



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 18th July 2024 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey; Councillors K Patay, E Peadon, Co-opted Member of Public R Chubb.

Clerk N Tinley

There were no Members of the Public present.

36/24 Apologies for absence

Councillor S Adams – hospital
Councillor P Rosser – Wife's retirement party
Councillor R Down – Other commitment

37/24 Declarations of interest

Councillor E Peadon – item 41/24. Will leave the room.

38/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2024

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2024 be signed as a correct record.

39/24 Jubilee Field:

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

The Clerk explained that Councillor Down had investigated the wet area of Jubilee Field and was unable to find the land drain. However, he has reinstated the ditch to the left-hand side to direct spring water away from the middle of the field. After a period of rain he will attempt another investigation.

The committee would like to thank Councillor Down for his work.

2) Update on the fitting of the stock fence on the top field - Clerk

The work has been completed and it looks excellent. The gate into the main field needs notices to ensure the gate remains closed. The Clerk is to arrange for these.

3) Update on signage for Jubilee Field - Clerk

Councillor Down put up the signs this afternoon and the Clerk will back this up with a post on Facebook. The Clerk will get additional dogs on lead signs.

4) Update on the refurbishment of the notice board - Councillor Peadon

The notice board has not yet been passed to Councillor Peadon for refurbishment.

5) Discuss the trimming of grass in closed off wet area

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

RESOLVED: The wet area will not be strimmed for 2 years to allow the Woodland Trust saplings to establish.

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

1. A couple of trees in the orchard have fallen over. The Clerk is to arrange with Shaun for them to be staked up.
2. There are 3 small areas of Himalayan Balsam in the left-hand hedgerow. The Clerk is to arrange with Shaun for their removal.
3. The new parkland trees are getting overgrown with grass. The Clerk is to arrange for Powells to strim around the trees to protect them.
4. Re-seeding the footpath. This item will be included in the September agenda.

40/24 Allotments

1) General update from Clerk

A plot became vacant which was quickly snapped up by another allotment holder further up the field. Her 2 plots have since been taken over by a new tenant. We have 3 other allotment holders that have not paid, which the Clerk has chased. Plot 7 is active and will pay. Plot 3 has not been touched. The tenant has phoned and she wishes to keep the plot. She has agreed by the end of July to have the plot cleared of weeds and payment made. Plots 8a, 12 and 13 have not been touched for years even though payment was made in previous years. The Clerk has given the tenant a hand delivered notice letter that if by the end of July he has not paid for and cleared the plots he will lose his tenancy. So far there has been no response. If he does not clear the plots we need to decide what to do.

2) Adders and the strimming of unused plots

Adders have been spotted coming out of Plot 3. The Clerk has warned the tenant to be careful when they clear the plot. Currently Powells mow the pathways and untenanted plots but do not touch the tenanted plots.

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

RESOLVED: To trim plots when tenancies have been terminated by the Council.

3) **Tree planting on allotments - request from an allotment holder**

Plot 14 has requested permission, as per our regulations, to plant a crab apple tree on her plot.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Matthey and Seconded by Councillor Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: In the interests of other allotment holders, the Council will not approve trees being planted that can cast a shadow onto other plots. Suggest planting the tree in our orchard.

4) **Items from allotment holder's representative**

- **The allotment holders are close to forming an allotment association**

The Parish Council would welcome the formation of an Allotment Association.

- **There is concern regarding vehicular access which was impossible during the very wet winter**

Due to the wet nature of the field, it was never the aim of the Council to have vehicular access to the allotments 12 months of the year. The plastic walkway has improved matters and we are investigating a land drain to improve the very wet area.

- **The gate area is very muddy from a fresh spring and is almost impossible to walk through**

We appreciate this has been difficult over the very wet winter and spring; however, it was agreed for the Clerk to obtain quotations for 2 ditches each side of the gate with a drainage pipe.

- **There are concerns that an ambulance cannot get through the bottom gate**

The Clerk has measured the gate at 2.41m wide. The guidelines state it must be 2.15m. The committee doesn't believe this will be an issue.

- **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?**

The committee feels it would be a good idea.

Proposed by Rick Chubb, Seconded by Councillor Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: If the Association can obtain funding the Council would approve this project.

- **Toilet facilities – if this can be arranged via a grant would this be acceptable to the committee?**

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

RESOLVED: If the Association can obtain funding the Council would approve the project.

- **Non-allotment holders are still walking their dogs through the allotments**

The Clerk will obtain 2 new notices “Admittance for Allotment Holders Only”

40/24 Coombses Pond

1) Update on grant request to Wessex Water Foundation – Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that Wessex Water Foundation declined our grant application. Not only was the grant over-subscribed our application centred upon accessibility rather than their aim at biodiversity.

The office is to look out for other grant opportunities.

2) Clearance of overgrown area, decide from quotation received

2 quotes received out of 3 contractors contacted by the Clerk.

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

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation from B Powell & Sons for £480 to include the additional element of adding this area and around the pond back into the maintenance contract with 4 cuts a year at a cost of £160 per annum.

3) To discuss and approve a quote of £480 plus VAT for an expert to create a specification to restore footpaths around the pond giving 2 options of a 10- or 25-year longevity. On that basis the Clerk can obtain quotations

The Council felt it would be wise to obtain specialist advice to create a specification for the footpath around the pond.

Proposed by Councillor Peadon, Seconded by Rick Chubb. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation from Country Lawn & Trees

4) Advice from Hannah Stanton warden of Chard Reservoir - Clerk to update

After an initial misunderstanding of our needs we now have a meeting arranged at Coombses Pond at 9:00am on 6th August. Councillor Matthey and Rick Chubb are also to attend.

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.

41/24 To grant bus shelters cleaning contract

Once Councillor Peadon leaves, the committee will be under quorum to make a decision. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

42/24 Refurbish shop notice board, consider quote

The Clerk has a quote of £200 plus VAT from Steve Winter who repaired the bus shelter.

Proposed by Councillor Matthey, Seconded by Councillor Patay. 3 in favour, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: The quotation has been accepted.

43/24 Public Seating in the Parish - Update from Clerk

Both seats have been installed and the plaques will be fitted soon. The Clerk noticed how the area around the School Lane seat was overgrown and contacted Mervyn Powell for a price to add this to the grass cutting contract.

They have agreed to cut that area free of charge. It has been cleared twice already.

It has been mentioned that our seat at 2 Ash Lane is unstable. The Clerk is to check.

44/24 Consider planting daffodil bulbs, last year £110 for 1000

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

RESOLVED: To purchase a further 1000 bulbs to improve the look of the area.

At the next meeting the committee will determine 5 areas that would benefit from planting.

45/24 Consider proceeding with cleaning/repainting War Memorial fence and wall this year. New quotes will be needed

It was discussed whether to proceed with this project with this year's budget or leave it until next year.

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

RESOLVED: The committee would like this project completed by the end of October this year. The Clerk is to obtain quotes based on that timetable.

46/24 Discuss Parish Boundary Entry Signs

This would help identify where our Parish starts and ends. It would be a metal sign with our logo and "Welcome to the Parish of Tatworth and Forton".

The Clerk is to obtain designs and prices for the next meeting. We will probably need Highways permission.

Proposed by Councillor Matthey to suspend standing orders to allow for the meeting to finish. Seconded by Councillor Peadon. All in favour.

47/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

- To consider an additional bus shelter on Fore Street opposite Loveridge Lane. This will be added to the next agenda. The Clerk is to bring the costing of the bus shelter at Perry Street.
- It was mentioned that a hedge at Blackland Lane, Forton has become overgrown. The Clerk requested photographs and will report.

Date of Next Meeting – 19th September 2024

Meeting Closed at 9:10pm