



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 5th March 2026 at 7pm At Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

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

Clerk N Tinley

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

Public Participation

A member of the public requested that we consider the speed limit between Tatworth and Chard on the A358. Between the two 40mph limits there is a short burst of 60mph. It was considered that it would be safer to have 40mph throughout. Somerset Councillor Baker suggested an email and he and Somerset Councillor Payne can investigate.

Reports from Somerset Councillors

Somerset Councillor C Payne read from his report which will be emailed to the Clerk to be forwarded to the Councillors and placed on the website. The report concentrated on the Somerset Conservatives motion to Somerset Council for an alternative budget.

Somerset Councillor J Baker read from his report which will be emailed to the Clerk to be forwarded to the Councillors and placed on the website. The report responded to the Conservative budget and why it was dismissed.

Police Report

The Police report was read by the Clerk. PCSO Hayley Harris was on training duty.

31/26 Apologies for Absence

Councillor C Doel – Working Night Shift
Councillor R Wardell – Holiday

32/26 Declarations of interest

Councillors C Brown, R Down, R Jacobs and E Peadon have a pecuniary interest in item 44/26 Invoices for Payment. They will leave the room.

33/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th February 2026

Proposed by Councillor M Rees, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2026 be signed as a correct record.

34/26 Chairman's Announcements

- On Thursday 12th March there is a walk and free lunch from 11:00am at St John's Church Rooms.
- The remaining Chairman's Allowance of £52 has been donated to the First Responders. They will make a presentation at our Annual Parish Meeting. It was suggested that the Finance Committee considers a grant as they support the community of Tatworth and Forton and are only funded by donations.

35/26 An update concerning the proposed forum with Chard Town council - Clerk

Councillors C Brown, K Patay, P Chapple and the Clerk met with Chard Town Council Clerk to discuss the delay and he again reiterated that Chard Councillors are delaying the matter. It will be on the Agenda on 23rd March and we requested an open session where our Councillors can attend. Somerset Councillor Baker, who is also a Chard Town Councillor, disagreed that they delay was with them. He did explain the advantages of an open session with Combe St Nicholas Parish Council so the procedures can be explained just once. Separate meetings can occur thereafter if needed.

36/26 An update on the development site South of Southmead, Councillor P Chapple

Councillor Chapple has been in touch with Tim Marsh at Somerset Planning and it has been confirmed that the dropping of self builds does need a formal amendment to the application and it will come to us to consider – most likely with the reserved matters application.

Swiss Tulle had a meeting with the developers regarding the well. They want to handle this matter privately with the developers.

37/26 To approve Councillors Chapple's summary of the development South of Southmead to be published in the Newsletter

Councillor Chapple, on the Clerk's request, wrote a summary for the Newsletter. Concerns were raised that this will prejudice the Council for the next stage of the planning process.

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple – not Seconded.

RESOLVED: This summary will not appear in the Newsletter.

38/26 The Coombes Pond leat work completed last year and paid through our Repairs/projects earmarked reserve has provided a flood relief outlet into the pond. This has worked well but has caused further issues by eroding the narrow causeway between the pond and the brook. As the pond is elevated above the level of the brook failure of the bank will cause an issue. To approve in principle that remedial work would be covered by 2026-27 earmarked reserve. Quotes will be obtained and brought back to full council.

After discussion.

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

RESOLVED: The funds in repair/projects earmarked reserve can be used for this purpose. The Clerk will refer to a Structural Engineer for advice and bring the findings and quotations back to the Full Council.

39/26 On the basis of additional information received revisit the Council decision 225/25 to show interest in purchasing land behind Perry St Club. To vote on the withdrawal of our interest

Councillor L Matthey explained his opinion that the purchase of the land behind the Perry Street Club and development will benefit the Parish as a whole. The Council would have control as opposed to any developer. The list of so-called demands was an opening for the Council to make a counter-offer.

Other Councillors indicated that the list was ridiculous and unachievable. The Council are not land developers and do not have the expertise.

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor P Chapple. 9 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED: The offer to open discussions on the purchase of the land behind Perry Street Club has been withdrawn.

40/26 To adopt new Information Technology Policy as required by changes in the external audit. Based in NALC publication

The Clerk explained the requirement for the new IT policy and that the policy presented was produced by the National Association of Local Councils.

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Policy has been adopted by the Full Council.

41/26 To Approve 2026-2027 earmarked reserves as recommended by Finance Committee

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

RESOLVED: The earmarked reserves as recommended by the Finance Committee have been approved.

42/26 Report on finances up to 10th February 2026. Any questions to the Clerk

There were no questions.

43/26 Clerks report

- The Clerk has forwarded an invite to a briefing to include an update on the local plan and transport delivery. This is scheduled for 16th March on Microsoft Teams.
- The Newsletter will be put together this weekend.

Councillors C Brown, R Down, R Jacobs and E Peadon left the meeting

Councillor K Patay took over the chair

44/26 Invoices for Payment:

Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

Tatworth Memorial Hall (2 months room hire)	£286.00 No VAT
St Johns Church Rooms (Room hire)	£30.00 No VAT
St Johns Church Rooms (Christmas Meal)	£104.00 No VAT
Community first responders (Chairmans allowance)	£52.00 No VAT
Eric Peadon (Bus shelter cleaning contract)	£760.00 No VAT
Richard Down Plant Contractor (Jubilee Field Drainage)	£4920.00 Inc VAT

Burial Account

Richard Down Plant Contractor (Memorial Safety work)	£969.60 Inc VAT
--	-----------------

There was a question whether these were within the budget. The Clerk confirmed that they had been approved at committee level.

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 44/26 have been approved for payment.

The Councillors returned to the meeting and Councillor Down re-took the chair

45/26 Invoices for Payment:

Normal Invoices

SALC (Training)	£25.00 no VAT
Gordon Stoker & Son (Presentation trophies)	£300.00 Inc VAT
Shaun Wareham (Gully clearance Coombses Pond & Jubilee)	£45.00 No VAT
David Mears (locum 6 th Nov & advice re Perry St club)	£300.00 No VAT
Elan City (Replacement batteries Speed Ind device)	£191.90 Inc VAT
HalpinRobbins Ltd (Pond site report) (Covered by Grant)	£1192.80 Inc VAT
Chard Digital Print (Name card)	£12.00 Inc VAT

Burial Account

Turnweld Ltd (New car park powder coated fence) £2976.00 Inc VAT

Items paid for by Clerk

NBB Company (Picnic table Coombses Pond) (Covered by Grant) £577.80 Inc VAT
Moneysoft (Payroll software annual fee) £108.00 Inc VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1503.48

Clerks Mileage Claim March 24-Feb 25 (Sent to HR Chairman) £155.48

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

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 45/26 have been approved for payment.

These payments have been set up on internet banking and signed by Councillor L Matthey. Councillor S Adams will log on and authorise all payments listed in 44/26 and 45/26. The payment date will be 10th March.

46/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Councillor L Matthey | He submitted for the Newsletter a second item on drains and potholes |
| Councillor C Brown | The water overflow on Post Office Lane has been reported but once this has been fixed what will happen about the state of the road and pavement?. The Clerk will follow up. |
| Councillor R Down | The chip van is causing a parking issue on Full Council meeting nights. Can it be moved? The Clerk will investigate. |
| Councillor M Rees | The speed humps are in a poor state. She will do a Highways report. |

DATE NEXT MEETING: 2nd April 2026

Meeting closed 8:45pm