



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

There was 1 Member of the Public present and no Press.

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.

Our new MP, Adam Dance, is holding an open surgery in Chard on 10th August. He is covering the towns before reaching the Parishes.

There were no questions.

Councillor Baker apologised and left as he had another meeting to attend.

AGENDA

108/24 Apologies for Absence

Councillor S Adams – unwell

109/24 Declarations of interest

Councillors C Brown, R Down and R Wardell re payments 122/24.

These Councillors will leave the room.

110/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th July 2024

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. 9 in favour with 2 abstentions (not at last meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th July 2024 be signed as a correct record.

111/24 Chairman's Announcements

None.

112/24 To approve Councillor Quinn appointment to the Amenities Committee

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillor Quinn has been appointed to the Amenities Committee.

Councillor Matthey will arrange for Councillor Quinn to have an introductory tour of the Parish amenities.

113/24 Youth Club, to approve a monthly increase of £117.09 to £505.59 from 1st September. An additional £820 above budget

Discussion took place concerning the importance of maintaining a Youth Club in the village and the start time.

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor C Heal. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The increased payment has been approved and the Standing Order will be adjusted. The Clerk is to determine the start time with Active Learning & Skills.

114/24 Assuming that there are no compelling reasons (apart from the desire to make a handsome return) behind the Crossman's intended sale of their development site, Councillor Chapple's proposal is that the Parish Council formally and strongly disapproves of the action of Crossman Homes in on selling their development site having secured planning permission to build 95 houses

After discussion from both sides Councillor P Chapple proposed that we should formally and officially disapprove based on wording already forwarded to Councillors. Councillor D Peake seconded. 6 for the motion, 2 against, 3 abstentions (names have been recorded by the Clerk for future reference).

RESOLVED: That Councillors Chapple and Peake formalise the wording and pass it to the Clerk to issue to Somerset County Council Planning Department, our Somerset County Councillors, new MP, Housing Secretary of State Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP and the Press.

115/24 Would the PC object if Chilson Commoners put up a well-made plain wooden sign (unpainted) with words "Hamlet of Chilson Common" carved into it? (The location would be on the left-hand side of the lane down to the hamlet, a full 150m away from the B3167 - just outside the wall of the first Chilson Common property) - Councillor Peake

After discussion it was determined that it was not up to the Parish Council to approve or disapprove. The Chilson Commoners will have to obtain any permission (Planning/Highways) that is required.

116/24 Neighbourhood Plan

To discuss and appoint working party to deal with Janvrin Edbrooke (National Neighbourhood plan Champion) and report back to the council to make an informed choice whether to proceed

The general consensus is that all of the Council members want to be involved rather than a working party. They would prefer that the "National Neighbourhood Plan Champion" be invited to a meeting in the Parish and we would cover his reasonable costs, perhaps also inviting other Parishes and the general public to the meeting. It would be preferable to deal with this ourselves rather than with a Chard based action group. Councillor Chapple is to coordinate.

After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Heal attend a NALC training on The Future of Neighbourhood Plans. The cost to be reimbursed.

117/24 Councillor Matthey wants the council to consider the removal of the remains of the base of the old sluice gate in the Forton Brook at the junction of the footpath from Perry Street Club to Holway. This would allow wildlife movement, reduce the risk of flooding in Lower Coombses and improve the river bed by scouring the stream bottom. It will not increase the volume of water but will increase the depth and narrow the width of the brook downstream from that point. The practice of removing redundant weirs and dams has proved successful in all other areas according to the river's authority, environmental agencies and throughout Europe

Councillor Matthey introduced his research from HM Gov website "Design, Maintenance, Modification and Removal of River Weirs". It was stressed by other Councillors that we could not take action independently and could only proceed after formal investigation. Councillor Heal suggested our first action should be to get a view from the Lead Local Flood Authority (Somerset Council). Councillor Heal will provide details to the Clerk for him to enquire.

118/24 Potential Litter Bin and Dog Waste Bin charges 2025/26 - Clerk

The Clerk introduced a letter the office had received from Somerset Council explaining that 2 of the old District areas paid for the disposal of rubbish and dog bins, whereas the other 2, including SSDC, did not. For 2025-26 Somerset Council are considering whether to introduce a charge for the whole County. This would cost the Parish at least £6,500 a year. The alternative is for the Town Council to take it over from its local Parishes. Chard Town Council is prepared to talk this over. The Clerk is to coordinate. We will need to build the additional cost into next year's budget

119/24 Approval that Council will pay for Councillor DBS checks with Gov DBS service at £18 a time

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor D Peake. 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Should a Councillor wish to be DBS checked the Parish Council will reimburse the HM Gov cost.

120/24 Newsletter- 6 monthly review, any improvements that can be made, next due early Sept

Comments:

- Deliver as a separate item rather than tucked inside the Church publication.
- Place a small quantity in local halls.
- To look at the front page in order to make it more appealing.
- Councillor Quinn to liaise with the Clerk regarding online format.

121/24 Clerks Report

The Clerk has reported the parking issues in our community.

Councillors Down, Brown and Wardell left the room

Councillor Patay took over as Chairman

122/24 Invoices for Payment:

Richard Down Plant Contractor (Put up & move Speed Device)	£234.00 Inc VAT
Tatworth Memorial Hall (Hire office, hall & Youth club)	£798.00 No VAT
Vision ICT (Hosting email account)	£24.00 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Grass cutting)	£2133.00 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Fencing at Jubilee Field)	£957.60 Inc VAT
Darren Strawbridge Garden/Fencing (A358 footpath)	£456.00 Inc VAT
Rural Services Partnership (Membership)	£60.00 Inc VAT

Paid by Clerk

Amazon (Notices for Jubilee Field & Coombses Pond)	£136.80 Inc VAT
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Burial Account

B E Powell & Sons (Cemetery Maintenance)	£2721.00 Inc VAT
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Staff Salaries £1396.77

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. 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 Rosser. Councillor Peake will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 6th August.

Councillors Down, Brown and Wardell returned to the meeting

123/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

- Councillor Rosser - The removal of our “Dogs on Leads” signs from Jubilee Field should be reported to the Police.
- The Parish should organise activities at Jubilee Field.
- Councillor Brown - Has been in contact with MP Adam Dance to arrange a “drop in” at Tatworth to include Parish Councillors.
- Councillor Chapple - Regarding recent road closure of Waterlake Road and disruption in bus schedule. The notification arrived on the morning of the closure. The Newsletter should contain information to inform the public how they can complain.
- Councillor Down - Perry Street Club are having an emergency meeting regarding finances. Can any Councillors who are members attend to see if the selling off of the field is raised.
- Councillor Heal - The van down from the shop has been removed and reparked. It is believed to be without MOT. The Police can only action if in motion. Cars for repair are also still taking up both sides of the B3167.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5th September 2024

Meeting Close 8:45pm