Forton Community Hall, where two members of our community who are not Parish Councillors were welcomed as part of the Parish Council Amenities Committee.

Jubilee Field

The whole area, unusually, is very dry at the moment, yet the main spring is still flowing well. It is not obvious that the recent land drainage work has cured the mud problems. The spring that appeared just inside the gate to the allotments has been directed through pipes under the gateway and into the restored ditch. Responsible land drainage management is not always completed satisfactorily by landowners, so the continued advice and work provided by our local land drainage expert is welcomed.

A recent “Litter Pick” volunteer reported and cleared a number of bags containing dog waste from various places throughout the Jubilee Field. This is very disappointing, and a sad reflection on all the responsible and considerate dog walkers who use this facility every day. There is a dog waste bin at the exit to the Jubilee Field at School Lane. The top field, specially secured, prepared and maintained, where walkers are encouraged to exercise dogs off-lead, is soon to have a bench installed.

The Wassail worked well and must be repeated, because the damage from deer chewing the bark at the base of the orchard fruit trees (reported in the last newsletter) did not stop the beautiful blossoms this spring. Even the developing fruit is promising a good crop of apples, pears and cherries for everyone to enjoy. Some additional fruit trees will be added to the orchard this autumn, because other trees have suffered from the wind and heavy rain of last year. The Council seeks advice from tree experts regarding some of the saplings planted recently that are not doing so well and may need to be replaced if they don't recover. Anyone who would like to help with the orchard and tree management, including pruning, is asked to give their contact details to the Parish Clerk.

Many of us expected more from the promised wildflower meadow, but we must be patient, apparently. The whole area of the Jubilee Field will develop into a beautiful site with specimen native oak, sweet chestnut, copper beech and wild cherry trees in the park field, with wild flowers and benches for us to sit on while enjoying this special parish amenity. The Sandringham Royal Oak is to have a commemorative plaque placed by it this summer.

Allotment holders are forming an “Association” and are now represented on the Parish Amenities Committee. This amenity is soon to be extended to cope with the understandable increased popularity. Recent good ideas include double plots, plot sharing and even a plot managed by the Allotments Association for anyone to work just for the pleasure of a break from their everyday existence. The Council look forward to working closely with representatives of the allotment holders. Anyone interested in taking up an allotment should apply to the Parish Clerk to have their names added to the list.

Shelters, bins, notice boards and seats

It is unfortunate that another simple, glass bus shelter at the junction of Loveridge Lane and Fore Street may not be possible for a while. All our bus shelters are kept clean and maintained by the parish.

Additional benches can be installed in memory of members of the parish; details of this plan can be obtained from the Parish Clerk. One new memorial bench is soon to be placed in the top field, where dog walkers are expected to rest a while.

Notice boards are installed and maintained around our community. Please contact the Parish Clerk with a notice if you wish to use them.

Coombses Pond

The first part of the plan, to prepare the entrance and the near pond bank for limited ability access, is soon to begin, but it has been delayed for special consideration to be given to the leat clearance. All owners of land bordering watercourses have critical responsibilities. A high priority must be given to the clearance and management of the leat bordering the pond and banks of the brook to ensure the unrestricted flow of storm water. Clearance of that part of the leat will apparently cause a problem for our neighbours, but a mutually acceptable solution has been agreed.

Many improvements are planned, but limited finances force slow progress. The surface is badly contaminated with duckweed. This weed stops light from penetrating the water and effectively kills all other life. The iris growth has also taken over a huge part and must also be controlled. Dead wood and trees overhanging the water must be removed, as well as the trees now at a dangerous angle due to wind damage. The pond perimeter banks need to be made secure before restoring the path.

Litter left around this natural area includes sweet and cake wrappers and drink cans. Please go and enjoy the pond, but take your litter home rather than spoiling it for others. Please remember great care must still be taken by anyone in this wild area with deep water, nettles and many trip hazards. The access and perimeter path will be kept clear of undesirable vegetation and log piles. Contractors will begin this work, but we need volunteers to maintain it. Insurance limitations restrict working parties from using power tools: only those who carry a recognised certificate in using power tools in a public area will be permitted to volunteer in this way.

Parish green verges and solar lighting

The green verges that exhibited the spring bulbs are maintained throughout the year.

The solar lighting, adjacent to the Brook opposite Perry Street Club, was to be repaired under warranty. The unfortunate reasons for delay raised by the contractor are under investigation.

Les Matthey

Cemetery Memorials

Any memorial purchased or erected on a grave space is owned by the registered grave owner, and it is that person or persons who are ultimately responsible for its upkeep and maintenance.

Historically, there have been a number of accidents in cemeteries around the UK, some of which have resulted in fatalities, due to memorials being unsafe. Whilst memorials are the responsibility of the registered grave owner, Tatworth and Forton Parish Council have a responsibility for ensuring that its sites are safe for both staff to work in and public to visit.

Therefore, over the next 12 months, Tatworth Cemetery memorials will be inspected and tested by specially trained staff. Once inspected, each memorial will fall into one of three categories:

- Category 1. The memorial is considered unsafe and poses a risk and will require immediate action to make it safe and/or protect the public. The options are: laying the memorial flat, stake and banded to a wooden post as a temporary support, or digging out to a depth of one-third and sunk into the ground to make safe – usually slightly forward into the grave space to avoid foundations. These are temporary solutions until the owners arrange proper repairs.
- Category 2. The memorial is safe, but there are minor concerns. It will be reassessed in 12 months.
- Category 3. The memorial is safe and will be re-inspected in five years' time.

Whilst we will try and maintain the “look” of the cemetery, safety is important. Unfortunately, our records are somewhat outdated, so if you notice a memorial of your loved one with temporary repairs, please contact the Clerk to arrange a permanent solution.

Youth Work



We will be supplying a coach to take families from Tatworth and Forton Parish to Lyme Regis for the day in mid-August. Please look out for posters and further information on Facebook and on our website.

Dates for your Diary 29th June – Litter pick



We had a fantastic response to our litter pick in March with about 20 helpers to make our Parish a cleaner place to live. We are having another litter pick, meeting at the Memorial Hall on 29th June at 10:30am. Grabbers and Hi-Vis will be supplied. Please come and help.

1st July – “Let’s talk Buses”

Do you have any thoughts regarding the No. 30 bus service? Concerns about recent timetable changes?

Tatworth and Forton Parish Council has arranged a meeting to discuss our local service. Anyone, anywhere along the route, is welcome to come along.

The meeting will be attended by representatives of Somerset Bus Partnership and First Bus. Date: Tuesday, July 1 Time: 2pm Place: Tatworth Memorial Hall

Please do join us if you can make it.

Summer – Grants for local organisations



Please look out for the application forms for £300 grants towards local organisations.



We held our Annual Parish meeting where Lindsey Bristow manager of Swiss Tulle gave a very interesting talk to celebrate 200 years of the lace factory.

We also had the organisations that were granted awards in 2024.

Dates of Meetings 3rd July,

Residents are very welcome to attend these meetings and have an opportunity to speak. If you have any questions or feedback arising from this newsletter, please send them to

admin@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.uk

7th August, 4th September