



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 3rd July 2025 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

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

Parish Clerk N Tinley

There were 4 Members of the Public present and no Press.

The Members of the Public were invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda but declined.

Reports from Somerset Councillors

Somerset Councillor Jason Baker read from his report which has been circulated to the Councillors and placed on the website.

Councillor K Patay asked about the Persimmon Development in Forton Road. Councillor Baker confirmed that this has not moved forward.

Somerset Councillor Connor Payne read from his report which will be forwarded to the Clerk to be circulated and published on the website.

119/25 Apologies for Absence

Councillor C Doel has broken his leg

Councillor R Jacobs is on holiday

120/25 Declarations of interest

Payments 138/25: Councillors B Quinn, E Peadon, C Brown, R Down will leave the room

Christmas 128/25: Councillor C Brown has the contract to provide catering. She will need to contribute to the discussion but will not vote.

121/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th June 2025

Proposed by Councillor R Wardell, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour with one abstention (not at meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th June 2025 be signed as a correct record.

122/25 Chairman's Announcements

None.

123/25 Motion put forward by Councillor P Chapple 'We regret that Councillor Connor Payne has, for an extended period, not been showing the level of interest we would expect in the activities of our parish. If his circumstances are now such that he is no longer able to provide the services we would reasonably expect, we suggest that he should stand down from his role as County Councillor.'

To approve letter supplied to Councillors

Introduced by Councillor P Chapple and meeting adjourned for Somerset Councillor C Payne to reply.

He is disappointed that we have put this motion forward without contacting him first; the implication is that he is not serving the community. He works in the background, one-to-one with residents who are in need and those with social housing problems. He has a health issue that leaves him tired after full-time work and as such cannot make meetings. He will continue to serve the community but will not be standing for re-election in 2027. He will be concentrating on his teaching.

Councillor Payne was asked if he would have attended tonight's meeting without this motion and he admitted honestly, probably not. In the future it will depend on his health.

Councillor P Chapple stands by his motion, Seconded by Councillor R Down. There were 3 Councillors in favour. 4 against and 2 abstentions.

The motion failed.

124/25 Appoint a Councillor to represent the Parish as a Tatworth Memorial Hall Trustee

There were no volunteers from the Councillors who attended the meeting. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor C Brown requested that we move to item 128/25

128/25 To decide on the format of the Christmas Lunch, it is suggested an open invitation for all residents of the parish to attend a midweek buffet. If approved, consider venue and costings between 60 and 80 persons

After a long discussion between the merits of a buffet lunch or sit-down hot meal it was voted upon by the Councillors.

Buffet - Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. 4 in favour, 4 against with one abstention. After the casting vote of Chairman Councillor R Down, the proposal was rejected.

RESOLVED: Councillor C Brown was requested to provide a quotation for 2 sit down hot meals, perhaps one at the Church Hall and the other at the Memorial Hall.

Councillor C Brown left the meeting

125/25 Appoint a Councillor to represent the Parish as a Perry St Club committee member

Councillor R Down nominated Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. There were no other nominations. All in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED: Councillor L Matthey will represent the Parish Council on the Perry Street Club Committee. The Clerk will contact the Club.

126/25 Councillor Chapple to report on the 1st of July meeting “Let’s talk buses”

Councillor P Chapple read from his report which has been forwarded to Councillors and which will be placed on the website and posted on Facebook. The meeting was well attended.

The general conclusion is that First Bus is trying to run the bus service as a commercial enterprise and the general public wish it to be run as a community service.

Somerset Partnership wish the Parish Council to consider a financial contribution; however, no figures were mentioned.

127/25 To report on the results of the resident’s survey. Councillor Chapple

It was reported that the data was available but there was no time to create a format for viewing; therefore, this item will be deferred to next month’s agenda. Councillors B Quinn and P Chapple are to work on it together.

129/25 Update from Clerk on Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed that no-one has requested an election form for the Councillor vacancy and Somerset Elections Department confirmed that the Parish can co-opt. It will be advertised on the website, noticeboard and Facebook.

130/25 Councillor Matthey would like the Council to consider a reduction in speed limit on all parish unclassified roads to 20mph

The Councillors discussed the matter but although it is something to aspire to the cost is prohibitive and Somerset Council would not have the staff to enforce it, this was confirmed by Somerset Councillor Baker. Dyke Hill would not be covered as it is a B road.

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey but not seconded.

It was mentioned that a lot of communities have a permanent speed device that reminds drivers of the limit.

131/25 To support the creation of a platform dedicated to supporting flood groups and response teams, where knowledge can be shared. To authorise Councillor Patay to represent the Council should such a network be established

Dr Paul Elliston, Community Engagement Officer of Somerset Rivers Authority would like to set up a platform dedicated to supporting flood groups and emergency response. Would we want to be a part of this and have Councillor Patay as our contact?

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to respond that Tatworth and Forton Parish Council wishes to be a part of the network with Councillor K Patay as the Parish representative.

132/25 To express our concerns over the rumoured sale of Kents Rd community room

After investigation it appears that Abri is considering selling the empty Warden's flat rather than the community room.

133/25 Chard Town Council are entering into conversation with Somerset Council regarding devolution of services including Snowdon Park. Snowdon Park sits within our Parish Boundary, and Chard TC are asking whether we are interested in taking on the responsibilities, accountabilities and Liabilities of the park. Consider our response

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. All in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council feels that to use our taxpayers' funds to maintain an asset next to Chard and used by its residents would not be a good use of our funds. Therefore, we will reject taking on the responsibility. However, we may be forced to if Somerset Council abandons the maintenance of the area.

134/25 To adopt Memorial Safety Policy as recommended by Cemetery Committee

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

RESOLVED: The Memorial Safety Policy has been adopted by the Full Council.

135/25 To adopt the following finance policies as recommended by the Finance Committee.

- 1) Financial regulations based on National Association of Local Councils template April 2024. (No amendments in 2025)**
- 2) Investment Policy (unchanged)**
- 3) Reserves Policy (unchanged)**
- 4) Grant assessment and awarding policy for 2025. Remove the requirement for fund matching by the applicant.**

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

RESOLVED: The above detailed finance policies have been adopted by the Full Council.

136/25 Report on finances up to 17th June. Any questions to the Clerk

There were no questions.

137/25 Clerks Report

The Clerk reminded the Councillors that the community litter pick is this Sunday and as the regular Councillors are away can other Councillors help out.

Councillors B Quinn, R Down and E Peadon left the meeting

Councillor K Patay took over the chair

138/25 Invoices for Payment:

St Johns Church Hall (room hire)	£45.00 No VAT
SALC (Councillor Training)	£53.00 No VAT
Westcotts Accountants (Internal Audit)	£588.00 Inc VAT
Eric Peadon (6 months Bus Shelter Cleaning)	£620.00 No VAT
MACS Design and Print (Newsletters)	£249.00 No VAT
Brian Quinn (Newsletter Delivery)	£150.00 No VAT
B E Powell & Sons (1 st Q Maintenance)	£2709.90 Inc VAT

Burial Account

B E Powell & Sons (1 st Q Cemetery Maintenance)	£2856.90 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (1 st Q St Johns Churchyard)	£780.00 Inc VAT

Purchased by Clerk

Brunel Engraving (Bench plaque)	£77.18 Inc VAT
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Net Staff Salaries £1357.45, HMRC £868.30

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. 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 L Matthey. Councillor S Adams will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 8th July 2025.

Councillors B Quinn, R Down and E Peadon returned to the meeting

139/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

Councillor P Chapple	To wish Somerset Councillor Connor Payne well regarding his health.
Councillor E Peadon	There are lorries parking overnight on Dyke Hill. He will drop PCSO an email.
Councillor R Down	A sign has been knocked over at Common Arch. He will report it to Highways.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7th August 2025

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:50pm