



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 6th August 2026 at 7pm At Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor R Down, Councillors: S Adams, C Doel, L Matthey, K Patay, E Peadon, B Quinn, M Rees, R Wardell and Somerset Councillor J Baker

Clerk N Tinley

There were 13 Members of the Public present and no Press.

Public Participation

- Nigel Parsons - In the field are oak seedlings. Is it worth contacting the farmers to grow these on to saplings for planting around the Parish? It was requested that Nigel indicates to the Clerk in which field.
- Lee Wells - Represents "Residents for a Better Chard". He is concerned that the Persimmon site is coming back to planning. Test holes are being dug in the field. He was assured that if an application is put forward it will be discussed in a public meeting.
- Brought up the potential of an eastern relief road. He expressed his concerns over this and possible damage to the nature reserve.

Reports from Somerset Councillors

Somerset Councillor J Baker referred to his briefing which has been sent to the Councillors and will be placed on the website. He answered questions from the Councillors.

Although Somerset Councillor C Payne is on holiday he forwarded a report to the Clerk which will be sent to the Councillors and put on the website.

Chairman Councillor R Down welcomed back Councillor L Matthey and hoped he was feeling much better.

132/26 Apologies for Absence

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| Somerset Councillor C Payne | - | Holiday |
| Councillor R Jacobs | - | Holiday |
| Councillor C Brown | - | Unwell |

133/26 Declarations of interest

Councillors Down, Quinn, Wardell and Peadon 150/26 Payments

Councillor S Adams 142/26 Forton Community Hall, She is the treasurer

All will leave the room.

134/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2026

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. 6 in favour, 3 abstentions.

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

4 members of the public left the meeting

135/26 To consider and respond to a “notification only” Planning application [26/0515/DLP](#) to discharge planning obligation concerning “Land South of Southmead” Perry St.

In relation to various matters, including removal of First Home requirements, removal of the Self-Build provisions, the extent of the LEAP buffers and adjustment of the PTP adoption requirements. The Clerk has spoken to the planners and although this is the normal procedural route but we can make comment which would be considered.

The meeting was opened to the public and a conversation over the matter was had between the Councillors and the general public.

Concerns raised: Lowering the standards of the treatment pond.

- Reducing the effectiveness of the treatment plant where water will be discharged into the stream. The culvert is blocked and runs over the footpath. The water must be clean as this is a popular footpath for walkers and children.
- The Manager at Swiss Tulle was asked about the spring based water supply and he confirmed that the developers offered to pay for the factory to be connected to mains water. The Company Directors have approved this.
- What happens if the Management Company or the sewage plant manufacturers go bust?
- There is so much news about the uncleanness of our rivers; we cannot allow it to get worse.

The Planners should not allow a reduction.

- There is not going to be affordable full purchase housing for our young people.
- The dropping of self-builds

The meeting recommenced for the Councillors to discuss.

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

RESOLVED: Councillor Doel and the Clerk will put together a document expressing the Councillors' concern on lowering water discharge standards, removing the ability for full purchase and dropping the self-build option.

136/26 Chairman's Announcements

Councillor R Down expressed his dismay that Councillor Rebecca Jacobs experienced verbal abuse from youths whilst representing the Council. The Police handled the situation well and due to the support she has received she withdrew her resignation.

Somerset Councillor Baker mentioned that there is a Police procedure called Operation Bridges and training available in dealing with confrontation.

Chairman R Down moved to agenda item 143/26 as Swiss Tulle factory manager, Alan Adams, had a long journey home.

143/26 There has been reports of dogs off the lead on Factory Lane a private highway, approve the inclusion in the Newsletter to remind residents highway code requirements that dogs be on a short lead

The meeting was closed to allow Alan to speak. A member of staff walking along the road was bitten by a dog not on a lead. The owner was very apologetic and the staff member did not want to report it due to her concerns over what would happen to the dog. There has also been a number of near misses with cars and dogs. He has been in touch with Rights of Way and they have confirmed that as it is a right of way there is no law to force dogs to be on a lead. They have recommended placing a notice requesting that dogs be kept on a lead. He asked for the support of the community to put dogs on a lead.

The meeting recommenced and Councillor R Down proposed, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is authorised to put an article in the Newsletter to that effect.

4 members of public left the meeting

137/26 To approve Co-Option of a replacement Parish Councillor.

Candidates

**Richard Martin
Jonathan Bell
Jack Stevenson**

1) Questions towards candidates

Candidates will be asked to leave the room.

2) Who wishes to propose and second the candidates

3) Secret vote to be independently verified

New Councillor to join the meeting.

It was noted that out of the 3 candidates invited to the meeting only 1 turned up. Jonathan Bell had sent his apologies due to a family incident.

Applicant Jack Stevenson introduced himself. He is ex-Army who, with his husband, took over the Poppe Inn. He works from home and is not involved with the day to day running of the pub. Since opening the Poppe Inn he has been overwhelmed by the local support and wants to give back to the community.

- 1) After answering questions Jack left the meeting.
- 2) Councillor L Matthey proposed and Councillor K Patay seconded.
- 3) As we had just one candidate the vote was by a raise of hands.

RESOLVED: Jack Stevenson was duly co-opted as a Councillor for Tatworth and Forton Parish Council.

Councillor J Stevenson joined the meeting

138/26 Clerk to issue to new Councillor, acceptance form, the Code of Conduct, Register of Interest (To be returned to Clerk by 3rd September) and Training dates

Councillor J Stevenson signed the Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk. He was given the Code of Conduct, Register of Interest form and training dates.

139/26 To accept new Councillor onto committee's that suit their interests and skill set. (Amenities, Cemetery, HR, Finance and Planning)

Councillor J Stevenson would like to join the Cemetery and Planning Committees.

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor M Rees. All in favour.

RESOLVED: Councillor J Stevenson has been accepted onto the Cemetery and Planning Committees.

140/26 After the disturbing incident with local youths Councillor R Jacobs has requested a leave of absence until the 1st October 2026. (Local Gov act 1972 (section 85)). To approve request

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

RESOLVED: Councillor R Jacobs will be on a leave of absence until 1st October 2026.

141/26 To approve the issue of ID cards for Councillors and staff.

The Councillor cards will have an expiry of May 2027 and a new set issued after the election.

For a one-sided ID card the cost would be a total of £125 if self-designed on their software. The Clerk will need digital photographs but if this proves difficult the Clerk can take a photo in the office.

It was suggested that additional information can be placed on the reverse.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to arrange ID cards once the photographs have been received.

Councillor S Adams left the room

142/26 Somerset Council has chosen Forton Community Hall as our only polling station; we can make representation to Somerset Council if we disagree with this decision. To discuss and vote

Having just one Polling Station between the 2 villages will discourage voters as not everyone has a car. There have previously been 2 Polling Stations – Forton and the Memorial Hall.

Councillor L Matthey proposed, Seconded by Councillor J Stevenson. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to make representation that we need to keep both Polling Stations.

Councillor S Adams returned to the meeting

144/26 There has been reports of persistent barking of dogs in Wellings Close, this can be reported to Somerset Council “report a noise issue”, decide if the Clerk makes a report on behalf of the Council

Councillor C Doel has been contacted by residents concerning the consistent barking of dogs from one residence in Wellings Close.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk will make a report to Somerset Council.

145/26 To approve autumn de-fib training at a cost of £150.

Peter Fosh is retiring from first aid training and this could well be his last de-fib training. It was suggested asking the First Responders to be involved as they may be able to take over the role.

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

RESOLVED: The training has been approved. The Clerk will contact Peter for a date and this will be placed in the Newsletter.

146/26 To approve the spend of £2585 from earmarked reserve “Community Infrastructure Levy” to purchase and fit a replacement Community Noticeboard near Morrisons.

Somerset Council has approved the use CIL funds for this purpose, Amenities committee approved the design and supplier from 3 quotes received and Finance committee recommended the use of the CIL funds. CIL balance held £7639.

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

RESOLVED: The Full Council has approved the use of CIL funding for this purpose. The Clerk will arrange the work.

147/26 An update from Chair of planning Nigel Parsons on the Persimmon Homes meeting

The meeting was very positive. They were keen to hear our concerns over flooding and transport. They have been talking to Somerset Council and taking time to ensure the relief road is incorporated and excess water is managed. 46% will be 1 or 2 beds. Although this meeting was positive it was made clear that this was not supported or otherwise until an application is presented.

148/26 To adopt the following policies.

a) **Committee Terms of Reference:**

Amenities, Cemetery, Planning, Finance, HR

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor C Doel. All in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED: The Committee Terms of Reference have been adopted by the Council.

b) **Scheme of Delegation** (*Changes in red*)

Proposed by Councillor B Quinn, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED: The Scheme of Delegation Policy has been adopted by the Council.

c) **Councillor ID Policy**

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

RESOLVED: The new Identification Card (ID) Policy has been adopted by the Council.

149/26 Clerks report

- The next joint surgery with the Police is 21st August. Would a Councillor like to volunteer? Councillors L Matthey and C Doel will attend. This is to be advertised on the website, Facebook and posters.

- The next Newsletter will be put together towards the end of August. The Clerk would like to include photographs from the Horticultural Show and our new Best Allotment trophy.
- There have been no replies so far from Highways concerning the A358 turning at St John's, nor the crossroads at Whitegate and signage entry from Forton into Chard. The speed indicator device results from the A358 gave some very scary speeds. It shows top speeds from a ½ hour period, peaking at 89mph down to the 50th top speed of 64mph. A lot were during the late evening and early hours.
- The Register of Members Interest is still awaited from most of the Councillors

Councillors Down, Quinn, Peadon and Wardell left the room

Councillor K Patay took over the Chair

150/26 Invoices for Payment:

Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

Brian Quinn (Newsletters)	£150.00 No VAT
Tatworth Memorial Hall (Office & Hall rental)	£513.00 No VAT
Richard Down Plant contractor (SID)	£198.00 Inc VAT
Eric Peadon (Water pump repair)	£50.00 No VAT

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

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 150/26 have been approved for payment

The Councillors returned to the meeting

Councillor R Down took the Chair

151/26 Invoices for Payment: Normal Invoices

B E Powell & Sons (Q1 Grounds Maintenance)	£1218.00 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Q1 Footpaths & Visibility Splays)	£1437.00 Inc VAT
Vision ICT (3 email hosting)	£72.00 Inc VAT
WEL Medical (Replacement de-fib)	£1430.40 Inc VAT
Shaun Wareham (Path clearance)	£37.50 No VAT
Gordon Stoker (Best allotment trophy)	£150.00 Inc VAT
Westcotts (SW) LLP (Internal Audit)	£618.00 Inc VAT

Paid by Clerk

Amazon (Notices for allotments)	£10.88 Inc VAT
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Burial Account

RM Cameron Environmental services (Interim invoice for groundwater assessment for Cemetery extension. Within Quote)	£10355.15 Inc VAT
B E Powell & Sons (Cemetery Maintenance)	£2854.50 Inc VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1415.76

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

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 151/26 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 11th August 2026.

152/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

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| Councillor E Peadon | - | A wall has been knocked down on the A358 |
| Councillor B Quinn | - | In response to SID data, has the data been sent to Speedwatch? The Clerk will action this. |
| Councillor L Matthey | - | The Council should consider the purchase of 2 solar panel SID devices. Highways approval is still awaited and this will be put on the Committee agendas. |
| Councillor C Doel | - | He will speak to a contact in the road safety team. The Clerk will email the SID data over. |
| Councillor K Patay | - | There is a driver going through Forton at high speed at night. His car undercarriage can be heard hitting the speed bumps. The Clerk confirmed another resident has been in contact regarding this matter. The Clerk will report. |

DATE NEXT MEETING: 3rd September 2026

Meeting closed 8:55pm