



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of Tatworth and Forton Parish Council held on 8th January 2026 at 7pm at Tatworth Memorial Hall, Main Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor: C Brown, Councillors S Adams, P Chapple, R Down, L Matthey, K Patay

Clerk Nigel Tinley

There was one member of the public and no Press present. The member of the public was invited to speak about any item not already on the Agenda but declined.

01/26 Apologies for Absence

Councillor M Rees – Illness
Councillor R Jacobs – Holiday

02/26 Declarations of interest

None.

03/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 20th November 2025

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting held on 20th November 2025 be signed as a correct record.

04/26 Verification of reconciled balances up to 6th January and report of finances against Budgets up to 6th January 2026

The Clerk produced and explained the financial report covering the 9-month period with the anticipated year-end figures.

It was noted that staffing, cemetery and open spaces will exceed the budget whilst administration, finance and community will be below budget. Overall, the figures should be 92% of the Parish target.

The major differences are the receipt of a £500 grant towards the Christmas meal and Somerset Council confirming that they will charge for just one dog bin rather than 15.

With cemetery income being more than anticipated a surplus of £5,168 is expected rather than a loss of £4,000.

Bank balances are £143,626.03 with an anticipated spend of £22989 to end of year.

There were no questions.

05/26 To approve the purchase of a presentation plaque for the “Award for outstanding contribution to the residents of Tatworth and Forton”

The Clerk had a Trophies catalogue from Stokers in Chard and the Councillors discussed options.

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

RESOLVED: To purchase a 15 year rectangular presentations plaque, to be presented but retained outside the Parish Office.

Proposed by Councillor C Brown, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To purchase a glass engraved award for the recipient to keep. The Clerk and Councillor Brown to investigate options and purchase.

06/26 Update from Clerk regarding the purchase of 1 or 2 solar panel speed indicator devices from CIL funds. Make final recommendation to full council

The Clerk read an email from Combe St Nicholas Parish Council expressing their positive experience with Elan City solar panel speed indicator devices.

The Clerk had obtained an up-to-date quotation from Elan City at one unit for £2,500 or 2 units for £4,689, a £311 saving. It was discussed whether a new pole is required or whether it can be fitted on existing street signs. Combe St Nicholas had new poles whereas Donyatt used existing.

It was recommended by Combe St Nicholas that highway permission be granted.

Proposal by Councillor L Matthey to purchase two was not seconded.

Counter-proposal by Councillor R Down, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Finance Committee have authorised the purchase of 1 unit from CIL reserves, to be passed to the Amenities Committee to decide the position and to gain approval. It was suggested at the same time to review existing approval and gain further permissions.

07/26 Approve draft budgets/precept for 2026-27 for recommendation to Full Council

The Clerk produced a 3rd draft of the 2026-27 budget based on previous meeting comments and further information received since that last meeting.

The position has been significantly improved by the reduction of budget for dog bin charges. After a report from Somerset Council regarding election costs the Clerk suggested diverting £250 towards increasing the earmarked reserve for election costs.

The only significant adjustment was to revert the youth support budget back to £4,000.

This gave an overall budget of £88,880. It was the Committee's desire to balance the books rather than dip into reserves. A 3% increase to an individual property Council Tax bill (Parish charge) equates to an increase to a band D property of £2.10 per year, or a band B property £1.60 per year, this would give a precept of £74877. This would be an increase of £3487, with our increased tax base the precept will go up by 4.88%. This precept will be paid in 2 instalments, April and September 2026. This will leave a surplus of £597.

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

RESOLVED: The Finance Committee recommends to the Full Council a budget of £88,880 and a precept of £74,877, the difference being income from the cemetery, allotments and interest.

08/26 Date Next Meeting 12th February 2026 (Earmarked Funds)

Meeting Closed 8.10pm