



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 17th July 2025 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey, Councillors S Adams, R Down, R Jacobs, K Patay, E Peadon and Co-opted Member of Public Rick Chubb.

Clerk N Tinley

There were two Members of the Public present.

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

42/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor B Quinn – Partner unwell
Co-opted Matt Giles – Working

43/25 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.

44/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 29th May 2025

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour with 2 abstentions (not at meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 29th May 2025 be signed as a correct record.

45/25 Report of Amenities finances against budget to 8th July

The Clerk produced a spreadsheet with current expenditure and anticipated expenditure to the year end. There were no concerns.

There were no questions.

46/25 Jubilee Field:

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

The bench has been dispatched to Taylor Construction for fitting but there is no date yet. The donation from Karen Sandford has been received.

2) To review drainage issues in the field

There has been no significant rain recently and the area has dried up. It was suggested the Council should scrape off the wood bark and replace it with scalping. Councillor Down will produce a specification for the Clerk. This item will be put on the next agenda.

3) The clerk has concerns of the water level at the bottom exit of the stream

The Clerk feels that the level is higher than previously, but some Councillors disagree. It was decided to monitor levels when significant rain is received.

4) Decide on the quotes to replace the 2 lost trees in main field and 10 fruit trees for the orchard

The Clerk has obtained quotations ranging from £800 to £309, the cheapest quotation being from our normal supplier, Thorpe Trees Limited.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. 7 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will proceed with the purchase of the replacement trees from Thorpe Trees Limited.

5) Update on Wildflower Meadow

The Clerk read a report from Tony Benger, the meadow suppliers. It has been a difficult year due to the hot weather and however more wildflowers are seen than in the rest of the field. They sowed Yellow Rattle for next year free of charge. It will need cutting in August, but it is a long-term project.

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

- The annual cut of the long grass needs to be organised earlier this year.
- 2 Ash trees in the hedgerow behind the closed-off damp area have died. The Clerk has spoken to Jonathan Maverick, and he confirms that they are his and he will arrange cutting in the Autumn.

47/25 Allotments

1) *General update from Clerk*

There are 22 plots taken. £484 has been paid with payment for 4 plots still owed. Emails have been received that they will be cleared within the next few days. The Clerk has terminated the tenancy of plots 22 and 23 and will arrange to get the grass strimmed and removal of any items that remain. The tenant has until 18th July to remove them. There are 5 vacancies against the top fence.

2) *Report from allotments association*

A report was provided from Rebecca, one of the members of public. There is now a nearly fully formed association; they are waiting for the bank account to be opened. There is a constitution that the members are voting on. They will then start applying for grants.

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

Whilst looking for hardcore for the Jubilee Field should we also consider the gate entrances to the allotments and top field. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

48/25 Coombses Pond-

1) *An update on the Leat clearance and fencing/footpath of the entrance area – Clerk*

The clearance of the leat and pipe to the pond has been completed. The Clerk has requested that the footpath and fencing at the entrance area be done in August/September.

2) *Grant opportunity from “Rivers Run Through Us” Community grant fund, update from clerk*

Giles from the Magdalen Trust contacted Councillor R Down a month ago with details of a potential grant opportunity but requested that it be kept quiet.

It was released on 3rd July with a deadline of 25th July. It is for an amount of up to £5,000 to support local communities in the River Axe catchment area and is funded by the National Lottery and Water Environment Improvement Fund. This is an initial grant which, if successful, could lead to others.

Councillors R Down, L Matthey and the Clerk had a meeting with Project Delivery Manager, Jane Robertson, to discuss ideas. The Councillors and Clerk expressed a lack of knowledge over the management of the actual pond, eg, water of poor quality, overgrown with weeds and duckweed, etc, although a family of moorhens and 8-10 ducks were sighted. Jane Robertson indicated that she was impressed with the area and the work that has already been done. She feels a management plan for the pond drawn up by experts would be a good starting point. She will gather the information and assist the Clerk in putting the application together.

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

This item was deferred with reference to item 2.

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

- When the fence has been fitted the Council needs to consider a waste bin.
- There is a dead Ash tree between the brook and Coombses Pond. The Clerk will contact Jason Wright to remove it.

49/25 Update on the fitting of the waste bin at Dyke Hill bus stop. Clerk

The waste bin is out for delivery and will be fitted on the same day as the bench.

50/25 Update on the replacement of the 3 dog bins. Clerk

All 3 dog bins were fitted on Tuesday 15th July. Shaun is charging £110 for installation, the fittings and disposal of the old metal bins.

51/25 Other community works for non-Parish owned areas, note Somerset Council briefings on “Enhanced Highways Maintenance pilot” and “Volunteer highway maintenance”. Discuss and decide the way forward

The matter of volunteers against using their staff was discussed in length. The Clerk will complete the necessary forms for a few volunteers to complete their training initially.

52/25 To update on the problems we are having with the repairs to Solar panel streetlight

As previously reported, the suppliers are refusing to reinstate the streetlights without the poles being load tested beforehand. They investigated their contacts for quotes but could not find anyone prepared to do the work. They quoted £4,300 to replace both poles. Councillor Down suggested that Chard needed load testing for the Christmas lights. The Clerk will investigate.

53/25 Update in respect to the purchase of the green land opposite the Memorial Hall

There was nothing to report.

54/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Councillor E Peadon | - | The footpath along the A358 is particularly bad and will disappear completely. There is a health and safety issue for residents using that footpath. The Clerk is to report and send emails. |
| Councillor R Down | - | The noticeboard at Morrisons needs repairs. |

Date of Next Meeting – 18th September 2025

Meeting closed 20:40pm