



# **TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at 7pm Main Hall Tatworth Memorial Hall**

**Present: Chairman Councillor: R Down, Councillors: S Adams, P Chapple, C Doel, R Jacobs, L Matthey, K Patay, E Peadon, M Rees, and R Wardell**

Parish Clerk N Tinley

There were 5 Members of the Public present and no Press.

### **Public Participation**

A member of the public mentioned missed dog bin collections. The Chair indicated that collections are organised by Somerset Council. The Clerk will forward a link for reporting.

### **Reports from Somerset Councillors**

Somerset Councillor C Payne read from his report which he will forward to the Clerk once further financial data is supplied by Conservative local office.

The consultation period for Sunday car park charges finishes soon. Make sure to complete through Somerset Council website.

With regard to item 182/25 comments should also be sent to Somerset & Avon Police and Crime Panel.

**174/25 Apologies for Absence** – to receive apologies for absence (Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972)

Somerset Councillor J Baker – Family meal  
Councillor B Quinn – Chard Carnival Committee  
Councillor C Brown – Husband late back to look after children

**175/25 Declarations of interest** Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or, if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it

189/25 Payments – Councillors R Down and S Adams. Will leave the room.

183/25 Councillor R Down is a member of St John's PCC

**176/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. 8 in favour, 2 abstentions (not at meeting).

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be signed as a correct record.

**177/25 Chairman's Announcements**

Confirmation that member of the public Nigel Parsons has been co-opted on to the Planning Committee.

**178/25 To approve Councillor R Jacobs appointment to the planning committee**

Proposed by Councillor M Rees, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour with one abstention.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor R Jacobs has been appointed to the Planning Committee.

**179/25 The WI are looking to organise a litter pick with a view of making it a regular event, they are asking for use of our litter pickers and High vis vests, to consider approval**

*The meeting adjourned for Emillie Moon, a member of the WI, to speak to introduce herself and the WI plans.*

*The meeting recommenced*

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

**RESOLVED:** The WI can borrow the Parish Council's equipment. The Parish Council will promote the event.

**180/25 To appoint members to represent the Parish Council in a forum with Chard Town Council**

Chard Town Council has confirmed that it is interested in holding a forum with the Parish Council.

Councillors P Chapple, K Patay and R Wardell expressed an interest in being the Parish Council representatives.

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

**RESOLVED:** Councillors P Chapple, K Patay and R Wardell will represent the Council on this forum and report back.

The Clerk will also attend to take notes.

### **181/25 Consider how does the Parish Council act upon survey results**

The survey results and comments have been published. How does the Parish Council deal with these results? Do we keep them in the back of our minds and to underlay our discussions or, as Councillor Patay suggests, prepare precise actions based on the survey and regularly review?

Councillors K Patay and P Chapple will work together on this and report back to the Council.

### **182/25 To approve communication to the Crime Commissioner regarding Police staff shortages covering Chard and surrounding Parishes. Councillor Down**

The Councillors discussed the situation and Councillor R Down proposed, and Councillor L Matthey seconded. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors P Chapple and R Down will put together a document to be sent to the Crime Commissioner and Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Panel.

### **183/25 To approve donations to local organisations to cover the running costs of our defibrillator machine, determine an amount**

The Council has 3 defibrillators that are sited on buildings managed by local organisations. Can the Parish Council contribute towards their costs, but what about the other 2 defibrillators with organisations that own theirs.

After discussion, none of the Councillors proposed the original agenda item.

There was a counter-proposal by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor M Rees. All in favour. Councillors R Down and S Adams did not vote.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council, from its defibrillator budget, will pay the sum of £50 to each of the following: St John's Church, Tatworth Memorial Hall, Perry Street Club, Forton Community Hall and the Playing Fields Association towards their electricity costs.

### **184/25 Councillors Chapple and Doel attended a meeting "National Planning Update". A report**

Councillor P Chapple summarised the zoom meeting he attended, attempting to explain the broader agenda towards National Framework for Planning. The slides will be forward to the Councillors. The current Government is preparing a new National Planning Policy Framework so changes will certainly happen.

### **185/25 "Somerset's Local Transport Plan" report by Councillor Chapple**

Councillor P Chapple summarised the zoom meeting concerning the Somerset Local Transport plan. Personally, he liked the ideas about improving public transport, facilities for walking and cycling and electrification, but felt that, in view of the expected large increase in population, it was unrealistic not to invest in roads. But there are apparently no plans to build any new roads, not even by-passes.

**186/25 To approve renewal of Council Insurance Policy with Gallagher Insurance Brokers, last year of a 3-year commitment. £1785.14 up £24.70**

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

**RESOLVED:** The Council has approved the renewal of the insurance policy at the annual cost of £1785.14

**187/25 Annual governance and accountability return 2024-25, external auditors report**

The external audit has been completed; the report and certificate have been received.

We have no concerns, issues or failings. They did not even contact the Clerk with questions.

**188/25 Clerks Report**

- 1) Amenities
  - Jubilee Field. The memorial bench on the upper field should be fitted imminently.
  - Coombses Pond. The work on the leat and front entrance has been completed.
  - We won the grant from "Rivers Run Through Us" funded by the National Lottery to prepare a management plan for the pond itself and physical assessment of the features along Forton Brook.
- 2) Newsletter
  - This will be put together next week for delivery mid-October.
- 3) The Parish website upgrade is finished – please have a look.
- 4) The Clerk's wife's rearranged knee replacement operation will be 15<sup>th</sup> October he will be on holiday on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Councillors R Down and S Adams left the meeting*

*Councillor K Patay took over the chair*

**189/25 Invoices for Payment:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Vision ICT (New email)                                                                                                                                                                                                                | £14.00 Inc VAT                           |
| Gallagher Insurance Brokers(Insurance)                                                                                                                                                                                                | £1785.14 No VAT                          |
| St John's Church (Hire of hall)                                                                                                                                                                                                       | £20.00 No VAT                            |
| Richard Down Plant Contractor (move SID & new gate post)                                                                                                                                                                              | £840.00 Inc VAT                          |
| Grant Applications. Tatworth Christmas Lights, St John's Toddlers Group, Tatworth Pre School, Tatworth Playing Fields, St John's Church Hall, Tatworth WI, Forton Community Association, Parents and friends Tatworth Primary School. |                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 8 Grants of £300.00                      |
| Food Table at St Johns Church                                                                                                                                                                                                         | £1000 paid by 6 monthly standing orders. |

Paid by Clerk

|                                                    |       |                |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Amazon (Presentation pen)                          | £7.59 |                |
| Amazon (Combination padlocks for resilience sheds) | £6.99 |                |
| Tesco (refuse Sacks)                               | £5.00 |                |
| Total                                              |       | £19.58 Inc VAT |

Net Staff Salaries £1528.29. HMRC (PAYE) £1050.86

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. 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 E Peadon. Councillor L Matthey will log on and authorise payment. Payment date will be 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

*Councillors R Down and S Adams returned to the meeting*

**190/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made**

|                     |                                                                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor R Jacobs | Will be attending the 23 <sup>rd</sup> October Eagle Tavern Junction meeting |
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| Councillor P Chapple | The recent Waterlake Road closure had 3 days notice; therefore, there were no notices on the bus stops. Councillor Chapple protested strongly to Somerset Council |
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**DATE NEXT MEETING: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Meeting closed 8:13pm**