



# **TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 7pm Forton Community Hall**

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey; Councillors S Adams, K Patay, E Peadon, P Rosser and co-opted member of the public Rick Chubb

Clerk N Tinley

There was 1 Member of the Public present.

The member of the public was invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda but declined.

### **AGENDA**

#### **01/25 Apologies for absence**

Councillor B Quinn – Been asked to work to cover sickness  
Councillor R Down - Unwell

#### **02/25 Declarations of interest**

Councillor E Peadon 11/25 Shop Notice Board

#### **03/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Proposed by Councillor P Rosser, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be signed as a correct record.

#### **04/25 Jubilee Field:**

- 1) *An update of the placing of a memorial bench in the dog exercise field*

There has been no response from the item in the Newsletter. It will now be advertised on Facebook.

- 2) *Sandringham Royal Oak at Jubilee Field, to determine and approve wording of the plaque*

The Clerk found the Local Registry Certificate confirming that the purchase of the field took place in July 2011. The next Queen's Jubilee after that was the Diamond in 2012.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** A brass plaque on a wooden background with the words:

“1952-2012 This tree was planted by Tatworth and Forton Parish Council to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II”

Councillor Peadon volunteered to fit.

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

Councillor Down reported via the Clerk that the area was much drier than in previous years; the new ditch may be helping with this. The bark is rotting and will need replacing with scalping in the next year or so.

The Councillors still feel they want a firm answer to the position and status of the drainage pipe and requested Richard Down to continue investigations. There are still funds available in the agreed budget. The Clerk is to pass this message on.

Councillor Down is to report at the next meeting.

- 4) *Report from the Wassail – Councillor Matthey*

The Wassail was a success with 45 people attending giving plenty to build on next year. We will try to establish this as an annual event. Donations went to the new charity set up by Mrs Whitehead.

- 5) *Trees being attacked by deer, approve purchase of guards*

The guards found by the Clerk will only protect a few trees. The member of the public, Matt Giles, offered the services of fellow allotment holders to use stakes and chicken wire.

A budget of £200 was proposed by Councillor P Rosser, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** Upon presentation of receipts the Clerk can reimburse Matt Giles to a maximum of £200.

- 6) *Other matters that councillors wish to discuss about Jubilee Field. No decisions can be made*

A member of the public emailed that Thatchers Cider are giving away apple tree saplings. The Clerk's Assistant has applied, and we will have an answer in February.

A dog is running free in Jubilee Field. Councillor L Matthey is aware of the hole in the fence and will repair it.

*The meeting was closed to allow the member of the public to speak. He introduced himself as Matt Giles, an allotment holder.*

He would like to be co-opted onto the Amenities Committee. He also explained that as a person who has suffered with mental health issues he has benefited from his allotment and feels it will be a benefit to other in a similar situation to have an allotment open to anyone to work under the supervision of himself or Andy Locke. It will require strong leadership and once he has set up an organisation and charity he will come back to the Committee.

*The meeting was reopened*

## **05/25 Allotments**

### *1) General update from Clerk*

We have had a cancellation for Plot 6. The plot holder has indicated that someone has expressed a wish to take it on. It is quite a mess, so the Clerk is communicating either to get it cleared or to find someone to take it on as it is.

A couple of ladies have taken on Plot 13, which is one of the plots where the tenancy was terminated. They seem very keen to include their families, but not their husbands. They attended the wassail.

### *2) To allocate the drainage channel work from quotes received*

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The Amenities Committee has approved the lower quote from Richard Down Contractors of £1,650 plus VAT. The work is to be completed and invoiced in February to ensure the invoice is within this year's budget.

### *3) An update on the relocation of the dung containers*

Nothing has been moved yet. They require a vehicle to move the items but it is too wet to access the field.

## **06/25 Coombses Pond**

### *1) To approve expenditure of £350 plus VAT to extend the specification produced by Country Lawns and Trees Ltd to cover the grass entrance area to include safety fencing and footpath*

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Co-opted Member Rick Chubb. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** Expenditure of £350 plus VAT has been approved.

2) *To consider the way forward with the management of the pond itself*

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

3) *Open Reach placed a cable across our land without permission, any action needed?*

As a matter of courtesy, the Parish Council should have been contacted for approval. The Clerk is to write to bring the matter to the attention of Open Reach and request some annual remuneration and an apology.

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

The Parish Council appreciates its responsibility. Last Autumn the banks on both sides of the brook were cleared by Somerset Council. We need to monitor the situation.

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

The Clerk, with other members of the Committee, will meet at the leat to assess the work needed. The other landowner should share the cost.

**07/25 Mapping the areas of Daffodil growth.**

Rick Chubb has volunteered to provide the information.

**08/25 Report from Clerks meeting with Jason Wright Tree Surgeon concerning the tree at entrance to School Lane**

The Clerk met with Jason Wright and he confirmed that there is no need to do any pruning. The tree is in good shape and is no danger to cars. Pruning will only spoil the shape.

**09/25 Damage to Bench at Two Ash Lane, agree action and budget**

As the damage was a potential hazard the Clerk approached Adam Taylor Limited and agreed to their quote of £165. The work can be done this week.

**10/25 Request from Forton residents regarding grass cutting in the village. Decide on additional expenditure**

The residents of Forton feel that a disproportionate amount of the Amenities budget is spent in Tatworth and not Forton. Currently under the maintenance contract the grass in Forton is only cut 4 times a year and left. The grass grows rapidly and is a mess when left. The Clerk obtained quotes from B Powell & Sons for 4 weekly, 8 cuts a year and leaving the grass in situ; an addition of £320 plus VAT, or mow and collect fortnightly at £1,480 plus VAT.

Proposed by Councillor S Adams, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** To cut the grass in Forton bend, bus stop and the area opposite Crossways Cottage every 4 weeks, leaving the cut grass and to avoid daffodils.

### **11/25 Refurbish shop notice board**

**Minute item 42/24 from July 24 accepted a quote of £200 to refurbish the notice board, despite several emails it was not actioned. Clerk has asked Eric Peadon to assess and provide a quote. To consider this quote**

*The Chairman requested Councillor E Peadon to remain in the meeting*

Councillor E Peadon's assessment is that the Notice Board has deteriorated since the previous quotation. The 2 posts are partly rotted and will need replacing. To dig out of the concrete and replace the posts will cost more than £200. With the Clerk a specification will be made and considered at a future meeting. It will need to dry out.

### **12/25 To relinquish responsibility of the War Memorial to the Cemetery committee should St John's Churchyard be adopted by the Parish Council**

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Co-opted Member Rick Chubb. All in favour. Councillor E Peadon, as Chair of the Cemetery Committee, abstained.

**RESOLVED:** The Amenities Committee will be prepared to relinquish responsibility of the War Memorial.

### **13/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report**

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|---------------------|---|--|
| Councillor E Peadon | - | The Dyke Hill bus shelter is particularly bad for rubbish. The Clerk is to put an item in the Newsletter and contact Somerset Council for a bin. |
| Councillor K Patay  | - | South West Water are working on the faulty sewage pump at Blacklands Lane.   |

**Date of Next Meeting –27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Meeting closed 8:55pm**