



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 1st February 2024 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor R Down, Councillors: S Adams, P Chapple, C Heal, L Matthey, K Patay, D Peake, E Peadon, P Rosser, A Rust and R Wardell

There was 1 Member of the Public and no members of the press were present.

Parish Clerk N Tinley

Somerset Councillor Connor Payne

The Member of Public was invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda but declined.

Report from Somerset Councillors.

Somerset Councillor Payne read from his report. A copy will be emailed to Councillors and placed on our website.

17/24 Apologies for Absence

Somerset Councillor Baker – Budget meeting
Councillor C Brown – Babysitting issues

18/24 Declarations of interest

None.

19/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2024

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. All approved with one abstention (not at meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 January 2024 be signed as a correct record.

20/24 Chairman's Announcements

None.

21/24 Update on Councils Litter Picking - Councillor Chapple

The Newsletter will invite volunteers to be responsible for a certain area of the village. Serena from Alpine Grove Caravan Park is happy to take the waste for recycling. Litter picking equipment will be provided.

22/24 Somerset Council Asset and Service Devolution - Update by Councillor Peake

- No current plans to transfer assets
- Price list for services not being published until early Summer
- No formal list of cuts until after 20 February meeting
- It is a case of waiting

23/24 Discuss and decide whether to allocate a budget to cover potential devolution costs and how much

With the lack of information any budget would be a guess.

Proposed by Councillor D Peake, Seconded by Councillor R Down. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council is unwilling to allocate a budget for devolved services based on the lack of information. Any expenditure will be funded from reserves.

24/24 If a budget is set should it be covered by an increase in precept, take from reserves or a combination of both

As no budget was set, this agenda item is not applicable.

25/24 To agree the Parish Council Precept for 2024-25

At the last meeting the Finance Committee indicated that it recommends that the Council should balance its books rather than use reserves. On the basis of the budget agreed at item 11/24 at the 11 January meeting the Finance Committee recommends a precept of £65,000. This is a 30.52% increase and for a Band D property represents an increase of our section of the Council Tax of £14.50 per year.

Proposed by Councillor A Rust, Seconded by Councillor D Peake. 10 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED: The Council will request a precept of £65,000.

26/24 Clerks Report

The Newsletter has been written and typed out. It will be sent to Councillors Heal and Peake for proof reading. The rest of the Councillors will be able to read it over the weekend before it goes to the printers on Tuesday 6 February. The copies will be ready for collection the following week for distribution with the Link. We will ask for layout recommendations from the printers.

27/24 Invoices for Payment:

Wright Tree Surgery & Landscaping (War Memorial) £620.00 no VAT

Tatworth Mem Hall (Room Hire, Office & Youth Club Oct-Dec) £841 no VAT
Chard Digital Print (Name Plates) £36.00 Inc VAT
R & M Vickery (Hedge Laying-Jubilee Field) £3120.00 Inc VAT

Paid by Clerk

High Speed Training (2 Office safety courses) £48.00 Inc VAT

Staff Salaries £1392.14

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The payments as listed are approved for payment.

The internet payments have been set up and signed by Councillor Wardell.
Councillor Peake will log on and authorise payment. Payment date set for Tuesday
6 February 2024.

28/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

- Councillor Heal - There have been reports that a bench in Coombses Pond is being used for drug purposes. This item will be placed on the Amenities Committee agenda.
- Councillor Peake - A drainage ditch at Witney Lane has been filled in - this will be reported to Highways.
- Councillor Payne - He is trying to get the Chard Chamber of Commerce restarted for the TA20 postcode. He will send details to the Clerk to promote.
- Councillor Down - We should promote meetings on Facebook with agendas.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7th March 2024

Meeting closed 7:45pm