



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 7th July 2022 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

Present: Chairman Richard Down. Councillors: J.MacOmish, S. Adams, T. Eiggins, C Heal, K Patay, E. Peadon, D. Peake, P. Rosser & R. Wardell

Also present: County Councillor C Payne, County Councillor J Baker, District Councillor J Kenton. There were 4 Members of the Public and No members of the press present.

The Public was invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda. Nothing was raised.

Reports from County Councillors

County Councillor Payne's report included confirmation that the vesting date of the Unitary Council remains 1st April 2023 and that Somerset County Council has a potential overspend of £14.4 million. He also highlighted that £3.8m funding has been made available for household support.

County Councillor Baker read his report confirming that the Unitary council will come into force 1 April 2023 and the County is working with the 4 districts to ensure this happens, which will include a single IT platform. Covid numbers are on the rise. Covered his role with Children services and the need for more foster carers. Meetings are awaited re Stop Line Way and footpath from Tatworth to Chard.

Reports from District Councillors.

Councillor Kenton delivered apologies from Councillor Wale and suggested that the Parish Council review representation from County and District in order to avoid duplication.

Councillor Kenton updated the Council on the progress of the transfer of planning to the new Unitary authority, still a lot of unanswered questions.

Section 19 flood report is available at www.southsomerset.gov.uk

An update on the District Council leisure report on Chard Leisure Centre, income above target, 1756 members, 46 fitness classes & employs 67 local people.

138/22 To Receive Apologies.

C Brown (babysitter double-booked), K Patay (unable to exit driveway due to resurfacing work)

139/22 Declarations of Interest

R Down declared pecuniary interest in item 161/22

140/22 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 2022

Proposed by Councillor Adams, Seconded Councillor Eggins, all in favour

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 2022 be signed as a correct record.

141/22 To Co-opt additional Councillors onto Parish Committees

Proposed by Councillor Heal, Seconded Councillor Peadon , all in favour

RESOLVED: Rick Chubb is co-opted onto the Amenities Committee of the Tatworth and Forton Parish Council.

142/22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman commented on the tone and content of recent emails sent to Councillors.

NOTED:

Councillors give freely of their time with no financial reward.

143/22 Flooding Update in Tatworth

Councillor Heal presented her report.

Councillor MacOmish questioned the accuracy of the recent Section 19 Report as it had failed to address the impact on Tatworth and Forton – he will contact Councillor Baker regarding this.

Proposed by Councillor MacOmish, Seconded Councillor Wardell, all in favour

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Heal chair a meeting with the residents of Lower Coombes and the Head of Highways, SSC at Perry Street Social Club to discuss the roadworks commencing in Lower Coombes on 18th July.

NOTED:

Thanks to Perry Street Social Club for their help with this event and parking for residents affected.

144/22 Flooding Update in Forton

Councillor Adams requested clarification on the work recently started on the bridge over the Brook in Forton. Councillor Eggins confirmed that the bases of the pillars are being repaired because of scouring.

145/22 Chard and Area Resilience Group

Councillor Peake gave a brief update.

NOTED:

Item to be added to next month's agenda regarding possible training from Fire Brigade.

146/22 Quarry Inquiry

Councillor MacOmish gave an update –
Aggregates Industries have withdrawn 2022 planning applications for Hodgeditch and the second version of the new quarry application
David Bell is working on submission of evidence on the Council's behalf
Stop the Quarry group have incurred large cost on minerals planning expert
The Parish Council is unlikely to incur any extra costs to those approved

147/22 To Discuss and vote on the motion that “The Parish Council supports the Chard Junction Railway Station Campaign”

County Councillor Payne presented the case for the motion, following which there was extensive debate.

The resultant vote was AGAINST the motion – 4 (Councillors Down, Eggins, Peadon and Heal). 3 (Councillors MacOmish, Rosser and Adams) voted for. 2 (Councillors Peake and Wardell) abstained.

148/22 Parish Council comment to the potential sale of 6 Crossways

Proposed by Councillor Down, seconded by Councillor Heal

RESOLVED:

Clerk to write to Abri on behalf of the Council requesting that a clause be included in their procedures regarding the sale of property to the effect that they are first offered to local people.

8 in favour, 1 abstention (Councillor Wardell)

149/22 To discuss and vote on 2 Playday events during the school holiday

Each event costs £525. Tatworth Playing Fields are happy to host the events Proposed by Councillor Heal, seconded by Councillor Eggins

RESOLVED:

2 Playday events to be hosted by Tatworth Playing Fields. Parish Council to allocate £1200 of funds for these. All in favour

150/22 To discuss and vote on the purchase of defibrillators for the Parish

Perry Street Social Club is happy to carry out the necessary electrical work for a defibrillator at the Club.

Electrical power for a defibrillator is already in place at St John's Church. This was to have been bought by the Wives' Club who had already secured a £400 Parish Council grant towards this. (Clerk to check with David Mears that the Council is permitted to fund equipment for the Community even though located on Church property).

All to investigate further options for locations within the Parish for future meetings.

Proposed by Councillor MacOmish, seconded by Councillor Heal

RESOLVED:

To approve the purchase of defibrillators to be positioned at Perry Street Social Club and at St John's Church. All in favour

151/22 To discuss and vote on retaining 10% of non-precept funding for community events

Proposed by Councillor Peake, seconded by Councillor Eggins

RESOLVED:

To set aside £2,000 per annum from the General Reserve to support the hosting of community events (subject to annual review). All in favour

152/22 To discuss the employment of an odd job/gardener for work around the Parish such as painting/ weeding at the Cemetery, footpath maintenance, Autumn leaf clearance

Proposed by Councillor Peadon, seconded by Councillor Eggins

RESOLVED:

Personnel Committee to go out to tender for an odd job person/ gardener. All in favour

153/22 To discuss and approve in principle the siting of a new bus shelter opposite Perry Street Club.

To be positioned in the layby opposite Perry Street Club. Approved by Highways & County Roads and the bus company. Quotes to be obtained.

Proposed by Councillor MacOmish, seconded by Councillor Down

RESOLVED:

To be positioned in the layby opposite Perry Street Club. Quotes to be obtained. All in favour.

154/22 Coombes Pond

Update received from Clerk. Nothing will happen until after Swiss Tulle board visit on 23rd August 2022.

Councillor Heal expressed concern regarding the wood pile's attraction for potential arsonists. Clerk to -

- i) Send email to local manager regarding the wood pile
- ii) Arrange consultation with local residents concerning the Pond's future

155/22 Climate Change Grant

Update received from Clerk. Playing Field and Forton Community Hall completed. Supplier is to requote for Memorial Hall based upon up-to-date prices and availability of materials.

156/22 Clerk's Report

Flood Wardens are fully insured if they get injured during their work for the Council or cause injury to others or damage property. They must be fully trained and have risk assessments completed. They should not take unnecessary risks during flood events.

Cemetery Car Park – AA Pike has confirmed work should occur mid to late August. The Clerk has requested 3 weeks' notice of this work.

157/22 Audit and Annual Governance Report and Exercise of Electors' Rights

The Audit and Annual Governance Report has been forwarded to the external auditor within the specified timescales. The period of "exercise of electors rights" has commenced.

158/22 Minute item 20/21 approved to maintain David Mears on PAYE until Audit completed with budget of 10 hours. To approve payment of 6 hours.

Proposed by Councillor Eggins, seconded by Councillor Heal. All in favour

RESOLVED:

To approve payment for 6 hours to David Mears

159/22 Comments from Financial Report issued

160/22 Unity Bank signatories

Proposed by Councillor Peake, seconded by Councillor Adams. All in favour

RESOLVED:

To remove Councillor Down as a signatory and replace with Councillor Rosser. All in favour

8.35 pm Councillor Down left meeting and Councillor MacOmish took the Chair.

161/22 Invoices for Payment:

M & J Moulard & Sons (Cemetery Rabbit fence new and repair)	£4171.61 Inc VAT
Councillor Down (Final Jubilee costs Gas/Rope/rail/posts)	£228.70
B E Powell & Sons (Ground Maintenance Cemetery Q1)	£1947.00 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Extra cutting allotment field)	£84.00 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Parish grass cutting Q1)	£1442.70 inc VAT
Evergreen Renewable Energy (Forton Finished)	£4797.00
Thomas Westcott Chartered Accountants (Internal Audit)	£498.00 inc VAT
LGPS Resources (Quarry appeal Stage 2)	£1170.00 inc VAT
Staff Salaries £1047.06	HMRC Quarter payment £780.54

Proposed by Councillor Wardell, seconded Councillor Peadon. All in favour

RESOLVED To pay these invoices

Councillor Down returned to the Chair

162/22 Matters which the Councillors wish to report.

Councillor Adams: To check that Clerk wrote to the lady at Whitegate regarding her hedge. To thank the Council for its contribution to the Jubilee celebrations and particularly Councillor Down for moving the beacon to Forton.

Councillor MacOmish: To request assistance with the traffic survey on 12th July

Councillor Rosser: Concerns regarding the increase in parking on pavements

Councillor Eggins: To advise that he is on the team working on the Stop Line Way. To highlight Somerset Climate Action zoom meeting which could point to projects for the Amenities Committee to consider. To highlight the Somerset Bus Partnership and its campaign supporting the use of buses.

Date and Time of Next Meeting 7pm 4th August 2022

Meeting closed 20.47