



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 29th May 2025 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Councillors L Matthey, S Adams, R Jacobs, K Patay, E Peadon and B Quinn.

Clerk N Tinley

There was one 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.

27/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor P Rosser - Unwell
Councillor R Down – Church meeting

28/25 Declarations of interest

Councillor R Jacobs holds an allotment plot and will abstain from voting. The Clerk indicated that her knowledge would be appreciated and that she can take part in the discussions.

29/25 To confirm re co-option of “members of public” Rick Chubb and Matt Giles onto the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED: Rick Chubb and Matt Giles have been re co-opted on to the Amenities Committee.

Matt Giles left the public area and joined the meeting

Matt Giles declared that he holds an allotment plot and will abstain from voting but will contribute to the discussions.

Rick Chubb though on holiday indicated to the Clerk that he wanted to continue.

30/25 Election of Chairman of Amenities Committee

Councillor B Quinn nominated Councillor L Matthey as Chairman, Seconded by Councillor K Patay.

There were no other nominations.

All were in favour of Councillor L Matthey remaining as Amenities Committee Chairman. Councillor Matthey accepted stating that it was a privilege.

31/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 27th March 2025

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 27th March 2025 be signed as a correct record.

32/25 To review amendment to Amenities Committee Terms of Reference and recommend for approval to the Full Council

The Clerk introduced an amendment to cover work in the Parish not owned by the Council.

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

RESOLVED: The Amenities Committee will recommend to the Full Council that the following be included in their terms of reference: "The Committee can recommend to Full Council improvements to outdoor spaces within the limits of the Parish but not under the ownership of the Parish Council".

33/25 To review Amenities Risk assessment and recommend for approval to the Full Council

After review and reflection Councillor L Matthey proposed that the risk assessment be amended as discussed and be recommended to the Full Council, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

34/25 Jubilee Field:

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

A bench is being sponsored by Karen Sandford in memory of her late father, Jim Sandford. The installation cost will be £300. The bench will be ordered next week.

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

Councillor Down was not at the meeting to report; however, it is known that it was not found when the side drainage channel was reinstated last year. It was decided to review at some future time if the problem re-occurs. This is to be kept on the agenda as a review item.

3) *Update on the trees in the orchard, any gaps need filling*

The deer damaged trees have recovered well; however, there is room for an additional 10 trees. The Clerk is to obtain costings.

4) *Update on Wildflower Meadow*

The meadow does have a different look to the remainder of the field. The Clerk has emailed Tony Benger and he says it will improve with time. He recommended seeding with yellow rattle which will control the grass.

5) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about Jubilee Field. No decisions can be made*

Councillor L Matthey:

Some of the specimen trees in the park area are not looking healthy. This will be monitored during the summer and Clerk will talk to Jason Wright.

Matt Giles:

Dog waste is being cleaned up, but the bags are being left in the field rather than being placed in the bin. This will be mentioned in the newsletter.

35/25 Allotments

1) *General update from Clerk*

We have received cancellation from Plot 1, otherwise the main field is full. 6 additional plots have been measured out near the fence. We have had 3 enquiries; two are Chard based, and another existing plot holder wants to take over Plot 1. 4 plots are unkempt and will need monitoring.

There is an Allotment Association, but this cannot be registered until 50% of the tenants have joined.

2) *The Allotment field is filling fast consider and determine if restrictions to non-Parish tenants or the number of plots per person is required*

The Clerk is concerned about the field becoming full and suggested restrictions.

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: The allotments will remain open to applicants from outside of the Parish.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Allotment holders can have more than 1 plot.

3) *Consider placing a combination padlock on the top gate of the allotment field*

Matt Giles confirmed that the allotment holders are in favour of this.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk will arrange for this and pass the code to the Allotment Association.

4) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about the allotments. No decisions can be made*

None.

36/25 Coombses Pond

1) *An update on the fencing and footpath of the entrance area*

The contractor is ready to proceed once the work on the leat has been completed.

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

There is lots of duckweed. This item is to be deferred to a future meeting.

3) *Open Reach placed a cable across our land without permission, update from Clerk*

This is an ongoing saga. To date Open Reach have offered a one-off payment of £26.25 to have access to the electricity pole on our land. They deny ownership of the cable stating that they only go underground. Further photographs have been sent. Dr Downe confirmed he gave permission to Open Reach for the cable to go across his land.

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) *Report from the meeting with Dr Downe concerning the Councils plans to restore the Leat. Make a recommendation to the Full Council*

Dr Downe met with Councillors Matthey and Down and the Clerk to discuss the leat. He treats it as a historic industrial occasional watercourse rather than a natural waterway. Any clearance of the leat would lead to flooding on his land. A compromise was considered to direct the floodwater towards the pond.

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

RESOLVED: To recommend to the Full Council that the first part of the leat be cleared and then a pipe to the pond inserted through the narrowest point.

- 6) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about Coombes Pond.*
No decisions can be made

Litter has been found around the pond. The Council is to consider fitting a waste bin to the fence at a future meeting.

37/25 Update on the fitting of the waste bin at Dyke Hill bus stop.

Adam Taylor Construction will fit a waste bin for £120. The Clerk will order next week.

38/25 Update on the replacement of the 3 dog bins

The bins have arrived, and our Handyman will fit these once his broken wrist has healed.

39/25 To discuss the problems we are having on the repairs to Solar panel streetlight

One of the solar lights failed during last winter. It is under warranty, but we are having a few issues with the suppliers.

- 1) Under their Terms of Warranty only the parts are covered, and it will cost £520 in labour for them to come to the site to investigate.
- 2) They no longer retrofit on existing poles without a load test being carried out first. Without a load test they will repair, assuming it is under warranty, and leave on the ground. The Clerk has asked for a quote to test both poles.

The Councillors expressed dismay and want the Council to stress “unreasonable contract conditions”.

40/25 Update in respect to the purchase of the green land opposite the Memorial Hall

The Clerk has spoken to the lead Surveyor at Somerset Council to explain the history of the plot of land. The Surveyor has only been with the Council for a few weeks and requested our patience whilst he investigates the matter.

41/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

Councillor E Peadon: Whilst the Clerk was on holiday he was called to repair the main Jubilee Field gate. This involved a trip to Axminster for parts. The Clerk requested that an invoice be produced for parts and labour.

Councillor K Patay: Has been contacted re our thoughts of the telemetry warning system introduced at the Full Council meeting. She personally responded that the elevation pond at Millfield would cover Forton and Forton Bridge for Tatworth.

Blacklands Lane has been repaired by Highways.

Date of Next Meeting – 17th July 2025

Meeting closed 8.55pm