



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 4th June 2026 at 7pm At Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor R Down, Councillors: S Adams, C Brown, C Doel, R Jacobs, L Matthey, K Patay, E Peadon, B Quinn, M Rees, R Wardell. Somerset Councillor C Payne

Clerk N Tinley

There were 19 Members of the Public present and no Press.

Public Participation

Sarah Sitton from Tatworth Pre-School apologised that due to a family emergency she was not able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. The grant funds were used for new equipment for the baby room that opened in September last year and was very much appreciated by the staff and members of the community that use the facilities. A big Thank You to the Parish Council for its continued support.

Sarah left the meeting

The Clerk read an email from the Playing Fields Association. Anna from the Playing Fields Association apologised that they missed the Annual Parish Meeting and could not make this evening's meeting due to preparation for this weekend's rally. The Association very much appreciated the grant that went towards new steps at the rear of the building which were used by staff. They thanked the Parish Council for its support.

Report from Somerset Councillor

Somerset Councillor C Payne read sections from his report which has been sent to the Clerk and will be forwarded to the Councillors and placed on the website. He took questions from members of the public.

Somerset Councillor J Baker, though not able to attend the meeting, has sent his report to the Clerk and Councillors and it will be placed on the website.

Police Report

Nothing received.

87/26 Apologies for Absence

Somerset Councillor J Baker is in London today and could not get back.

88/26 Declarations of interest

106/26 Payments Councillors R Down and C Brown will leave the room.

89/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2026 and the Extraordinary Meeting 14th May 2026

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. 8 in favour with 3 abstentions (not at one of the meetings).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 7th May 2026 and 14th May 2026 be signed as a correct record.

90/26 To consider and respond to Planning application [26/00984/REM](#) on the reserved matters “Land South of Southmead” Perry St. Councillor C Doel

This was introduced with slides by Councillor C Doel. There was a question and answer session between the public and Councillors. The main concerns were: are solar panels to be put on all properties or just some? car charging points, the number of parking places leading to parking on the main road, no rainwater harvesting and the attenuation pond would not cope. Outside the planning application could Tatworth School cope with additional children or would there be additional journeys to Chard schools?

It was mentioned that the general public must put their concerns on the portal where they will be read.

Councillor L Matthey proposed that the Council objects to the reserved matters and that a small group put together a response for the Clerk to submit. This was seconded by Councillor C Doel. 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

RESOLVED: A working party of C Doel, N Parsons and K Patay submit a report to the Clerk. A response is required by 17th June.

14 members of the public left the meeting

91/26 Chairman’s Announcements

Councillor Down thanked everybody who attended the Annual Parish Meeting and asked Tony Parfoot, who received an award for “outstanding contribution to the residents of the Parish” to speak.

Tony said that he was completely blown away by the award and that his whole family were at the rear of the room without his knowledge. He thanked the Parish Council and said that it means so much to be acknowledged in that way.

92/26 Update from the Clerk regarding Councillor Vacancy

Somerset Council has confirmed that we have had no requests for an election and that we can now co-opt. There will be an article in the Newsletter, on the website and on social media. Councillor B Quinn has offered to assist the Clerk but it must be appreciated that it is the Clerk’s decision how this is used.

93/26 On the agenda is the selection of a councillor; we have lost a very good councillor who worked hard for us all, in particular chairing the planning committee. His departure is indeed unfortunate and perhaps could have been avoided. Are we doing enough to support and advise our fellow councillors and clerk when the inevitable criticism is levelled for the work we do? Councillor Matthey.

Councillor L Matthey felt that the resignation of Peter Chapple could have been avoided if more support had been given to the Clerk and the Councillor when it was realised that the agenda item could cause offence to the residents in Two Ash Lane. Councillor M Rees mentioned that it was unfortunate timing that the email changeover happened the same day as the Agenda had been issued and so it was not until the following Tuesday that the Agenda could be read.

The Clerk had received an email from Peter Chapple, with permission to forward to Councillors, making suggestions for the future.

It was an unfortunate incident and lessons must be learnt.

94/26 Appoint a Councillor to represent the Parish as a Tatworth Memorial Hall Trustee

There were suggestions of either having a rotation of Councillors filling the role or Councillor Peadon taking the role (he is the Caretaker and already attends most meetings). Councillor R Jacobs will contact Sheila Harding to discuss. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

95/26 To note the training on “Code of Contact and Councillor Interests “for all Councillors is on Thursday 11th June

It was noted that Councillors Down, Rees and Matthey cannot attend.

96/26 An update on Boundaries meeting with Chard Town Council

Councillor Claire Brown and the Clerk joined Town Councillors Jason Baker, Tim Eggins and the Chard Clerk to discuss boundary changes. It was a positive meeting and rough lines have been drawn on a map. The next stage is for Councillor Baker to contact Somerset Boundaries staff to firm up those lines. Both Councils will need to agree and Somerset Council will then take over.

97/26 To approve the replacement of the Memorial Hall defibrillator with the same/similar model as our 2 other sites

The Memorial Hall defibrillator is 12 years old and it would be preferable for it to be the same model as the others we support. The Clerk has obtained a quotation from Wel Medical Ltd (who supplied the others) at a cost of £1,192 + VAT including the external cabinet. We have a budget of £1,000 so it will exceed this. It was suggested that Peter Fosh may be able to obtain a discount from that quotation.

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Council will replace the Memorial Hall defibrillator and proceed with the purchase at a cost of £1,192 less any discount obtained.

98/26 The 2021 storms caused extensive flooding and damage to property, are we prepared as far as possible for the next “incident” Councillor Matthey

As the anniversary of the 2021 floods approaches, Councillor Matthey asked the Council if it was prepared for another incident.

Councillor K Patay responded.

- The advice is that it is the owners' responsibility to ensure that their own property is prepared for another incident - but not everyone can afford the expense.
- In the 2021 incident the attenuation pond behind Millfield Industrial Estate had been neglected and did not assist as it was designed to. This has been corrected by Wessex Water.
- The survey of the brook has been forwarded to the “Farmer and Wildlife Advisory Group” (FWAG) and other bodies.
- There are ongoing discussions by FWAG with farmers looking at ways to slow the flow of the brook before Forton. These discussions are still at a confidential stage as no final agreements have been reached.
- Any work upstream of Forton will also help Tatworth.
- FWAG can obtain any funding/grants needed for any loss to the landowners.
- We still have wardens that meet regularly – they check the resilience sheds.

Councillor C Doel, a Firefighter, mentioned the emergency services' main responsibility is danger to life not community welfare. Gone are the days of firefighters pumping out homes! He also stressed that individuals should not risk their own lives, fast flowing water is very dangerous.

99/26 Report from Councillors Jacobs and Matthey from the joint surgery with the Police. The next is booked for 26th June, will need Councillor representation

In this first event 2 people called in to discuss a blocked drain and parking in Langdons Way.

The next event is on 26th June. Councillor C Doel is available and Councillor M Rees will check her diary.

This will be placed in the Newsletter.

100/26 To review Christmas Lunch provision for the Parish - Councillor Brown

This item is being deferred until the next meeting to allow Councillor Brown to put together a presentation with options.

**101/26 To approve a donation to the Chard First Responders, confirm the sum.
Councillor Down**

The First Responders come to our Parish several times a week and are only funded by donations.

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will support the First Responders with a donation.

Councillor E Peadon proposed £250, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. Counter-proposal by Councillor L Matthey £300, Seconded by Councillor R Down.

5 Councillors voted for £250 and 6 Councillors voted for £300.

RESOLVED: A donation of £300 has been approved.

102/26 Finance – to note Annual Internal Audit Report for 2025/26

The Clerk went through the Annual Internal Audit Report from Westcott Accountants noting that the Parish had passed each section. The Internal Auditors complimented the Clerk on the quality of the Parish records and the admin processes of the Council.

103/26 Finance – to approve Annual Governance Statement

The Clerk went through each section of the Annual Governance Statement and confirmed that each section was a “Yes”.

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor L Matthey. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Accounting Statement be approved and it was signed by Councillor R Down as Chairman of today’s meeting.

Councillor R Down proposed that we suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to be completed. Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Standing Orders have been suspended.

104/26 To note that the Council has lost its General Power of Competence until a future clerk becomes fully qualified

This item was noted by the Councillors.

105/26 Clerks report

As the Council has lost Peter Chapple there is nobody to proofread the Newsletter. Is there a Councillor that can take over this role? Councillor K Patay volunteered. The Newsletter will be put together next week.

Perry Street Social Club has withdrawn their appeal against the application to make the clubhouse an asset of community value.

Councillors R Down and C Brown left the room

106/26 Invoices for Payment:
Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

St Johns Church (Room Hire)	£40.00 No VAT
R Down Plant Contractor (Fit picnic table & dispose of old)	£180.00 Inc VAT
R Down Plant Contractor (Move SID (March & April)	£132.00 Inc VAT

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor M Rees. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 106/26 have been approved for payment.

Councillors R Down and C Brown returned to the meeting

Councillor R Down took the chair

107/26 Invoices for Payment: Normal Invoices

Chard Digital Print Ltd (Presentation Cheques)	£18.00 Inc VAT
Paid by Clerk Tesco (items for Annual Parish meeting)	£13.15
Amazon (No parking sign)	£ 17.89
Total	£31.04 Inc VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1546.86

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

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 107/26 have been approved for payment.

These payments have been set up on Internet banking and signed by Councillor S Adams. Councillor L Matthey will log on and authorise payment. The payment date will be 9th June 2026.

108/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

Councillor B Quinn	There has been another accident at the A358 junction. Should we consider contacting Highways to investigate the road?
Councillor L Matthey	Has a health issue involving surgery and requests 6 months to recover. Councillor R Down wished him well and confirmed it will be on next months' Agenda.
Councillor E Peadon	An articulated lorry turned down Fore Street though a 7.5 ton restricted road.
Councillor S Adams	Whitegate hedge is not being cut. The Clerk will send a letter. It is a serious traffic issue.

Councillor C Doel

Has received complaints from residents about a roof cleaning company. Individuals need to report it to Trading Standards.

Date of next meeting 2nd July 2026

Meeting closed 9:13pm