



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 25th September 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 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.

55/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor M Rees – Holiday
Member of Public Matt Giles – Unwell

The Clerk had received an email from Councillor B Quinn resigning from the Committee due to new volunteering commitments in Chard.

56/25 Declarations of interest

- | | | |
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| 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. |
| Councillor R Down | - | 59/25 item 2. Will leave the room.

59/25 item 5. Councillor Down has the hedge cutting contract and the Clerk requested that he stays in the room to provide his expertise. |

57/25 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 17th July 2025

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. All in favour with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 17th July 2025 be signed as a correct record.

58/25 Report of Amenities finances against budget to 23rd September

The Clerk produced a spreadsheet with current and anticipated expenditure. The anticipated spend leaves £4,235 spare; however, there is £5,332 on the Agenda. It was noted that allotment income was £609.

59/25 Jubilee Field:

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

The contractor has confirmed the bench will be fitted on Friday 26th September. The Clerk will mark the spot well away from the hedge. Photographs will be taken for the Newsletter.

Councillor R Down left the room

2) To approve the quotation from 3 for ground works and land drains to the field and gate entrances

The Councillors discussed the specification, and the 3 quotations received listed A, B and C. All 3 contractors have worked for the Council previously and can be trusted.

Proposed by Councillor S Adams, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. 5 for the proposal and 1 against (concerned with the specification).

RESOLVED: The Council approves of the specification and accepts quotation C, being the cheapest at £4,100 plus VAT. The Clerk confirmed that this was the quotation from Richard Down Plant Contractor.

Councillor R Down returned to the meeting

3) Update on purchase of replacement trees

The trees have been paid for, and delivery will be later in the Autumn.

4) 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.

5) Hedge cutting for 2025, approve areas to be cut. To include field edges and central lump

This was discussed leading to a proposal by Councillor E Peadon and seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour. Councillor R Down did not vote.

RESOLVED: To lightly cut the laid hedge on the left-hand side of the footpath. The Council will take responsibility if the tractor damages the footpath. The contractor is to be trusted to cut what needs doing.

The Council will consider in 2026 whether the hedge between the allotments and the main field should be laid flat.

6) To approve quotation to tidy up the front hedge

This had not been done since 2022 and needs redoing. We have a quote from Jason Wright for £300. It was discussed that we lay the hedge instead.

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

RESOLVED: The Council will obtain quotations for hedge laying in the 2026-27 budget. The front will be tidied up within the annual hedge cutting contract.

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

None.

60/25 Allotments

1) General update from Clerk

25 plots have been taken and paid for. There are 5 vacant plots. The Clerk has inspected and some of the newer plots are looking untidy. It is appreciated that it takes several years to establish. We may lose some tenants in the Spring.

2) Report from allotments association, with questions to Committee

A written report has been forwarded to committee members and items which are to be placed on a future agenda include a composting toilet, a water source for the top of the field, a community plot and an open day/fete. The Clerk is to reply to the association.

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

It was suggested that we provide a cup for the best kept allotment with the Horticultural Association judging.

61/25 Coombes Pond-

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

All completed. The leat had water in after the recent heavy rain, but evidence could not be seen that a pipe to the pond was used. The gate and fence look great but there were some concerns regarding the wearability of the footpath, although it was done to specification. Hopefully there will be some photographs for the Newsletter.

2) Grant approval from “Rivers Run Through Us” Community grant fund, update from clerk with next steps

The “Rivers Run Through Us” grant has been approved.

It is in 2 parts - £2,000 towards a plan to manage the pond itself.
 £1,386 towards a Forton Brook structural survey

We are awaiting a quotation from the organiser, Jane Robertson, so that we can proceed. We have to pay out first and then claim back.

3) To approve quotation to remove dead alder tree between the pond and brook together with trees fallen across the perimeter path

We have a quotation of £620 to remove a dead Alder tree between the pond and the brook. The contractor has also agreed to remove the tree which has fallen across the footpath.

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

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation from Jason Wright.

4) To assess our responsibility in respect to overhanging vegetation and trees over the brook

The Clerk confirmed that our areas seem satisfactory; however, the water outlet by the footpath is very overgrown. Somerset Council cleared it 12 months ago. An email with photographs has been sent.

5) To approve purchase litter bin for outside gate. We will have to empty it

The siting of this bin was discussed.

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

RESOLVED: A bin will be purchased from Glasdon for £192.44 plus VAT and this will be placed on the rear fence. It will be emptied by Eric Peadon as part of his bus shelter contract. This emptying arrangement will be reassessed if needed.

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

None.

62/25 Grass cutting contract due April 26, agree actions needed

Rick Chubb and the Clerk are to meet and prepare a specification to be agreed at the next meeting.

63/25 Update on the fitting of the waste bin at Dyke Hill bus stop. Clerk

The contractors will be fitting the bin on Friday.

64/25 Flooding issue with water flowing from the drift, through the camp site into the brook. Councillor Patay

The Clerk produced a summary with photographs of the drainage issue next to the drift in Forton. It was confirmed by the Councillors that it is not a Parish Council issue and responsibility lies with the landowners adjacent to the drift.

65/25 Somerset Council Volunteer Safety awareness course. Confirm the way forward

Councillor R Jacobs has volunteered to test drive this course; a large handbook was passed to Rebecca. An email is to be sent to Somerset Council to apply.

66/25 To update on the problems we are having with the repairs to Solar panel streetlight

We are still struggling to move this forward. There was an email conversation in August but nothing since despite chasing twice. The Clerk will telephone.

67/25 Update in respect to the purchase of the green land opposite the Memorial Hall

The Clerk has received an email from Somerset Council stating that they will be renewing planning consent with a view to selling the plot. Any surplus land will be transferred to the Parish. It could take 6 months.

68/25 Adopt a path and maintain it. Councillor Les Matthey

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

69/25 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

Councillors R Down and
E Peadon

Wished to know if there was any update
A358. There was none.

Date of Next Meeting – 13th November 2025

The meeting closed at 9:00pm