TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Held on 1st October 2026 at 7pm At Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor R Down, Councillors: S Adams, C Brown, C Doel, R Jacobs, L Mattey, K Patay, E Peadon, and B Quinn

Clerk N Tinley

There were 10 Members of the Public present and no Press.

Public Participation

Anne Goody spoke on behalf of the Memorial Hall concerning the declined 2025 grant application expressing the Committee disappointment. All hall hire brings income to the Memorial Hall and is spent on maintenance. It is not a business venture.

It was mentioned that the branches from a hedge being cut on Loveridge Lane are covering the road signs. It was suggested that it be reported by the residents to Somerset Highways.

Report from Somerset Councillors and Police

No representatives attended the meeting.

168/26 Apologies for Absence

Somerset Councillor J Baker	Training course
Councillor M Rees	Holiday
Councillor J Stevenson	Working
Councillor R Wardell	Overseas visitors
PCSO H Harris	Working day shift

169/26 Declarations of interest

Councillors C Brown, R Down and S Adams 185/26 Grants
Councillor B Quinn 190/26 Payments

Will leave the room.

170/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2026

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor C Doel. 5 in favour, 4 abstentions (not at last meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2026 be signed as a correct record.

171/26 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Councillor R Jacobs back to the Council.

172/26 To accept the donation of a wooden sign from Robert Hodder who made it from Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Tree which stood at St Johns and was cut down for the new road in 1969. Determine where it should go

The meeting was closed to allow member of public Robert Hodder to introduce the wooden sign he had carved. He wants to donate it to the Parish Council for the community.

The meeting reconvened with the Chairman, Councillor R Down, thanking Robert for making the wooden sign and proposed that we accept it, seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Council has accepted the donation.

The Councillors discussed where to display the sign and St John's Church and Memorial Hall were proposed and seconded. 3 Councillors voted for the Church; 6 Councillors voted for the hall.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to write to the Memorial Hall requesting that the sign be displayed in the hall.

173/26 Report from Councillor Mattey regarding road safety concerns raised at Community Surgery, discuss and agree response

Councillor Mattey represented the Councillors at the August surgery and all the residents that attended wanted to discuss road safety.

1) Speeding at night through Forton. This was fully discussed at the last meeting with PCSO Harris.

2) Informal crossing on the B3167 near the proposed new estate. The Council's concerns were raised in the reply to the planning application.

3) Speeding along the B3167. How does the Council use the speed indicator device data?

   - Is it sufficient to accept that it is the minorities who exceed the limit?

   - Should the data be sent to Speed Watch as they can adjust times?

   - Should the data be sent to the Police?

- It was suggested that average speed cameras be installed.

174/26 Determine the future of the joint Police and Councillor Surgery. Next Due 16th October

The Clerk read an email from PCSO Hayley Harris agreeing that the surgery is currently not working. It was suggested that there is a Parish Council email address for matters to be forwarded to the Police. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. 8 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED: The joint surgery will be suspended.

175/26 An update from Nigel Parsons chair of Planning on the status of the 95 houses planning application

The Planning Chairman, Nigel Parsons, updated the Councillors on the progress of the planning application for 95 houses south of Southmead. The application is still awaiting a decision by Somerset Planning South Committee.

It is still open for public comments.

176/26 Update from Councillor Brown on the outdoor cinema event held on 26th September

This was a well-supported and successful event. The cost of the cinema was covered by Somerset Association of Local Councils' Community Health and Wellbeing Fund. Discounted food for children was offered at a cost of £127.50. The event was advertised on the radio and a lot of positive feedback has been received.

A Halloween event at Perry Street Club has been arranged.

177/26 To appoint a Councillor to replace Peter Chapple as our Bus Champion

There were no volunteers. This will be placed as an Agenda item for 2 months' time.

178/26 To appoint a Council representative For the Tatworth Memorial Hall Trustees

There were no volunteers. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

179/26 Councillor Jacobs has concerns about the state of the verges leading into Forton via Blacklands Lane, agree if any action is required

Councillor R Jacobs, with the aid of photographs, explained that a number of vehicles have been parked along Blacklands Lane for some time restricting access. The Councillors felt that it was not a matter the Council can get involved with – it is a Highways issue. Councillor Jacobs will report to Somerset Highways and monitor the situation.

180/26 To discus and agree action to the report from Highways concerning the Post office Lane hazardous and slippery footpath. Councillor Down

Proposed by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To write to the leader of the Council highlighting the lack of support from Somerset Highways regarding this very dangerous and slippery footpath. It is a school route footpath.

181/26 To confirm if the Parish Council want to be involved in the 8th November Remembrance Service. There may be a little cost against our £500 remembrance budget

Proposed by Councillor L Mattey, Seconded by Councillor C Doel. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will support the Remembrance Service including using the budget for small purchases.

182/26 Now Highways have approved 2 sites for fixed Solar Speed Devices approve the purchase of 2 units at a cost of £4679.98 from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Approved by Finance committee Minute No 48/26

Proposed by Councillor L Mattey, Seconded by Councillor R Jacobs. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the purchase of 2 solar speed devices from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund.

183/26 Update from the Clerk on his meeting with Stephen Hill the new Clerk at Chard including update on Boundary changes

The Clerk found Stephen Hill to be a self-assured experienced Clerk. The matter of boundary changes was discussed and Stephen Hill will move forward with Somerset Council. The Chairman reminded the Clerk that the Council as a whole has not seen or voted on the boundary changes, it was suggested and approved that only a conversation with Chard Town Council takes place. This item will be placed on next month's Agenda.

184/26 To approve recommendations made by the Finance Committee concerning 2026 grant applications where there is no Councillor involvement

There was an initial conversation on whether the Council should reconsider a couple of the declined applications; however, the Finance Committee has looked at the applications at length and they should be trusted to represent the Council in this matter.

Councillor K Patay proposed that we should proceed with the Finance Committee proposals, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: The Council has approved 5 applications and declined 3 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Councillors R Down, C Brown and S Adams left the meeting

Councillor K Patay took over the chair

185/26 To approve recommendations made by the Finance Committee concerning 2026 grant applications with Councillor involvement

Proposed by Councillor C Doel, Seconded by Councillor B Quinn. 5 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED: The Council has approved the grants in question as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The Councillors returned to the meeting

Councillor R Down retook the chair

186/26 Report from the RFO regarding the External Auditors Report

The Clerk confirmed that the external Auditors had just one question concerning staff costs which was answered with the use of the payroll software. They were satisfied and for the second year running gave the Council a clear external audit and no comments.

The Clerk was thanked for his excellent work.

187/26 Report on finances up to 22nd September 2026. Any questions to the Clerk

There were no questions arising from this report.

188/26 The Clerk is concerned with the lack of Councillor support concerning the completion of Register of Interest Forms (A legal requirement) and forwarding ID photo's. To approve commitment to have these passed to the Clerk by the end of October

Proposed by Councillor R Jacobs, Seconded by Councillor C Brown. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Councillors will forward the Register of Interest forms and ID photos by the end of October.

189/26 To adopt the following policies.

a) **Data Protection Act (2026 Edition)** (new version)
b) **Statement of internal control for the year ending 31 March 2027.** New Policy-Approved by Finance Committee and suggested by Internal Auditor.
c) **Policy on Decisions made by Officers** (Last assessed in 2023)
d) **Policy on Filming, audio recording, photograph and reporting of Council and Committee meetings** (Last assessed in 2023)
e) **Expenses Policy** (Last assessed in 2020)

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

RESOLVED: The Policies have been adopted by this Council.

190/26 Clerks report

Due to his wife's hospital appointment the Clerk will be having Tuesday 20th October off as holiday.

191/26 Invoices for Payment:

Invoices where Councillors have a financial interest.

Brian Quinn (Newsletter Delivery) £150.00 No VAT

Proposed by Councillor L Mattey, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

RES OLVED: The invoices listed in 191/26 have been approved for payment

192/26 Invoices for Payment: Normal Invoices

Somerset Forge Ltd (Work on finger post at Whitegate)	£1026.00 Inc VAT
MACS Design and Print (Newsletter)	£329.00 No VAT
PKF Littlejohn (External Audit)	£504.00 Inc VAT
Gallagher Insurance (Annual)	£1816.35 No VAT
Layla Teague (Free food vouchers Open Cinema)	£67.50 No VAT
Martine Gillard (Free food vouchers Open Cinema)	£60.00 No VAT

Paid by Clerk

Wonder Cinema (Needed paying immediately) £490.00 No VAT

Burial Account

Survey Point Ltd (Topographical Survey for planning app) £550.00 no VAT

Net Staff Salaries £1590.84 Inc back pay. HMRC £1412.57

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

RESOLVED: The invoices listed in 192/26 have been approved for payment.

These payments have been set up on Internet banking and signed by Councillor S Adams. Councillor C Brown will log on and authorise payment. The payment date will be 6th October 2026.

193/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report. No Decisions can be made

Councillor C Brown	The pavement at the junction of Dairs Orchard is covered with brambles. She will report to Somerset Council.
Councillor L Mattey	Peter Chapple is on the Committee at SCRAPP and should be supported. Councillor R Down reminded the Council that it voted against the organisation.

Councillor C Doel	Another footpath covered with brambles. He will report.
Councillor R Jacobs	- WI litter pick on Saturday - The residents around Forton Brook are trying to set up a Friends of Forton Brook group.

DATE NEXT MEETING: 5th November 2026

Meeting closed 8:40pm