



# TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 7pm At Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

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

Clerk N Tinley

There were 3 Members of the Public present and no Press.

The Chairman called for a minute's silence for Melissa Marsh, an ex-Councillor and Emergency Nurse at Chard Hospital.

### **Public Participation**

There was comment on the rules for dog walking in Jubilee Field and the irresponsible nature of some dog owners around the Parish. The Clerk explained that the rules were confusing and the Council would wish dogs to be on a lead in the main field, but they did not have the power to insist. Councillors stressed that dog owners are legally responsible for the behaviour of their dogs. The Amenities Committee will look at the signs at the entrance to Jubilee Field.

It was mentioned that dog mess in the community was not acceptable and perhaps there should be an article on this in the Newsletter.

There was a comment on drug taking in the village and it was suggested that it will be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting when the Police will be present.

### **Reports from Somerset Councillors**

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 water running across the road at Dyke Hill was mentioned and Somerset Councillor Baker asked for details by email so that he can pursue it.

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.

### **Police Report**

There was no Police report.

*Somerset Councillor C Payne left the meeting as he was feeling unwell*

#### **47/26 Apologies for Absence**

Councillor B Quinn – Training regarding Chard Youth Club  
Councillor C Brown – Tired after catering for Melissa Marsh wake  
Councillor R Wardell – Holiday  
Councillor L Matthey - Unwell

#### **48/26 Declarations of interest**

None.

#### **49/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

The Clerk wanted it noted that neither Somerset Councillor had forwarded their report so it was not forwarded to the Councillors nor placed on the website as the Minutes state.

Proposed by Councillor M Rees, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour with one abstention (not at meeting).

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 be signed as a correct record.

#### **50/26 Chairman's Announcements**

There is a trip organised by Wild Church on 18<sup>th</sup> April to Seaton Wetlands supported by the Council's Youth Budget.

#### **51/26 An update concerning the proposed forum with Chard Town council**

Councillor Chapple attended Chard Town Council's meeting where the "forum" was discussed. The term "forum" is now incorrect as the meeting will be to discuss parish boundaries only. Chard Town Council's representatives will be Councillors Baker, Bulmer and J Kenton. The dates to be suggested to Chard Town Council will be during the daytime on a Tuesday in May.

*Somerset Councillor J Baker left the meeting*

#### **52/26 An update on the development site South of Southmead, Councillor P Chapple**

Councillor Chapple confirmed that there had not been much development. The "reserved matters" had not yet been submitted and the self-build element is still to be determined.

There are still a number of issues up for question:

- 1) Aim to reduce street parking when very few of the properties will have driveways or garages.
- 2) Design of properties will be "suitable for the location" but who determines this?

- 3) They state there are 70 people looking for social housing in the Parish but the stated number of bedrooms they need does not match what is to be provided.
- 4) Highways concerns.

Councillor Chapple has forwarded these concerns to the planners but there is yet no response.

It was suggested that we need to build a good relationship with the Planning Officer.

**53/26 To update the Council on the response from the chair of Perry St Club in respect to our application to place the buildings of Perry St Club as an Asset of Community Value update.**

- 1) **This was approved 22/25 17<sup>th</sup> December and cannot be overturned for 6 months unless 2 councillors apply to the clerk in writing for it to be reconsidered.**
- 2) **To approve or amend response suggested by our advisor David Mears.**

The Clerk had forwarded the Perry Street response to the Councillors and whilst it was taken on board the Councillors felt that the action was to protect the buildings against future committee decisions rather than any immediate actions by the current committee.

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor C Doel. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The agreed response to the Perry Street Club Chairman is as follows:

“The point of registering as an asset of community value is to give the wider community the opportunity to bid for it should the building be disposed of and with the committee’s best intentions it cannot predict the future.

Being placed on the register does not restrain your activities, it merely protects the building from being disposed of without notice. You can make your thoughts known to Somerset Council who will have the final decision.”

**54/26 In response to a request from Somerset Council to consider the following:**

- 1) **To take ownership of Snowdon Park which is within our Parish boundary and the maintenance costs involved**

After a long discussion, Councillor K Patay proposed with Councillor M Rees seconding. 6 in favour with 2 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** It is the feeling of the Council that our taxpayers would not want to support an amenity that is effectively in Chard and therefore the Council declined taking ownership.

- 2) **If not, Chard Town Council has expressed an interest in taking it on under a devolution arrangement, would we approve of this arrangement**

Proposed by Councillor P Chapple, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour with one abstention.

**RESOLVED:** Should Chard Town Council decide to take responsibility the Parish has no objection.

**55/26 A report from Councillor Jacobs concerning her attendance at the Memorial Hall Committee meeting**

Councillor R Jacobs gave a summary of the last meeting of the Memorial Hall Committee.

- The aim is to encourage more use by younger people – possibly to restart the film club.
- Bookings are improved giving a better income stream.
- Balances are looking healthier than 12 months ago.
- The issue of the chip van in the car park was raised. The cable needs to come from the hall so it cannot move elsewhere but there possibly could be signage to keep the queue away from incoming cars.

**56/26. In response to the email issues experienced this month**

After the email issues experienced the Committee discussed the options available:

**1) When available upgrade to the new email platform arranged by VisionICT**

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** It was decided not to proceed with a new VisionICT platform at this stage.

**2) To investigate alternative email platforms**

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

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk is to investigate alternatives and come back to the Council with options.

**57/26 To approve Stuart Carrington, partner of Westcotts Accountants as our internal auditor**

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

**RESOLVED:** Stuart Carrington, Partner of Westcotts Accountants, has been approved to provide internal auditor services.

**58/26 Councillor Chapple propose that the Council *consider* financing the clearance of litter from roads - in particular main roads - that run through this Parish**

This was discussed by the Councillors and it was felt that the residents should not be paying for services that Somerset Council should provide.

Councillor P Chapple's proposal was not seconded.

### **59/26 Clerk's report**

The Clerk confirmed that the Amenities Committee had awarded the footpaths, visibility spays and grass cutting contract to B E Powell & Sons Ltd for another 3 years, being the cheapest quotation. The Cemetery Committee awarded the Cemetery maintenance contract to B E Powell & Sons Ltd and St John's Churchyard maintenance contract to Richard Down Contractors, being the cheapest quotations, again for a 3 year term.

### **60/26 Invoices for Payment:**

MACs Printing (Newsletters)	£225.00 No VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Grass cutting & Maintenance Q 4)	£2133.90 Inc VAT
Vision ICT (4 email hosting)	£96.00 Inc VAT

Burial Account

B E Powell & Sons (Maintenance Cemetery Q 4)	£2856.90 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (St John's Churchyard Q 4)	£780.00 Inc VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1436.09 HMRC (PAYE) £925.68

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

These payments have been set up on internet banking and signed by Councillor E Peadon. Councillor C Brown will log on and authorise all payments. The payment date will be 7<sup>th</sup> April.

### **61/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made**

Councillor Chapple	Waterlake Road has been closed again with no warning and no notice. He has emailed his concerns. There was no need to close the road when lights would have been sufficient.
Councillors Doel/Peadon	There has been dog poo around the Parish and Jubilee Field. This item is to be placed in the next Newsletter.
Councillor Down	Allotment holders are driving up too fast through Jubilee Field, especially at school times. The rules for allotment holders are to be reviewed by the Amenities Committee.
Councillor R Jacobs	She has reported debris backing up Forton Brook. Did litter picking with the WI. There was a good turnout. A hedge has been removed from Forton footpath.

**DATE NEXT MEETING: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Meeting Closed 8.30pm**