



# TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Councillors L Matthey, R Down, C Heal, K Patay, E Peadon and P Rosser.

Clerk N Tinley

6 Members of the Public. No Press

The members of the public were invited to speak regarding matters outside the agenda but declined

### **22/24 Apologies for absence**

Councillor S Adams - unwell

### **23/24 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Peadon – item 32/24.

### **24/24 To confirm re co-option of Ricki Chubb onto the Amenities Committee**

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

**RESOLVED:** Rick Chubb was co-opted onto the Amenities Committee.

***Rick Chubb joined the meeting from the public section***

### **25/24 Election of Chairman of Amenities Committee**

Councillor E Peadon proposed Councillor Matthey, Seconded by Councillor P Rosser.

No counter-proposal.

All in favour of proposition.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Matthey to remain as Amenities Committee Chairman.

Councillor Matthey thanked all committee members for their support and hard work over the last 12 months.

**26/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Section 15(4) mistyped. Jo Morse should be Jan Morse.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be signed as a correct record after amendment.

**27/24 To Review Amenities Committee Terms of Reference for approval by Full Council**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the terms of reference is accepted and to be recommended to the full council for adoption.

**28/24 Representatives from the allotment holders speak about their ideas and suggestions for the future of the allotment site.** This to be restricted to a 15 minute time slot where items for discussion can be placed on next meeting's agenda.

***The meeting was closed for the representative of the allotments to speak***

- The allotment holders are close to forming an allotment association.
- There is concern regarding vehicular access which was impossible during the very wet winter.
- The gate area is very muddy from a fresh spring and is almost impossible to walk through.
- There are concerns that an ambulance cannot get through the bottom gate
- They would like to arrange a water source or storage unit for the top allotments. If funding can be arranged would this be acceptable to the committee?
- Toilet facilities – if this can be arranged via a grant would this be acceptable to the committee?
- Non-allotment holders are still walking their dogs through the allotments.

***The meeting was recommenced***

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their comments which will be investigated and discussed at a future meeting.

***4 members of the public left the meeting***

## **29/24 Jubilee Field**

### **1) Update from Councillor Down regarding the repair of land drainage pipe**

The brush had not been cleared as quickly as anticipated so investigations have not yet started. They will commence in the next 10 days.

### **2) Update on signage for Jubilee Field – Clerk**

The signage is ready to be put up and will be done within the next couple of weeks.

### **3) To decide on a notice board for the field**

The Clerk has obtained a quote from our normal supplier of £923 plus VAT for a 6-page sized board. However, we have been offered a free wooden 2-page sized board from St John's Church. Councillor Rosser mentioned the lack of notice board space in that part of the Parish.

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

**RESOLVED:** The Parish will accept the free notice board which Councillor Peadon will refurbish and fit.

A new public notice board to be discussed at the budget meeting for next year.

### **4) Update on Maintenance of Orchard, pruning apple trees – Clerk**

The Clerk read an email conversation with Jan Morse. The pruning has been done but we need to arrange help for next time. Jan was thanked.

### **5) To decide on the stock fence for the top field**

The Clerk contacted 4 contractors for quotations and has received 2 positive replies.

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

**RESOLVED:** The quote from B Powell be accepted as the cheapest option.

A pedestrian gate to the top dog field will be considered for a future budget.

### **6) Other matters that councillors wish to discuss about Jubilee Field**

(1) Councillor P Rosser has a before and after video of Jubilee Field which will be shown at the next full council meeting.

(2) The Clerk is to investigate a Dog Warden Scheme.

(3) At future meeting discuss whether to trim back the grass in the closed off wet area.

## **30/24 Coombses Pond**

### **1) Update on tree work around pond – Clerk**

After the work was completed, it was noticed that an amount of wood had been left in the pond. The Clerk had a meeting with the contractor to discuss the matter. He confirmed that we had been charged for the work that has been completed and to remove, cut up and place away from the path. This would amount to ½ day for 2 people - £350 plus VAT. We had £347.50 remaining in the budget.

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

**RESOLVED:** To accept the quotation expressing that the job would need to be completed for a fixed price of £350.

### **2) Update on grant request to Wessex Water Foundation – Clerk**

Councillor R Down brought to the Clerk's attention at the Finance Committee meeting that Wessex Water Foundation grants were available with a closing date of 17 May. The maximum grant was £2,000 and needed to emphasise the environment and education. As the grant needed to be processed before this committee meeting Councillor Matthey and the Clerk requested funds for a proper footpath and educational notice board. We will be informed in July.

### **3) To discuss clearing overgrown area**

After lengthy discussions by Councillors with differing views Councillor L Matthey proposed, Seconded by Councillor R Down. 5 for, 1 against.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk will obtain 3 quotations to clear the front section of undergrowth and to have the pile of wood removed but leaving a 1 metre screen at the front. This is to be decided at the next meeting.

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the Ranger at Chard Reservoir to give the committee advice regarding maintenance of the pond.

***Councillor C Heal left the meeting***

### **4) Restoring footpaths around the pond**

The Council agreed to the Clerk's suggestion of obtaining an initial quotation from the landscape contractor that cleared the trees. From that he can obtain further quotations to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **5) Leat restoration to allow free flow of stormwater from Forton brook**

This item was deferred to a future meeting after the area had been cleared.

### **31/24 Bus Shelter Repair and Maintenance. Update**

The work is almost completed. The Clerk has a meeting with the contractor on 21<sup>st</sup> May in order to check the work against the description of works.

### **32/24 To discuss bus shelters cleaning schedule of works.**

Although Councillor Peadon declared an interest as the current holder of the contract, the Chairman asked him to remain in the meeting to express his opinion.

After discussion Councillor K Patay proposed, Seconded by Councillor P Rosser. All in favour with Councillor E Peadon abstaining.

**RESOLVED:** The Schedule of Works presented by the Clerk has been approved.

### **33/24 Public Seating in the Parish - Update from Clerk**

The Clerk has confirmed that the 2 donations have been received and the benches have been purchased and delivered to the contractor. We are just awaiting the Highways Certificate to Proceed.

### **34/24 Update on purchase of land at Watermead - update from Clerk**

This was chased on 23<sup>rd</sup> April but there has been no reply.

### **35/24 Discuss Parish Signs**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **36/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report**

- The notice board at the shop needs to be refurbished. It needs to be painted and the back boards need to be replaced.
- A reminder that the agenda needs to be placed on Facebook.
- How can we monitor that works on our Parish roads are up to standard?
- Councillor C Heal had left a note to confirm her resignation from the Amenities Committee

**Date of Next Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**The meeting closed at 9:00pm**