



# TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey; Councillors S Adams, R Down, K Patay, B Quinn, E Peadon and P Rosser.

Clerk N Tinley

There were 17 Members of the Public present.

The members of the public were invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda.

One person mentioned that we need to bring the village back together, perhaps reinstate the scarecrow display.

### **48/24 Apologies for absence**

Rick Chubb gave his apologies

### **49/24 Declarations of interest**

Councillor E Peadon 54/24 – will leave the room.

Councillor P Rosser 51/24 1) as a dog walker on Jubilee Field

### **50/24 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be signed as a correct record.

### **51/24 Jubilee Field**

- 1) Dog walking rules in the main field and determine if changes are required. The meeting will be closed for the public to speak for 2 minutes individually and 10 minutes in total***

Chairman Councillor Matthey introduced this section with confirmation that the Council had received a number of emails expressing concern/anger regarding the revised dog walking rules; there was some misinformation, and some compromises suggested.

*The meeting was closed to allow the members of public to speak*

Many comments were expressed against whilst one supported the changes.

*The meeting was reopened for the Councillors to discuss the matter*

There were disruptions from members of the public.

After discussion Councillor Matthey proposed. He had not considered those with limited mobility walking to the top of the field and felt that the Committee should reconsider the regulations and relax the rules emphasising 'Dogs under Control'. This proposal was not seconded.

Counter-proposed by Councillor Down. The revised rules are aimed at the wider community using this Parish amenity and therefore should remain in place. Seconded by Councillor Peadon. 5 in favour, 2 against.

**RESOLVED:** Walking dogs within the main field will be on lead only, whilst the upper field be available for dogs off the lead.

*A number of the public left the meeting*

**2) To approve quotation for the regular cut of the top dog exercise field**

As part of our grass cutting contract the Clerk has obtained a quote from B P Powell to cut the top field every 4 weeks leaving the grass behind at £100 per cut.

Proposed by Councillor Matthey, Seconded by Councillor Quinn.

**RESOLVED:** To accept this quotation to include one cut this Autumn.

**3) To discuss possibility of placing a bench in the dog exercise field**

Discussed the options of using our Community Infrastructure Levy monies or to advertise the availability of a memorial bench, the Council to cover fitting.

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

**RESOLVED:** To request the Clerk to publicise the availability of a memorial bench in the top field and request donations. The Council will cover the installation.

**4) Update on signage for Jubilee Field – Clerk**

The Clerk explained that the No Entry signs for the wet area have not yet been fitted. Councillor Down will pass them to Councillor Matthey to fit. The old regulation signs on the front gate need removing; Councillor Matthey to arrange. One of the Dogs on Lead signs has disappeared; the Clerk to replace and inform the Police.

**5) Sandringham Royal Oak at Jubilee Field, information from Andrew Turpin – Clerk**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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

This is still on Councillor Down's agenda to be done after a period of rain.

**7) Update on the refurbishment of the notice board - Councillor Peadon**

The notice board has been passed to Councillor Peadon and is drying out. Once refurbished Councillor Peadon will fit, hopefully by the next meeting.

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

Councillor P Rosser – consider dog exercise equipment for the top field. The Clerk will investigate and bring to the next meeting.

**52/24 Allotments**

**1) General update from Clerk**

We have 17 plots taken and paid for. 6½ are ready and available. As previously mentioned, we have had to terminate the tenancies of 2½ plots as they had become overgrown and unpaid. The tenant contacted the Clerk to explain that his wife had been very ill. The allotments will be mentioned on Facebook and in the next newsletter to encourage more people to take up the spare plots.

**2) To determine specification of drainage channels each side of the entrance gate to allotments**

The specification is still awaited from Councillor Down to enable the Clerk to obtain quotations.

**53/24 Coombses Pond**

**1) To approve footpath specification for Clerk to get quotations**

Not all the Councillors received the specification by email. The Clerk will approach the designer to see if it can be simplified into areas. It will then be circulated.

**2) Advice from Hannah Stanton warden of Chard Reservoir - Clerk and Rick Chubb to update**

The Clerk updated the Committee regarding his conversation with Hannah Stanton. The main areas of concern are the spreading of the reeds and iris at the shallow end; volunteers may be able to wade in and remove, and possibly replant elsewhere. The duck weed all over the pond needs removing and the water tested to allow for the reintroduction of fish. The Council are not experts in this area, and it was suggested that the Clerk contact Somerset Wildlife Trust, the British Conservation Trust or Giles at the Magdalen Trust in Winsham.

**3) To assess our responsibility in respect to overhanging vegetation and trees over the brook**

It was acknowledged that as landowners the Council is responsible in this area. It was agreed that as many as possible of the Committee members meet at Coombses Pond on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 5:00pm.

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

This is to be assessed on 9<sup>th</sup> October and brought back to the next meeting.

*Councillor Down proposed that items 54/24 and 56/24 be treated as confidential at the end of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Patay. All in favour.*

**55/24 Planting daffodil bulbs, ordered, determine where and how they will be planted**

The daffodil bulbs have not yet been delivered therefore this item was deferred.

**57/24 To study make changes to Amenities Terms of reference and risk assessment**

Councillor Rosser had assessed the Terms of Reference and felt that the contents were in fact accurate; however, our adherence to them was not. His concerns were based on conversations outside of a formal meeting context. In respect of the Risk Assessments the Clerk needs to make a record of inspection proposal dates.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Terms of Reference and Risk Assessment are accepted and to be recommended to the Full Council for adoption.

**58/24 Matters which the Councillors wish to report.**

Councillor Peadon	Spotted filming around the War Memorial. Councillor Down confirmed it was a documentary approved by the PCC.
Councillor Patay	When some of the public left the meeting they muttered that they will not be obeying our voluntary rules. The Clerk is to investigate enforcement and perhaps invite a local dog warden to speak.
Councillor Rosser	Surprised at the standard of behaviour by the members of the public at the meeting.
Councillor Down	Whilst hedge cutting at Dyke Hill the Tatworth Playing Fields notice was cut down. We are assuming the landowner will put it right.

Councillor Matthey

Was a notice/information board mentioned at a previous meeting for Coombes Pond? The Clerk confirmed it was part of our failed Wessex Water grant application. It will be worth reassessing once the work on Coombes Pond is completed.

### **Date of Next Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

*The remaining 6 members of the public left the meeting as it moved into confidential*

*Councillor Peadon left the room.*

### **54/24 To grant bus shelters cleaning contract**

The 2 quotes were assessed, both based on the same specification which can be managed by the Clerk. One quote was double of the other.

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

**RESOLVED:** The contract was given to Councillor Peadon being the cheapest option.

Proposed by Councillor Matthey to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the meeting to be completed. This was seconded by Councillor Down. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The Standing Orders have been suspended.

### **56/24 To consider quotations and approve contractor for cleaning/repainting War Memorial fence and wall**

The budget for this project was £1,750. 2 companies were in excess of this budget and one was within.

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

**RESOLVED:** The contract is awarded to Lawrence Contracts on the understanding that it is completed by 10<sup>th</sup> November and if the gate is removed that a temporary secure barrier is put in place.

**Meeting closed at 9:20pm**