



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 6th February 2025 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

**Present: Councillors: S Adams, C Brown, P Chapple, L Matthey, K Patay,
E Peadon, B Quinn, P Rosser and R Wardell**

There were 8 Members of the Public present and no Press.

Parish Clerk N Tinley

Councillor Patay took the chair.

The members of the public were invited to speak on any matters not on the agenda but declined.

Somerset Council Report

Councillor Baker read from his report which will be forwarded to Councillors and placed on the website.

Police Report

The Clerk received an email. They apologised that the staff were on earlies and unable to attend. There was one reported incident on a Saturday evening of antisocial driving, the team responded and will monitor situation. No other issues reported.

AGENDA

22/25 Apologies for Absence

Somerset Councillor Payne – Attending work-related meeting
Councillor R Down - Calving
Councillor applicant C Doel- Working night shift

23/25 Declarations of interest

None

24/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025

Proposed by Councillor R Wardell, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th January 2025 be signed as a correct record.

25/25 To approve Co-Option of 2 replacement Parish Councillors.

Candidates

Mrs Rebecca Jacobs

Mr Christopher Doel

As Mr C Doel was unable to attend, the Council considered the replacement of one Councillor.

1) Questions towards candidates

Questions were addressed to applicant Mrs Jacobs.

2) Who wishes to propose and second the candidates

Proposed Councillor L Matthey, seconded Councillor S Adams.

3) Vote to confirm Co-Option

Voted unanimously.

RESOLVED: That Rebecca Jacobs has been co-opted as a Councillor of Tatworth and Forton Parish Council.

Councillor Jacobs joined the meeting.

26/25 Clerk to issue to new Councillors the Code of Conduct, Register of Interest (to be returned to Clerk by 6th March) and training dates.

The acceptance form has been signed and witnessed by the Clerk. The documents have been issued.

27/25 To accept new Councillors onto committees that suit their interests and skill set. (Amenities, Cemetery, Finance and Planning)

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded Councillor P Chapple. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillor R Jacobs will be joining the Amenities and Cemetery Committees.

28/25 Chairman's Announcements

None.

29/25 Consider a response to the article in The Drift concerning the Parish Council's handling of the Christmas lunch.

Members of the public spoke up to support the Council against the inappropriate accusations made by contributors and printed in The Drift. The Council acknowledge that the statements made were completely untrue and unjustified. The Christmas

meal was very well organised by volunteers. Councillor Brown has received support from the persons that were able to attend. A review of plans for future Christmas lunches was already planned for the summer based on the numbers wishing to attend.

Somerset Councillor Baker recommended that we do not take adverse comments personally. Reply to comments and move on. Chard Town Council has a wellbeing and loneliness fund.

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The approved response to be forwarded to The Drift for the next publication.

30/25 Somerset Local Plan. Approve our 2 representatives to the Somerset Plan Workshops

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillors K Patay and P Chapple will represent the Parish.

31/25 To approve that the Parish Council hold a residents' survey, including purchasing domain names at no more that £20.

The 2 domain names will be "Forton options" and "Tatworth options". Hopefully, we can get back results for each.

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, seconded by Councillor P Chapple. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The survey will go ahead.

32/25 To approve the set of questions for the survey.

We must learn to listen and engage with the Public but with the understanding we cannot deliver everything. Paper copies will be available from the Clerk. We need all ages to take part so to get a good cross-section of answers.

The Councillors looked at the questions.

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The questions have been approved.

33/25 Report on flooding in Tatworth and Forton, any actions to be considered. Councillor Patay.

A major flooding event occurred on January 26, with more rain than in 2021. We had issues with the lock code to the resilience shed and the gate lock to the car park – both to be addressed. We have now a WhatsApp group for Community Wardens, with Jon Finch as administrator. Wardens have had full training. Health and safety of the wardens is essential in high and fast flowing water situations. Lower Coombses had issues, as the bridge could not cope with the amount of water. Section 19 report gave a detailed picture, but there is still work to be done.

Central Government leadership is needed.

There was a period of discussion between the general public, Somerset Councillor Baker and Parish Councillors.

Agreement reached for both Councillors and residents to attend a forum on February 14, with Adam Dance MP.

2 members of public left.

Somerset Councillor Baker left to attend another meeting.

34/25 To appoint a Councillor to serve as the Parish Council's representative on the Playing Field Committee.

Proposed Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillor B Quinn has been approved unless the meetings are on a Monday. The Clerk will check.

35/25 To consider and vote on the motion proposed by Councillor Chapple.

Tatworth and Forton Parish Council does not believe that the Local Community Network (LCN) initiative represents value for money, and recommends that Somerset Council drop it as a cost-saving measure. If the initiative does continue, we see little value in being a member of the Chard and Blackdowns LCN, covering an area which has no natural identity, and we will not be playing an active part going forward.'

The point of the LCN is to create a community feel, but our LCN has a wide range of parishes, from the Blackdown Hills and the edge of Taunton to ourselves on the opposite edge. We have nothing in common. Chard, the largest town, does not appear to get involved. The LCN has no powers or purpose. The total cost of the LCN project in Somerset is reportedly £180k per year. Are we getting value for money?

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded Councillor C Brown. In favour, with Councillor L Matthey against.

RESOLVED: The motion has been approved and will be forwarded to the Somerset LCN coordinator.

36/25 Consider application for a premises licence for music and alcohol for 3 days once a year. Chard Rock Crewkerne Rd/Drift – in 2025 will be in early August.

The Council has been approached for comments by Licensing South of Somerset Council in respect to an application on the edge of our Parish just off Crewkerne Rd for a 3-day music event.

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded Councillor E Peadon. In favour with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Tatworth and Forton Parish Council have no objections to this application.

37/25 Consider the options for Watermead gate as it does not allow disabled access.

To be deferred to the Amenities Committee.

38/25 Clerk's Report.

The Clerk expressed his frustration, as it was clear that not all the Councillors had read and studied the data emailed to the Councillors with the agenda. The meeting would be more efficient, and Councillors would be better informed and prepared if this took place.

39/25 Invoices for Payment:

Adam Taylor Ltd (Repair bench Two Ash Lane)	£198.00 Inc VAT
---	-----------------

Net Staff Salaries £1,181.12

Burial Account

B E Powell & Sons (Removing Soil Heap)	£456.00 Inc VAT
--	-----------------

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The payments as listed have been approved for payment.

These payments have been set up on Internet banking and signed by Councillor E Peadon. Councillor S Adams will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 11th February 2025.

40/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No decisions can be made.

Councillor Quinn	-	Well done to Councillor Matthey for organising the Wassail; it was well attended.
------------------	---	---

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6th March 2025

Meeting closed: 8:55 pm