



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 7th May 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, R Wardell. Somerset Councillors J Baker and C Payne

Clerk N Tinley

There were 7 Members of the Public present and no Press.

Public Participation

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 Councillor C Payne read from his report which was emailed to the Clerk and will be forwarded to the Councillors and placed on the website.

Somerset Councillor J Baker read from his report which was emailed to the Clerk and the Councillors, it will placed on the website. He was asked if the £7,000 a week for a Finance Officer was a good use of funds and whether it is needed. Councillor Baker stated that it was a statutory position – a legal requirement, and that there is a countrywide shortage of Finance Officers.

Police Report

This was forwarded to the Clerk who read it out. There were no concerns.

62/26 Apologies for Absence

Councillor C Doel – Working Night Shift

63/26 Declarations of interest

84/26 Payments - Councillors R Down, C Brown, R Jacobs and B Quinn will leave the room.

79/26 – Councillors R Down and C Brown will not vote.

64/26 Election of Parish Council Chairman and Sign Acceptance

Councillor E Peadon nominated Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor P Chapple.

There were no other nominations. The other Councillors voted unanimously.

RESOLVED: Councillor R Down will remain as Parish Council Chairman.

Councillor Down accepted the post and signed the Declaration.

65/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd April 2026

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. All in favour with 2 abstentions (not at last meeting and not able to get into emails).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd April 2026 be signed as a correct record.

66/26 To approve Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

These are the same as last year; the Clerk has checked with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) website. The Government are trying to produce a National Code of Conduct.

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

RESOLVED: The Code of Conduct and Standing Orders have been adopted for 2026-2027.

67/26 Election of Parish Council Vice Chairman

Councillor R Jacobs proposed Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor M Rees.

There were no other nominations. The other Councillors voted unanimously.

RESOLVED: Councillor K Patay will remain as Parish Council Vice Chairman.

Councillor K Patay was happy to remain in the position.

68/26 Election to Committee's (Chair and Vice Chair are ex-officio to all Committees) Quorum for committees is 4

Planning

Councillors Sue Adams, Peter Chapple, Chris Doel, Rebecca Jacobs, Eric Peadon, Michelle Rees and Russ Wardell

Finance

Councillors Sue Adams, Claire Brown, Peter Chapple, Les Matthey, Rebecca Jacobs and Michelle Rees

HR

Councillors Sue Adams, Claire Brown, Peter Chapple, Rebecca Jacobs, Michelle Rees and Russ Wardell

Amenities

Councillors Sue Adams, Rebecca Jacobs, Les Matthey, Eric Peadon and Michelle Rees

Cemetery

Councillors Christopher Doel, Eric Peadon, B Quinn, Michelle Rees and Russ Wardell

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

RESOLVED: The Councillors listed plus the Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman have been elected to these committees.

69/26 To approve members of the Youth Working Party (Need at least another councillor)

Councillors Claire Brown, Richard Down, Kate Patay, Michelle Rees plus members of the public Kaye Down, Rachel Prince and the Clerk.

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Councillors and members of the public will sit on the Youth Working Party.

70/26 Appoint Members to serve on outside bodies:

Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC)	Councillor K Patay
Tatworth Playing Fields	Councillor B Quinn
Tatworth Memorial Hall Trustee	Councillor R Jacobs is unable to maintain this role as the meeting day has been changed. No other Councillor came forward
Perry St Club Committee	No Councillor came forward.
Stowell Court Rights Holder	Councillor R Jacobs

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

RESOLVED: The Councillors listed above have been nominated to these posts.

71/26 Chairman's Announcements

There will be 2 meetings next Thursday.

6:15pm A confidential extraordinary meeting concerning Perry Street Club
7:00pm Annual Parish Meeting

**72/26 To approve training on “Councillor Interests” for all Councillors
Thursday 11th June. Cost £150**

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: All Councillors will attend a training session and the Clerk is to request that Code of Conduct be included.

73/26 An update on Boundaries meeting with Chard Town Council

No date has been provided by Chard Town Council. Somerset Councillor J Baker felt a date had been agreed at Chard. The Clerk will check and come back to the Councillors.

74/26 PCSO Gareth Allington is holding a beat surgery Friday 29th May in the Brewer Room 11am, it has been suggested that we can make this a joint surgery with one or two Councillors. If approved, who would like to take part. He is hopeful to do one every 4 weeks

The Councillors approved of the joint surgery and Councillors Rebecca Jacobs and Les Matthey volunteered for the 29th May event. Councillor C Brown would be available in the school holidays.

Proposed by Councillor S Adams, Seconded by Councillor P Chapple. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will communicate with PCSO Allington to make arrangements.

75/26 Councillor Chapple would like to revisit the litter issue and consider the following

- 1. Apparently verge trimming is now taking place along the A358, and allegedly litter is being removed first. Is it?**

There is conflicting information concerning verge litter cleaning. “Streetclean” says yes but Somerset Council makes no mention of it. We will see.

- 2. A number of road signs (e.g., relating to mud on roads) are being dumped on verges rather than removed. Can the Council write to Highways about this?**

It was thought by the Councillors that “mud on the road” signs were being placed as a warning by farmers rather than Highways.

- 3. A recent litter pick revealed some real black spots, the worst of these being the lane from Forton up to the A358 and beyond Two Ash to the place where large piles of logs are stored. Although there is no evidence, it's hard to escape the conclusion that sources of much of this are certain enterprises along the route. I propose that the Council write to a number of enterprises asking them, without making accusations, if they could help**

us by keeping the lane clean in the vicinity of their premises.

The meeting was closed to allow a member of the public to address the Council.

She, as a resident of Two Ash Lane, took offence to the wording of this Agenda item. She accepted that litter does blow down the lane from the bench area but it is the residents that pick up the litter rather than create it.

The meeting recommenced.

The Clerk and Councillor P Chapple apologised for the nature of the Agenda item – no offence was intended. It was suggested that a bin be placed next to the bench. The Clerk will bring this to the Amenities Committee. Additionally, when the grass is cut at the bench can the visibility splay be cut for a couple of metres along the A358. The Clerk will contact the contractor.

76/26. Vision ICT are automatically upgrading our email platform to a new, more reliable platform to improve performance, resilience, and overall usability. The cost per email is £20 a year, a total cost annually £280

Alternatively, Microsoft is £9.60 per month per email, an annual cost of £115.20, a total for the Council £1612.80

The Clerk would like to suggest that we give this new platform a 12-month trial and budget the cost into 2027-28 if unsatisfactory

Vision ICT have already upgraded the email platform and the initial impression is not good. Use on tablets and phones is not easy. The Clerk is to ask how it can be improved. The matter was deferred.

77/26 Business signs around the Parish, Councillor Down is concerned that it is making the Parish look untidy, discuss and agree if and what action can be taken

This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

78/26 To approve the purchase of a £50 voucher from Poppe Inn to be awarded to the recipient of the award for Outstanding Contribution to residents of Tatworth and Forton. To be presented at Annual Parish meeting 14th May

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

RESOLVED: The purchase of a £50 voucher has been approved.

79/26 As part of the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War we approved in Minute item 168/25 our support to replace the historic light at the entrance the St John Church. A historic lamp has been donated but requires renovation and conversion to solar. To approve a budget of £500 for this project

The historic lamp was shown to the Councillors. It needs refurbishing, new glass and converting to solar. After discussion, Councillor K Patay proposed, seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour. Councillors Down and Brown did not vote.

RESOLVED: The Council is to cover the bills for the renovation to a maximum of £500. The bills are to be presented to the Clerk.

80/26 Youth Working Party update- Councillor Claire Brown

The Working Party had a recent meeting, although they were short on numbers, and discussed what was successful or not from last year. Plans and ideas were put forward for this year, including a family film event. Councillor M Rees indicated that a Monday meeting would be difficult. The next meeting will be rearranged.

81/26 In Minute item 109/25 5th June 2025 it was resolved that “The Chairman and Clerk can authorise projects recommended by the youth working party to a maximum of £500 per item.” To consider an increase to £750 per item

An increase is needed for the outdoor cinema booking if it goes ahead.

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Council Chairman and Clerk can authorise projects recommended by the Youth Working Party to a maximum of £750 per item within the Youth budget.

82/26 Comments and questions from year end Finance Report issued

The Clerk explained the full spreadsheet is on our website. There were no questions or comments.

83/26 Clerks report

The Newsletter will be written in early June.

The items requested by the Internal Auditors have been forwarded.

We have received £1,740.10 from Somerset Council relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy. This money must be used for a community project within 5 years.

Councillors C Brown, R Down, R Jacobs and B Quinn left the meeting room

Councillor K Patay took the chair

84/26 Invoices for Payment:

Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

Brian Quinn (Newsletters)	£150.00 No VAT
St Johns Church (Hire Rooster Bus-Youth Budget)	£295.00 No VAT
Seaton Wetlands (Donation for Guide-Youth Budget)	£100.00 No VAT
Tatworth Memorial Hall (Office & Hall for March)	£132.00 No VAT

Burial Account

Richard Down Plant Hire (Groundwork to carpark bank)	£300.00 Inc VAT
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Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 84/26 have been approved for payment.

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

85/26 Invoices for Payment:

Normal Invoices

Vision ICT (Bronze Website Support)	£450.00 Inc VAT
South West Councils (Membership)	£666.00 Inc VAT
Rialtas Business Solutions (Finance software maintenance)	£252.00 Inc VAT
Wel Medical (Replace expired defib pads)	£158.70 Inc VAT
SALC (Membership to Somerset & National Association)	£1146.85 No VAT
SALC (Councillor Training)	£25.00 No VAT
Rural Services Partnership (Membership & rural bulletin)	£66.16 Inc VAT
Wright Tree Surgery (Coombses Pond Trees)	£380.00 No VAT
Poppe Inn (Voucher) assuming 78/26 approved	£50.00 No VAT

Burial Account

ICCM (Membership)	£110.00 No VAT
Ann Gaylard (Buy back unneeded GOR plot)	£32.00 No VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1447.21

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

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 85/26 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 payment. The payment date will be 12th May 2026.

86/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

Councillor P Chapple	The application for 95 houses has not moved forward. There are various emails bouncing around.
Councillor E Peadon	There is a camper van on the main road at Crossways causing visibility issues. He will mention it to the Police at next week's Annual Parish Meeting.
Councillor K Patay	Is working with the authorities regarding flooding in Forton but is it too early to give details.

Councillor R Down

To consider the Morrisons shop as an asset of community value. This may be a future agenda item.

DATE NEXT MEETING: 4th June 2026

Meeting closed 8:40pm