



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 11th July 2024 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

**Present: Chairman Councillor R Down, Councillors: S Adams, C Heal,
L Matthey, K Patay, D Peake, E Peadon and R Wardell**

There was 1 Member of the Public and 2 Councillor applicants present.

Parish Clerk N Tinley

Somerset Councillor J Baker.

The member of the public was invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda, but declined.

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

Chairman Councillor Down wished for congratulations to be passed to our new MP Adam Dance with the hope that he would come to visit the Parish.

Councillor Baker confirmed he is now Chair of the Planning South Committee.

AGENDA

92/24 Apologies for Absence

Councillor C Brown – holiday
Councillor P Chapple – holiday
Councillor P Rosser – unwell

93/24 Declarations of interest

Councillors E Peadon and R Down 106/24 Payments

These Councillors will leave the room.

94/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th June 2024

Proposed by Councillor D Peake, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. All in favour with one abstention (not at last meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th June 2024 be signed as a correct record.

95/24 To approve Co-Option of a replacement Parish Councillor

Candidates:

John Venn
Brian Quinn

- 1) Questions towards candidates.

Each candidate was extensively questioned.

- 2) Who wishes to propose and second the candidates

Candidate Venn – Proposed by Councillor Wardell, Seconded by Councillor Matthey.

Candidate Quinn – Proposed by Councillor Patay, Seconded by Councillor Heal.

- 3) Secret vote to be independently verified

A secret vote was taken and verified by Somerset Councillor Baker, and Brian Quinn was confirmed as elected to Tatworth and Forton Parish Council.

John Venn left the meeting.

Councillor B Quinn joined the meeting.

96/24 Clerk to issue to new Councillor the Code of Conduct, Register of Interest (To be returned to Clerk by 12th August) and Training dates

Councillor Quinn signed the “Declaration of Acceptance of Office” form, witnessed by the Clerk. Councillor Quinn took away the Register of Interest form to complete and the Code of Conduct. Training dates to be forwarded when available.

97/24 To accept new Councillor onto committees that suit their interests and skill set. (Amenities, Cemetery, Finance and Planning)

Councillor Quinn would like to discuss with the Clerk before committing to a committee.

The Chairman had agreed to move agenda item 101/24 as Pete May had a youth event in Chard to attend

101/24 The future of the Youth Club, consider and approve a way forward

The meeting was closed to allow Pete May to address the Councillors

He went on to explain that the organisation had budgeted its costs to the Council on the basis of the number of children attending the Fun Zone 12 months ago. Last year the weather was particularly favourable whereas this year most Mondays have

been wet and as a result numbers have dropped. It is not financially sustainable at current levels. They have close contact with Tatworth School. In April 2024 the cost to the Council reduced by £1,458 per year.

The meeting recommenced with Councillors comments

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

RESOLVED: The Parish Council continues its support for the Youth Club and wishes to keep it going.

The Council requested that Active Learning & Skills presents a financial proposal for the August meeting.

98/24 Chairman's Announcements

There has been no formal report from the Police but they confirmed an arrest after a property in the Parish was raided by 20 Officers searching for drugs.

The St John's Vicar will be holding a leaving picnic at Forde Abbey on 20th July.

DBS check for Councillors – The Clerk is to bring details to the next meeting.

99/24 Feedback from Councillor Heal from Flood Agency meeting

A meeting was held with a Flood Risk Modeller and his student from Birmingham, a representative from Flooding at Somerset, an Environmental Officer from Devon, myself and Councillor Patay. The agreed meeting was supposed to have Head of Highways, a civil engineer, Wessex Water with 2 representatives but they did not show.

We walked to Forton and met Councillor Patay there.

We looked at photographs, letters and maps showing what occurred June 2021 . We then walked around this area. Holway was flooded although it was really hot. Discussions concluded and it was pointed out how strongly we required a Riparian Enforcement Officer. Letters showing the Rivers Authority had sent a notice to a resident telling him to move rubbish near the Brook but nothing had been moved and they had not contacted him again. Leaky dams and attenuation ponds were also discussed. We also highlighted Highways lack of maintenance causing problems for residents and Blacklands Lane still not being made safe even after the April Budgets money had been received.

We await the report from the Consultant.

100/24 Consider subscribing to the Rural Bulletin at an annual cost of £50, as Somerset Unitary Council has withdrawn from the Rural Service Network

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The expenditure of £50 annually has been approved to allow the Rural Bulletin to recommence.

102/24 To approve the quotation of £662 to cover the build of a computer for the office and technical support setting up and moving from old computer. The clerk has had a more expensive quotes.

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

RESOLVED: The expenditure has been approved to replace the office computer.

103/24 To adopt policies from the Finance Committee:

**Financial Regulations, Investment Policy, Reserves Policy
Grant Assessment and Awarding Policy**

Proposed by Councillor D Peake, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED: The Financial Regulations, Investment and Reserves Policies have been approved. The Grant Assessment and Awarding Policy were approved in May.

104/24 Clerks Report

None.

105/24 Comments from Financial report Issued

No comments.

*Councillors Down and Peadon left the room
Councillor Patay acted as Chairman*

106/24 Invoices for Payment:

Adam Taylor Ltd (License & Fitting of Benches)	£624.00 Inc VAT
MACS Printing (Newsletter)	£202.00 No VAT
St Johns Church (Delivery of Newsletter)	£150.00 No VAT
St Johns Church (Hire of Hall-Finance Comm)	£20.00 No VAT
Vision ICT (Hosting email account)	£24.00 Inc VAT
Rhys Hopkins Consultancy (New Comp if 102/24 approved)	£662.00 No VAT
Eric Peadon (Bus Shelter Cleaning)	£180.00 No VAT

Paid by Clerk

NALC (Neighbourhood plan training)	£39.22 Inc VAT
Tesco (Tea & Coffee etc for Annual Meeting)	£12.25 No VAT
Brunel Engraving (Bench plaques)	£116.14 Inc VAT

Burial Account

Shaun Wareham (Strimmed footpath)	£40.00 No VAT
ICCM (annual membership)	£100.00 No VAT

Staff Salaries £1396.77 HMRC £970.96

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

RESOLVED: The payments as listed have been approved for payment.

They have been set up on Internet banking and signed by Councillor S Adams. Councillor D Peake will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 16th July.

Councillors Down and Peadon returned to the meeting

107/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

- Councillor Heal - The playing fields are applying for a grant to provide adult physical training equipment.
- Councillor Patay - Has contacted Highways again regarding the collapsing wall at the top of Forton.
- Councillor Matthey - Adders are active in the allotments.
- Councillor Peadon - Evening parking on double yellow lines. The Clerk is to investigate traffic wardens.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 1st August 2024

Meeting Close 8:20pm