



# **TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Cemetery Committee Held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm Brewers Room Tatworth Memorial Hall**

Present: Chairman E Peadon, Councillors: R Down, R Jacobs, K Patay, R Wardell and co-opted member of the public J Coates

Clerk N Tinley.

There was 1 Member of the Public and no press present. The Member of the Public was invited to speak but declined.

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

Claire Brown – childminding issues

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

Councillor E Peadon as he owns a plot

Councillor R Down and member of the public J Coates 10/25 and 11/25 as St John's PCC members. Will abstain.

### **03/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by J Coates. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Cemetery Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be signed as a correct record.

### **04/25 Finance Report – Clerk**

The Clerk presented the figures for the year 2024-25. Income totalled £8,245; this is a reduction of £7,300 from the previous year. With outgoings of £11,592 the cemetery made a loss of £3,347, the first loss in many years.

Balances total £44,621, last year's VAT claim is due of £2,691. A sum of £5,000 from the precept will be transferred into the account once received from Somerset Council. The cemetery extension plans will total £27-£30k over the next 2 years.

There were no questions from the Councillors.

### **05/25 To review and approve changes to Cemetery charges**

There has been a comment from Barry Gibbs that there is a general feeling that Tatworth cemetery non-residents fees are too high at 3 times those of residents. Having compared our fees with other local cemeteries it was proposed by Councillor R Jacobs, Seconded by Councillor K Patay to adjust our charges. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** That as from 1<sup>st</sup> May the resident cemetery fees will increase by 10% so non-residents fees will be 2½ times that of the residents.

### **06/25 Topple Test Training and certification. – Approve training courses £155 each for Councillor Peadon and the Clerk**

Councillor E Peadon and the Clerk took a course arranged by National Association of Memorial Masons aiming at a qualification but never arranged the examination for that qualification. It was felt that they would not pass that examination without a revision course. The Clerk apologised for not arranging sooner.

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by J Coates. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** To approve attendance of the training course and costs on the proviso that City & Guilds be completed in 2025. Assuming NAMM can arrange this.

### **07/25 An update on the Cemetery extension planning application - Clerk**

After a few issues with the borehole drilling, it has been completed and will be monitored for the next 2 years in preparation for the Environment Agency application. Invoices for the work done have not been received to date.

### **08/25 Maintenance –**

#### ***a. Any other matter (can discuss but no decision can be made)***

A large tree and pergola were lost during the storm late last year. The tree fortunately fell away from the graves. Powells removed everything within their maintenance contract.

Councillor Peadon found a quantity of rubbish dumped in the car park. He telephoned Powells and they disposed of it.

Comments were made of the help this local company provides to make this cemetery one of the best in the area.

### **09/25 Projects for 2025**

#### ***a. Lavender hedge***

The Clerk is to contact Brimsmore Garden Centre for expert advice on alternative hedging to lavender.

**b. Repaint railings**

This is a job that will need to be done at some point. The Councillors to inspect at the 12<sup>th</sup> June visit to the cemetery.

**c. Replace Arch in Garden of remembrance. Consider quote**

The Clerk obtained a quote from Powells but as it was more than anticipated the Councillors requested further quotations.

**10/25 Closure of St Johns Churchyard has been approved. Is the Cemetery committee prepared to manage and fund?**

St John's Churchyard has been formally closed for future burials. It needs to be adopted by Somerset Council or ourselves. Somerset Council were prepared to do this but only have limited funds for the upkeep. It is a community resource and as such needs to be kept tidy. No major projects are foreseeable.

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. 4 in favour with 2 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** The Cemetery Committee is prepared to manage and fund the Churchyard. There will be an email sent to Somerset Council to see if they will be prepared to contribute to the costs.

**11/25 On basis of 10/25 to recommend to Full Council that we adopt the Churchyard**

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. 4 in favour with 2 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** The Cemetery Committee will recommend adoption of the closed Churchyard at St John's to the Full Council.

**12/25 To approve the Cemetery Committee take over the management of the War Memorial from the Amenities Committee, approved by Amenities committee Minute 12/25**

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

**RESOLVED:** The Cemetery Committee will take over the management of the War Memorial.

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

The daffodils are looking good.

**Date of Next Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
6.30pm at the Cemetery, 7pm at Memorial Hall**

**Meeting closed: 8:10pm**