



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 21st March 2024 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey, Councillors: S Adams, R Down, 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 public was invited to speak regarding matters outside the agenda but declined

12/24 Apologies for absence

None

13/24 Declarations of interest

Councillor Peadon – item 18/24. Will leave the room.

14/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 8th February 2024

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour with one abstention – not at meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 8th February 2024 be signed as a correct record.

15/24 Jubilee Field

1) Plan the repair of land drainage pipe

It is difficult to obtain quotations for the repair without investigation into where the drain is and what is its state of repair.

Proposed by Councillor Peadon, Seconded by Councillor Adams. All in favour with Councillor Down abstaining.

RESOLVED: Councillor Down to investigate the position of the drain and its state of repair to a maximum budget of £500. The wood will need to be removed. He will report back to next meeting.

2) Update on disposal of hedge laying wood – Clerk

The Clerk updated the Committee stating that the contractor will need to bring heavy machinery onto the field to remove the wood and is waiting until the land has dried out.

Concern was raised that our new footpath is not designed for heavy tractors and that we did not want the wood to lay on the ground for the next 3-4 months.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain 3 quotes to chip all of the wood up to the dogleg and 15 metres beyond where the land drain is thought to be. The quotes to be presented to the next full Council meeting to approve.

3) Update on Signage for Jubilee field – Clerk

Discussed the final design for the signs and a couple of adjustments agreed. Size: 30" x 18". A social media post is to be placed on Facebook.

The Clerk is to bring details of the Somerset Dog Warden service to the next meeting.

The Clerk will cost up a smaller community noticeboard for the bottom of Jubilee Field.

4) Maintenance of Orchard, pruning apple trees

The Clerk now has Jan Morse's contact details and has emailed. He will telephone to enquire when is the best time to prune now that the trees have started to leaf. If we have to leave pruning to the Autumn the Clerk will ask if we could arrange a community training session.

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

The Clerk and the Chairman have received an email from Sandra Munday requesting that the Council consider converting the top lead-free area into a completely safe environment for dogs off the lead. The concern is that the top hedge onto the A358 is not completely secure.

The Clerk will bring quotations for a stock fence to the next meeting.

16/24 Update on the allotments - Clerk

The Clerk updated the Councillors.

- 1) One tenant has given up his tenancy and it has been taken over by the neighbouring tenant.
- 2) The Clerk has had 2 enquiries: 1 is waiting to see if anyone drops out of an existing plot and the other is inspecting the allotment before committing.
- 3) Invoices and new Regulations will be issued in April. We will emphasise the requirement for the plot to be properly maintained.

- 4) We have 4 plots available, another 8 that can be easily made available and other areas along the sides that can be used.

17/24 Coombses Pond

1) Update on tree work around pond - Clerk

The tree work should be completed by 5th April. The large fallen trees have been dealt with; there is just the boat work to be done.

2) To discuss clearing overgrown area and consider professional help

Once the tree work has been completed the Committee will meet at Coombses Pond to determine the work needed to clear the rest of the site. We have 2 sets of volunteers that will do the work. A provisional date was fixed for Wednesday 10th April at 6:15pm. Clerk will confirm.

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

Once the site has been cleared of vegetation this can be assessed.

4) Restoring footpaths around the pond

To be assessed at the site meeting on 10th April.

Councillor Peadon left the room

18/24 Bus Shelter Repair and Maintenance. Update

The repair and maintenance work is 50% completed.

Discussed the regularity of cleaning by Eric, currently done every 2 months; does it need to be done monthly? There is not a detailed schedule of works. The Councillors requested the Clerk to reassess the schedule of works with a tick sheet and bring it to the next meeting. The new schedule will have to go out for quotes.

19/24 Public Seating in the Parish- decide contractor to install

We now have both benches sponsored and therefore we only need to pay for fitting and plaques. Councillor Peadon will be sponsoring the Linkhay seat in memory of his parents. The Clerk has applied to 5 contractors for quotes and 3 have returned.

Proposed by Councillor Adams, Seconded by Councillor Heal. All in favour with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: The Adam Taylor Ltd quotation be accepted on the basis of cost. He has a known reputation for quality work.

In April the Clerk will move forward with this.

20/24 Update on purchase of land at Watermead - update from Clerk

There has been no news from Somerset Council – the Clerk will chase.

21/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

- Councillor Adams There are some large pot holes in the village. Please report to Highways.
- Councillor Patay The Blacklands Lane public right of way is in a poor state of repair. This has been reported and an update is awaited.
- Councillor Patay There have been sewage pump issues at Forton. The sewage is being diverted out by the water authorities. Lots of lorries have been coming and going.
- Councillor Heal The bench at Coombses Pond has not been removed – to be discussed at the meeting on 10th April.
- Councillor Down Morrisons are locking their waste bins and the public are dropping litter on the floor. The Clerk is to investigate and write to Morrisons' area office.
- Rick Chubb Rick is happy to be re-co-opted onto the Committee in May.
- Councillor Rosser Suggested using visual aids at our meeting and he will investigate. He has a video of a walk around Jubilee Field.
- Councillor Matthey To hold a coffee morning with a display of local photos. Suggested this may be good for May's annual Parish Meeting.
- Clerk The Clerk confirmed that the sale of the 20% of Zembard Lane area, Chard has been completed and the funds have arrived in the bank account.

Meeting Closed 8:55pm

Date of Next Meeting – 16th May 2024