



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 15th January 2026 at 7pm at Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor: R Down, Councillors: S Adams, C Brown, P Chapple, L Matthey, K Patay, E Peadon, B Quinn, R Wardell. Somerset Councillor C Payne, Police Representative PCSO Hayley Harris.

Clerk N Tinley

There were 2 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 Council wish to increase Council Tax by 11% and have applied to the Government to approve this. Councillor Payne does not believe this will be approved.

There was cross party support for a formal Somerset Council policy to support businesses in Somerset, and it was passed. Councillor Payne is hoping this will include a review on some business rates.

Police Report

PCSO Harris explained that they will be giving Gareth, our local PCSO, greater support in our Parish. A beat surgery is being planned for our community, perhaps on a monthly basis to start with. They will be doing more traffic control around School Lane and the Traffic Warden will visit the area more often.

There was a firearms incident on Monday 12th January concerning a mental health issue. It was contained and there was no danger to the public. The property and surrounding barns have been searched and there are no firearms being held.

01/26 Apologies for Absence – to receive apologies for absence (Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972)

Councillor C Doel – Working nights

Councillor R Jacobs – Holiday

Councillor M Rees – Recovering from illness

02/26 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

Councillors R Down, C Brown, B Quinn and S Adams have a pecuniary interest in item 15/26 and will leave the room.

03/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 4th and 17th December 2025

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour with one abstention (not at meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4th and 17th December 2025 be signed as a correct record.

04/26 Chairman's Announcements

None.

05/26 Report from Councillor Matthey regarding Perry Street Club financial position

Councillor L Matthey brought the Council up to date with the financial situation at Perry Street Club.

There has been a sustained effort to raise funds and settle outstanding debts. One historic VAT bill has been settled and another is on a payment plan which is up to date. There are funds to pay the most recent return. It is a much healthier position and there is new spirit in the Club but they need more volunteers of the right calibre for the Management Committee. The membership wants to keep the Club open in its current building and quotes are being obtained for the repairs needed.

06/26 Chard TC has approved Forum with this Parish; an initial agenda has been suggested which Chard Councillors will discuss 26th January. Need 4 Councillors from this Parish, Councillors P Chapple, K Patay and R Wardell have already been approved, need one other Councillor

Councillor C Brown volunteered to be the additional Councillor required.

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour with Councillor C Brown abstaining.

RESOLVED: Councillor Brown will be the 4th representative.

It was indicated that the time of 3:30-6:00pm will be different.

The Clerk will pass this information on to Chard Town Council.

07/26 The residents support the creation of a driveway or driveways to allow vehicular access to Kents Bungalows, to approve a letter asking Abri to reconsider their decision not to allow this. Councillor P Chapple

Councillor P Chapple explained the plans that some residents would like to be achieved and that Abri are unwilling to allow.

Other Councillors had concerns that any new driveways would cross the existing footpath, have shared ownership issues and by covering gardens with tarmac would have water management issues.

Councillor P Chapple proposed the motion, it was not seconded and, as such, rejected.

Somerset Councillor C Payne is in constant communication with Abri and was happy to look into the matter. He was requested to ask about the derelict garages at the bottom of Kents Bungalows.

08/26 To discuss the treatment the Parish Council and the local community have received concerning the planning application for 95 houses South of Southmead. To approve Councillor Chapple's letter to Somerset Planning and 3 parties involved in the project

Councillor P Chapple explained the background and was concerned that there was no liaison between the planners and the local parishes.

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The suggested letter written by Councillor Chapple has been approved for the Clerk to send.

Since the Planning Meeting last week the Clerk has received an email with an offer of a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the developer's plans. This will be an Extraordinary Meeting to be arranged by the Clerk and which the public can attend. The Clerk is to make the developers aware of this. This will be widely published.

09/26 To approve Councillor M Rees appointment to the Planning Committee

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillor M Rees has been appointed to the Planning Committee.

10/26 To review the effectiveness of the Newsletter and can it be improved. Councillor B Quinn

The Clerk has not received any feedback, positive or negative, and residents have said to Councillors that it is being read. The Councillors are happy with the current layout but wondered if there is room to include a community diary from local organisations.

11/26 Report on finances up to 6th January 2026. Any questions to the Clerk

The Clerk presented the report of spending against budgets. There were no questions from the Councillors.

12/26 To approve a Parish Budget for 2026-2027 of £88880 as recommended by the Finance Committee

The budget was presented to the Councillors in preparation for this meeting. It had been fully discussed by the Finance Committee over two committee meetings.

There were no questions.

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The 2026-2027 budget of £88,880 was approved by the Full Council.

13/26 To approve Parish precept of £74877 as recommended by the Finance Committee

This is an increase of £3487 from last year, it is a 3% increase for a band D property. £2.10 a year. Remaining income will be from Cemetery, allotments and interest. This year the precept will be paid in 2 instalments

It was the Committee's desire to balance the books rather than dip into reserves. A 3% increase to an individual property Council Tax bill (Parish charge) equates to an increase to a band D property of £2.10 per year, or a band B property £1.60 per year. This would give a precept of £74,877, an increase of £3,487. With the increased tax base the precept will go up by 4.88%. This precept will be paid in 2 instalments, April and September 2026. This will leave a surplus of £597.

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

RESOLVED: The Full Council has approved a precept of £74,877.

14/26 Clerks report

None.

Councillors S Adams, R Down, C Brown and B Quinn left the room

Councillor K Patay took over the chair

15/26 Invoices for Payment:

Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

Kaye Down (Xmas tree for Tatworth School (Youth))	£40.00 No VAT
Quinn Distribution (December Newsletter)	£150.00 No VAT
Forton Community Association (Room hire)	£120.00 No VAT
St Johns Church Hall (Room hire)	£25.00 No VAT
Claire Brown (last 50% Xmas lunch)	£1038.00 No VAT
St Johns Church (Chairman Allowance-tree sponsorship)	£20.00 No VAT
Tatworth Pre School (Chairmans Allowance hall rent)	£32.00 No VAT

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell.

RESOLVED: The payments listed in 15/26 have been approved for payment.

The Councillors returned to the meeting

Councillor R Down re-took the chair

16/26 Invoices for Payment:

Normal Invoices

Vision ICT (website hosting 12 months)	£161.70 Inc VAT
MACS Design & Print (Dec Newsletter)	£225.00 No VAT
Somerset Council (1 waste bin 12 months)	£405.60 Inc VAT
Graphics Factory (Office outdoor poster)	£30.00 Inc VAT
Tatworth Amateur Pantomine Soc (Grant)	£300.00 No VAT
BSG (Printer paper for office)	£64.68 Inc VAT
Information Commissions Office (Annual Fee)	£52.00 No VAT
Tatworth Memorial Hall (Office, room hire)	£530.00 No VAT
Microshade (IT services 3 months)	£183.03 Inc VAT
Royal British Legion (Donation)	£100.00 No VAT
Shaun Wareham (Tree Planting)	£60.00 No VAT
EcoElectric (Solar Light Investigation)	£144.00 In VAT
B S Powell & Sons (Parish Maintenance)	£2301.90 Inc VAT
Dan Rivers Ltd (Forton Brook Survey) (Covered by Grant)	£1867.50 No VAT
HalpinRobbins Ltd (Pond site survey) (Covered by Grant)	£408.00 Inc VAT

Burial Account

B E Powell & Sons (Cemetery Ground Maintenance)	£2856.90 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (St Johns Churchyard Maintenance)	£780.00 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Removing Lavender & Private Hedge)	£612.00 Inc VAT

Paid by Clerk

Yarcombe Woodland Products (Tree Stakes)	£70.70 Inc VAT
Amazon (Tree straps)	£30.36 Inc VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1554.53 HMRC £962.67

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor R Wardell. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The payments listed in 16/26 have been approved for payment.

These payments have been set up on internet banking and signed by Councillor L Matthey. Councillor E Peadon will log on and authorise all payments listed in 15/26 and 16/26.

17/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

Councillor K Patay	Has been in contact with Somerset Council regarding flooding issues.
Councillor E Peadon	The A358 footpath has been started by Somerset Council but not yet finished. The Clerk will chase.
Councillor R Down	<p>During resurfacing work Somerset Highways had 6 lorries parked in the Cemetery car park.</p> <p>Some Remembrance street light fixings went missing and will need replacing.</p>
Councillor L Matthey	A reminder that the Wassail will be at Jubilee Field at 5:30pm on Saturday.

DATE NEXT MEETING: 5th February 2026

Meeting Closed 8:20pm