



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 4th September 2025 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall

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

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.

There was a long discussion about local planning applications where 3 applications declined by the Parish Council have been approved by Somerset Planners without referral back to the Parish Council. Somerset Councillor Baker explained that pressure from Central Government made it almost impossible for applications to be declined. If declined, they can be challenged at great cost to Somerset Council by the applicant.

Somerset Councillor Connor Payne read from his report which included his concerns regarding the use of AI to reduce the Somerset County workload. He is expressing these concerns to the County.

158/25 Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Wardell – Holiday
Councillor M Rees - Work

159/25 Declarations of interest

172/25 Invoices for payment – Councillor E Peadon – will leave the room

169/25 Grants – Councillors C Brown, R Down and S Adams – will not vote

168/25 St John's Church – Councillor C Brown is employed by the Church

160/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th August 2025

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th August 2025 be signed as a correct record.

161/25 Chairman's Announcements

Councillor R Down attended Swiss Tulle's 200-year celebration on behalf of the Council. It was an excellent event, and he requested the Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

162/25 To consider a review of the Parish boundary leading to the following motions: Councillor P Chapple

- 1) The Council is open to the idea of discussing significant changes to the current Parish boundary with a view to Chard Town Council taking over certain area's which seem to belong to Chard.**
- 2) The Council does not wish to see any significant changes to the current Parish boundary, acknowledging that this will result in new opportunities, but also new responsibilities.**

Councillor P Chapple explained where the current Parish boundaries extended and the implications of change and no change. If the boundaries remain the same we will get housing estates that are nowhere near our village and the residents will feel they belong to Chard rather than our Parish. We would get additional precept income but also potentially have the responsibility of Snowden Park, assuming Somerset Council devolves it to local control, which, again, is in our Parish but used only by the residents of Chard.

Both motions were discussed by the Councillors and the following was proposed.

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Council is open to the idea of discussing significant changes to our current Parish boundary with a view to Chard Town Council taking over certain areas which seem to belong to Chard.

Somerset Councillor Baker explained that Somerset Council has a department that can help the local Councillors to action this. He also confirmed that there is a long-term development plan for Chard that would detail potential development land in our Parish.

The first step is to have a conversation with Chard Town Council via the forum proposed last month. The Clerk is to chase Chard Town Council for a response and have an agenda item next month for members of the forum or a working party.

163/25 To finalise the presentation of the survey results to the residents. Councillors Chapple

The presentation is almost ready for publication with just a couple of minor changes needed. Councillor Chapple brought up the matter of releasing the comments to the

public. He has checked with GDPR and they have no problem as long as it is completely confidential without any personal information being released.

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. All in favour with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: Once the Clerk is satisfied with the presentation it can be released to the public with the comments on the website. For next month's agenda – what is the next step? Can we have legitimacy with just a 10% response?

164/25 Crime in Tatworth and lack of response and actions from the Police. Consider writing to the Crime Commissioner. Councillor Down

The basis of this comment is the lack of response we are getting regarding drug dealing in local car parks. The car number plates and addresses are reported but no action takes place.

The Clerk had sent the Agenda to PCSC Bea Gore who attended our Annual Parish Meeting. She responded explaining that immediate resources go to where they are needed and that they are not receiving reports from Tatworth.

Councillor R Down deferred this item for a month whilst the Clerk contacts PCSC Gore with the details and asking her to investigate.

165/25 To approve the Terms of Reference as recommended by the following Committees

Planning, Finance, Personnel and Cemetery

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Terms of Reference have been adopted by the Full Council.

166/25 To approve the Risk Assessments as recommended by the following Committees

Finance, Amenities and Cemetery

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Risk Assessments have been adopted by the Full Council.

167/25 To approve the council's Scheme of Delegation Policy

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Council's Scheme of Delegation Policy has been adopted by the Full Council.

168/25 That the Council as part of the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War considers replacing the light at the entrance of the village church with a solar powered light. The location is close to the War Memorial. Staff will investigate funding with grants and private sponsorship. Councillor R Down

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

RESOLVED: The Council has approved the support of the Parish Council for this project. The matter will be discussed by PCC at St John's Church next week. Once approved, Councillor Down will move forward to obtain designs, costings and possibly grant funding.

Councillor K Patay took over chair of the meeting

169/25 To approve community grants as recommended by the Finance Committee

The Clerk went through each of the 10 applications. 8 had been recommended by the Finance Committee for approval, 1 deferred for additional information and 1 was declined as it was considered to be a business venture so should be self-funded not community funded. The food table has a £1,000 budget for the winter.

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

RESOLVED: The recommendations made by the Finance Committee has been approved by Full Council.

Councillors Adams, Brown and Down did not vote

Councillor Down retook the chair

170/25 Report on finances up to 26th August. Any questions to the Clerk

There were no questions.

171/25 Clerks Report

- 1) Reports from Councillors for the Newsletter are needed by 23rd September.
- 2) The Clerk's wife has a provisional date for her replacement knee operation so the Clerk will be absent from work on the 16th of September. He will have the Parish laptop at home if required.
- 3) The Parish website upgrade is almost finished. There are just a couple of matter that needed to be sorted out now.
- 4) The Clerk has received confirmation today that we have passed the external audit without any concerns being raised. In fact, they did not even ask for clarification on any matters.
- 5) The work on Coombes Pond front entrance commences on 15th September. This will be for new fences and a footpath.
- 6) Councillor K Patay will take over from ex-Councillor Peter Rosser as bank signatory. This has been approved by the Finance Committee.

Councillor E Peadon left the meeting

172/25 Invoices for Payment:

Vision ICT (Website Improvements)	£300.00 Inc VAT
SALC (Councillor Training)	£25.00 No VAT
Thorpe Trees (Replace lost trees in Jubilee Field and Orchard)	£335.80 Inc VAT
Rightworx Ltd T/A Oakworld (Garden bench, Sponsorship rec'd)	£249.00 Inc VAT
C R Ellis partnership (long grass Jubilee Field)	£582.00 Inc VAT
C&E Plant sales (SID Jubilee Clips)	£53.21 Inc VAT
Burial Account	
Eric Peadon (Memorial Testing)	£120 No VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1690.93 Including back pay from pay increase

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. 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 S Adams. Councillor C Brown will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 9th September 2025.

Councillor E Peadon returned to the meeting

173/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

Councillor B Quinn	At the last meeting the condition of Kents Road garages was reported. A contact at Abri confirmed they were decommissioned but an asbestos survey is needed first. The Clerk is to report the state of the garages at Kents Road and Crossways to Abri.
Councillor C Brown	The Youth Working Party organised a great day out at Lyme Regis which was very much enjoyed by the 16 people who attended. However, the numbers were not as we had hoped.
Councillor E Peadon	Was there any update on the A358 footpath? None. Councillor C Payne will also follow up.
Councillor R Down	The Parish owns a number of Defib machines around the community and have a budget to maintain them. However, it is the local organisations where the machines are placed that have the electricity costs. This item will be placed on next month's agenda recommending a small donation to each to cover the costs.
Councillor K Patay	She is still in contact with the Environment Agency concerning slowing the flow of Forton Brook.

DATE NEXT MEETING: 2nd October 2025 Meeting closed 8:40pm