



# TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm At Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

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

Clerk N Tinley

There were 9 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 and a question was asked why Fore Street, being a bus route and a steep hill, was not gritted during the cold weather. The gentleman fell over earlier in January. The Clerk is to raise the matter with Somerset Council and copy in Somerset Councillor Jason Baker.

### **Reports from Somerset Councillors**

Somerset Councillor Jason Baker read from his report which has been forwarded to Councillors and placed on the website. The Councillor took questions:

- 1) Why are Somerset Council paying for expensive consultants rather than paying for services that will make the area better to live in?

*Somerset Councillor Jason Baker sympathised but explained that it was a requirement of the higher authorities.*

- 2) Road litter around Somerset. Every road is a litter bin.

*There is no funding to clear this at Somerset level.*

- 3) The recycling lorries are not picking up litter that has been blown away.

Somerset Councillor Connor Payne was not able to attend the meeting but his report has also been forwarded to Councillors and will be placed on the website.

### **Police Report**

The Police were unable to attend.

## **18/26 Apologies for Absence**

Somerset Councillor C Payne – Regional conference  
Councillor B Quinn – Unwell

## **19/26 Declarations of interest**

Councillors C Brown and R Down have a pecuniary interest in item 28/26 Payments and will leave the room.

## **20/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. 8 in favour, 3 abstentions (not at meeting).

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be signed as a correct record.

## **21/26 Chairman's Announcements**

None.

## **22/26 An update concerning the proposed forum with Chard Town Council - Clerk**

The Clerk reported that Chard Town Council met on 26<sup>th</sup> January to discuss setting up a forum between the Parish Council and Chard Town Council. The Clerk at Chard decided to place this under confidential to allow for "full and meaningful debate". The debate began but the conversation digressed as a division occurred between Councillors where some wanted to include other Parish Councils. Nothing was concluded.

The Councillors would like the Clerk to email Chard Town Council to express our disappointment and concerns.

## **23/26 An update from last night's developers' presentation on the site South of Southmead, any actions needed. Councillor P Chapple**

*Introduced by Councillor P Chapple*

Where do we go from here? We have submitted our thoughts to the Planners concerning the amendments. Is there any more we can do on behalf of the community? The meeting was well attended but does this represent the thoughts of the whole village?

*The meeting was opened to the public.*

A report was read from Jan Morse concerning water run-off from the recent storms. The Press are being contacted concerning the flooding and traffic issues. The waterway along Factory Lane is in a poor state and floods without this extra run-off.

*The meeting resumed for Councillors to discuss*

Do we object and challenge the development or accept that it will happen and work with the developers? It has not yet been purchased by Livewest and they may decide not to go ahead.

It was discussed by the Councillors.

Councillor Chapple asked do we as a Council wish to pursue measures to lead to the annulment of the original application?

The Chairman asked each Councillor for their thoughts and the comments were:

- a) It would be beyond our financial means to challenge the original application.
- b) There are issues to be addressed, especially the well serving Swiss Tulle.
- c) We should work with the developers to ensure that they keep to their promises.
- d) Disappointment was expressed that the original mixed housing development did not go ahead.

It was requested that Councillor Chapple put together a list of the concerns that the community has maybe in the form of a tick sheet to be referred to in conversations with the developers. This should be brought to the next meeting.

The Clerk is to thank the developers for attending Wednesday's meeting and request continued dialogue and a future meeting to include Livewest.

*2 members of the public left the meeting*

This agenda item is to be retained each month.

**24/26 We have received an email from Somerset planners in response to our letter approved minute no. 08/26, authorise Councillor Chapple's reply**

Councillor Chapple explained that we had had a response from Somerset Planners to our letter which was approved last month. They explained that they had followed their obligations to the Council.

Councillor Chapple had written a reply of which a copy was handed to the Councillors to read.

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor M Rees. All in favour.

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

**25/26. Flooding in our Parish update from Councillor Patay**

The Forton Brook report has been sent to various bodies. It makes recommendations that it is hoped the higher authorities will take on board. Councillor Patay will monitor the situation.

The Council has been informed that work is starting at the top of Chard water catchment area. We have no precise details but there is a lot of anxiety so we should be told.

Somerset Council are requesting residents to come forward with their flooding issues. However, there is reluctance to do this as it might damage house values and insurance.

### **26/26 To consider joining the organisation SCRAPP (Somerset Communities Raging Against Poor Planning)**

Some local organisations are joining together to create an organisation to fight against the Planners. There is an annual fee.

The Councillors were concerned regarding the nature of this organisation and whether a Parish Council should get involved.

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor P Chapple. 9 in favour, 2 against.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council does not wish to join until the organisation is established and more details are known.

### **27/26 Clerks report**

The Clerk had concerns that the Council meeting in April on the Thursday before Easter would be poorly attended and was considering moving it to the 9<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that as 2 Councillors would be unable to attend both meetings there would be no need to move it.

The Newsletter will be done in March. There will be an article on Councillor Claire Brown and reports are needed from Amenities and Planning.

A piece from Hayley Morris was suggested, also a community diary.

*Councillors R Down and C Brown left the room*

*Councillor K Patay took over the chair*

### **28/26 Invoices for Payment:**

Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

Richard Down Plant Contractor (Move S.I.D)	£132.00 Inc VAT
Richard Down Plant Contractor (Hedge cutting)	£423.00 Inc VAT

Burial Account

Richard Down Plant Contractor (Hedge cutting)	£270.00 Inc VAT
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Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The invoices listed in 28/26 have been approved for payment.

*Councillors R Down and C Brown returned to the room*

*Councillor R Down re-took the chair*

**29/26 Invoices for Payment:**

Normal Invoices

SALC (Training)	£25.00 no VAT
Adam C Taylor Ltd (fitting litter bin and bench)	£504.00 Inc VAT
Microshade (IT services 1 month)	£75.11 Inc VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1462.21

It was suggested that as Microshade is now a monthly payment is it able to go on direct debit? The Clerk will investigate this.

Proposed by Councillor M Rees, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The payments listed in 29/26 have been approved for payment.

These payments have been set up on internet banking and signed by Councillor S Adams. Councillor E Peadon will log on and authorise all payments listed in 28/26 and 29/26. The payment date will be 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**30/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made**

Councillor K Patay Forton Sewage Works. The problems continue with lorries parked when emptying the reservoir. Groundwater is getting into the system.

Councillor R Down Thanked Councillor L Matthey for organising the Wassail – it was a good event.

Nominations for the “Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Residents of Tatworth and Forton Parish” should be sent to the Clerk for the Chairman to decide. The trophies have been ordered.

Councillor P Chapple The A358 in Chard has been closed again for gas works.

There is water gushing into Post Office Lane. He has reported it.

Councillor C Brown There is a tree down on highways land outside the Church. It has been reported.

**DATE NEXT MEETING: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Meeting closed 8:35pm**