



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 8th February 2024 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey, Councillors: S Adams, C Heal, K Patay, E Peadon and P Rosser. Co Opted member of the public R Chubb

Clerk N Tinley

1 Member of Public No Press

The member of the public was invited to speak regarding matters outside the agenda but declined

01/24 Apologies for absence

Councillor Down - calving

02/24 Declarations of interest:

None.

03/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2023

Proposed by Councillor S Adams, Seconded by Councillor P Rosser. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2023 be signed as a correct record.

04/24 Finance review against budget

The Clerk went through the Amenities finances.

05/24 Jubilee Field:

1) To review the field's reaction to the wet winter

The Clerk visited the field twice after heavy rain. The footpath remained safe to walk on. The reinstated ditch had a small stream running and the bank had a pond of water restrained behind it. The stream was flowing well out of the drain a good 1½ feet below the top of the bank. The only concern was the muddy patch beyond the footpath. It was suggested by Councillor Peadon that we need to look into the costs of reinstating the land drain. There is currently no budget for major works but it can be investigated and costed for next year's budget.

2) Update on tree planting

15 well established trees were planted in the main field to give it a parkland feel.
12 wet loving trees were planted in the fenced off area.
The free Woodland Trust trees have been planted, mainly in the wet area.

3) Update on hedge laying

This has been completed and it was acknowledged that a good job has been done, though looking bare, spring season growth will improve the look. The wood will be used for the River Axe Landscape Recovery Project trying to slow the flow of the river so that Winsham flood plain will be flooded, rather than downstream in our Parish. The Clerk to contact the contractor to hurry up with the removal of wood.

4) Signage for Jubilee field and potential issues with dog walkers

After a further example of dogs being out of control the Committee confirmed its decision to allow dogs onto the main field only if being controlled on a lead. Dogs will be allowed off the lead in the field above the allotments. The aim is to make the main field accessible to everyone, not just dog walkers. The Clerk to get the signage done and publish the change on the website and Facebook.

It was noted that the signage for the fenced off wet area has not been put in place yet. The Clerk will investigate.

5) Hedge cutting, start date

This will commence within a week.

6) Maintenance of Orchard, pruning apple trees - Councillor Peadon

No pruning has taken place to date. It would need to be done by someone with the correct knowledge rather than a volunteer. Jan Morse was mentioned.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. 6 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Jan Morse to see if she is prepared to help.
Councillor Peadon to supply contact details.

7) Other matters that councillors wish to discuss about Jubilee Field

Rick Chubb: A hole is developing by the bottom gate. The Clerk will investigate.

Councillor Rosser: The Council will receive adverse comeback from some residents when the dog restrictions come into force but we must stand firm.

06/24 Coombes Pond-

- 1) Update on tree work around pond

The Clerk has a meeting with the contractor on Friday 16th February at 9:30am. There are two additional trees that have fallen since the original quotation. The work is due to start on 19th February for 3 days.

- 2) Discussion to remove the bench

To request Richard Down to remove the bench and store until the work is completed.

- 3) To discuss clearing overgrown area and consider professional help

A number of volunteers were contacted for a meeting but just one was able to attend. With the insurance restrictions on powered tools it may be more sensible for a contractor to be employed. They would have the correct machinery, tools and licences. To review after main contractor has completed his work.

- 4) Leat restoration to allow free flow of stormwater from Forton brook

It is the responsibility of the Council now the property is owned by us. To be looked at once the land has been cleared of vegetation. This item will be kept on the agenda.

- 5) Cutting back tree growth on lane where solar lights fitted

This has been awarded to Jason Wright but has still to be done.

07/24 Bus Shelter Repair and Maintenance. Update

As requested, the contractor has already repaired the pole and removed graffiti at Forton Bus Shelter. The main work will start next week with a team of 4. He will be on schedule for a 50% invoice by the end of February and the remainder in April.

08/24 Public Seating in the Parish - to decide which sites to proceed with

We have been given permission to place a bench at 3 sites, School Lane and corner of Linkhay Orchard in Tatworth, and Forton Lane in Forton.

The Committee looked at each option:

- 1) School Lane. We have a sponsor in memory of Neil and Valerie Joslin. We will need a Concrete base but as it is not highway land no special licence is required.
- 2) Corner of Linkhay Orchard onto Perry Street. We had no sponsor at the time of the meeting but have received a strong possible offer since. As it will be on the pavement no Concrete base will be needed, but as it is highways land it will need a licence.
- 3) Grass area in Forton Lane, Forton. We have no sponsor. It would need both a concrete base and a special highways licence. There are other seats nearby and the Committee decided to put this on hold until a sponsor is found.

A quote for fitting is held but the Committee felt it was expensive.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. 5 in favour.

RESOLVED: To proceed with sites 1 and 2. The Clerk to obtain alternative quotations for the concrete base and fitting.

It was mentioned by the member of public that these would qualify for payment from the Community Infrastructure Levy and as such would not be an issue if the project were to be delayed until after April.

09/24 Update on purchase of land at Watermead - update from Clerk

There have been no updates from Somerset Council.

10/24 Allotments- To approve/amend draft allotment regulations

Some amendments were suggested.

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: The regulations as presented to the meeting, with the amendments, have been adopted and will be issued to all allotment holders.

11/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

Councillor Heal	Still holding the noticeboards from Coombes Pond. They are out of date. The Clerk gave permission for their disposal.
Councillor Peadon	The allotment pump is not working. The Clerk gave permission for Councillor Peadon to repair.
Councillor Patay	Has developed a Facebook page for Tatworth and Forton flooding issues. This is to be used for information, community feedback, networking and to gather intelligence. The Clerk stressed that this is a community Facebook page rather than a Parish Council led page.
Councillor Rust	Attended the meeting to present a letter from a Parishioner with concerns over the banning of dogs at Jubilee Field. This was discussed at length and left with the Clerk to reply explaining the Council's position.

Meeting Closed 9pm

Date of Next Meeting – 21st March 2024