



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 2nd May 2024 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

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

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

Parish Clerk N Tinley

Somerset Councillors J Baker.

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

Report from Somerset Councillor J Baker

Councillor Baker read from his report which will be forwarded to the Councillors and placed on the website.

Councillor Baker mentioned that he is in negotiations with Highways regarding two 20mph applications in Chard and he will be willing to act upon any application from our Parish. Dyke Hill and Forton were mentioned. This item is to be placed on next month's Agenda and the Clerk is to communicate with Councillor Baker regarding costs and procedure.

It was also mentioned that Chard Traffic Wardens could cover this Parish. The Clerk is to request this from Councillor Baker and Chard Town Council.

Councillor Baker emphasised an App called "Fix my Street" as a better alternative to correspondence direct with Somerset Council. Fix my Street will chase rather than ourselves.

59/24 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Brown Childminding issues
Councillor Rust Work commitments
Councillor Adams Unwell

60/24 Declarations of interest

Payments 72/24 – Councillors Down and Wardell are Trustees of the Memorial Hall and will leave the room.

61/24 Election of Parish Chairman and Sign Acceptance

Councillor Down was proposed by Councillor Patay, Seconded by Councillor Peadon. There were no other nominations. All in favour with Councillor Down abstaining.

RESOLVED: Councillor Down will remain as Parish Council Chairman and signed the Acceptance Form.

62/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th April 2024

Proposed by Councillor Patay, Seconded by Councillor Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th April 2024 be signed as a correct record.

63/24 To approve Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

Proposed by Councillor Heal, Seconded by Councillor Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Code of Conduct and Standing Orders have been adopted by the Full Council.

64/24 Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Patay was proposed by Councillor Heal, Seconded by Councillor Wardell. There were no other nominations. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillor Patay remains at Parish Council Vice Chairman.

65/24 Election to Committee's (Chair and Vice Chair are ex-officio to all Committees) Quorum for committees is 4

Planning Councillors D Peake, P Chapple, E Peadon, R Wardell

Finance Councillors D Peake, P Chapple, P Rosser, L Matthey

Personnel Councillors C Heal, R Wardell

Amenities Councillors L Matthey, E Peadon, C Heal, P Rosser

Cemetery Councillors E Peadon, R Wardell, D Peake

Proposed by Councillor Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon, All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Councillors listed have been elected to these committees.

This will be on next month's Agenda to allow further nominations to committees.

66/24 Appoint Members to serve on outside bodies:

Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC)
Tatworth Playing Fields

Councillor C Heal
Councillor C Heal

Stowell Court Rights Holder
Tatworth Memorial Hall Trustee

Councillor P Rosser
Councillor R Down

Proposed by Councillor Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Councillors listed above have been nominated to these posts.

67/24 Chairman's Announcements

Anna Rust has resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. The Chairman thanked Anna for her contribution over the time she has been a Councillor for this Parish.

68/24 The Councils response to the Petition against the Amenities decision to ban dogs off the lead in the main Jubilee field

The Amenities Committee was responding to several comments from residents visiting Jubilee Field that dogs running free were jumping up and frightening them. Together with the attack on the sheep in the next field and after long discussions it has been agreed to ban dogs off the lead in the main field and allow dogs off the lead in the top field above the allotments. The Committee is trying to make this area available for all visitors, not just dog walkers.

Proposed by Councillor Patay, Seconded by Councillor Heal. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Full Council backs the decision of the Amenities Committee and dismisses the petition.

Councillors Down and Matthey will put up the notices next week.

69/24 To approve the Grant assessment and Award Policy as recommended by the Finance committee

Proposed by Councillor D Peake, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Grant assessment and Award Policy has been adopted by this Council.

70/24 Comments and questions from end of year Finance Report issued

The Clerk presented the spreadsheet summarising that the budget set for 2023/24 anticipated that we spend £28,400 of our reserves. In reality, additional income from the cemetery and sale of our 20% ownership in Zembard Lane car park pushed us into a surplus of £4,173. Without this we would have used £14,465 of our reserves.

There were no questions or comments.

71/24 Clerks Report

The next Newsletter is due this month. Can reports from committees be passed to the Clerk.

The Precept has arrived from Somerset Council.

The requirement for the internal audit has been passed to the accountant.

The chipping of the brush at Jubilee Field has started and will be finished on Tuesday. The area is a wet mess. Amenities have authorised Richard Down Contractors to investigate the broken land drain.

Councillors Down and Wardell left the meeting

72/24 Invoices for Payment:

VisionICT (Website management)	£360.00 Inc VAT
Rialtas (Accounting software & support)	£230.40 Inc VAT
Tatworth Memorial Hall (office & room hire Mar)	£260.00 No VAT
South West Councils (Subscription)	£598.80 Inc VAT
Graphics Factory (Jubilee Field Signs)	£189.00 Inc VAT
Country Lawns & Trees Ltd (Trees Coombses Pond)	£6303.00 Inc VAT

Paid by Clerk

Amazon (4 Keep dogs on lead Sign)	£45.35 inc VAT
Amazon (Magnets for notice boards)	£9.99 inc VAT
Argos (Computer Mouse)	£5.99 Inc VAT

Staff Salaries £1396.77

Proposed by Councillor Peake, Seconded by Councillor Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The payments as listed are approved for payment.

They have been set up on Internet banking and signed by Councillor Adams. Councillor Peake will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 7th May.

Councillors Down and Wardell returned to the meeting

73/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report.

Councillors Peake and Heal attended the LCN meeting, 6 Parish Councils were represented. There was no support from Chard Town Council. There were interesting presentations from Blackdown Support Group and the Forestry Commission.

Councillor Heal

After Wednesday night's rain, was checking the water levels and met a company testing the sewage drains in Coombses area. Rainwater has been getting into the sewage drains causing problems.

Councillor Patay

There have been similar problems in Forton and the sewage pump struggles with the quantity of water.

Councillor Rosser

The Jubilee Field dog bin was overflowing on Thursday morning due to cars parking in front and stopping emptying. Cones need to be placed on a Wednesday evening. The Clerk confirmed it had now been emptied.

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 9th May 7pm

Date of next meeting: 6th June 2024

Meeting closed at 8:00pm