



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 22nd January 2026 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey, Councillors S Adams, K Patay, E Peadon and Co-opted Member of Public R Chubb.

Clerk N Tinley

There was one Member of the Public present.

The member of the public was invited to address the Council about any matters not already on the agenda but declined.

01/26 Apologies for absence

Councillor M Rees – Recovering from illness
Councillor R Jacobs – Holiday
Councillor R Down – Boiler broken down at Church

02/26 Declarations of interest

None.

03/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 13th November 2025

Proposed by R Chubb, Seconded by Councillor S Adams. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 13th November 2025 be signed as a correct record.

04/26 Report of Amenities finances against budget to 20th January 2026

The Clerk produced and explained a spreadsheet with current and anticipated year end expenditure against budgets. It is anticipated that the open spaces budget will be exceeded by £1,308 which is 106% of budget. It was noted that allotment income was £609.

The bill from Somerset Council for dog bin charges was considerably less than anticipated.

There were no questions.

05/26 Jubilee Field:

1) *Update from Contractor Richard Down regarding the ground works*

The ground was ideal for work to commence just after Christmas; however, it was decided to prioritise the cemetery memorials work which required firm ground and because public safety was involved. Unfortunately, it has been too wet since then. Hopefully work will start at the end of next week. The Clerk reminded the Councillors and members of the public of the work that was to be done.

The Councillors wished an email to be sent to the contractor that the work should be completed and invoiced by the end of February.

2) *To discuss and confirm which hedges will be laid down*

This was discussed but left undecided; the front and middle hedges were considered. Before the March Amenities meeting the Clerk will arrange a site meeting with Councillors E Peadon and L Matthey, Rick Chubb and the Clerk. A final decision will be taken at that meeting.

3) *To authorise clearance of water run off drains on left hand side of field*

The reinstated ditches are filling up with leaves and twigs and need to be kept clear.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk is authorised to contact Shaun, our Odd Job Man, to complete the work.

It was suggested that the stream be inspected at our March site visit.

4) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about Jubilee Field. No decisions can be made*

A dog has been spotted again in the field. The Clerk will email Gareth, the PCSO, to see how the last meeting went.

06/26 Allotments

1) *General update from Clerk*

There has been no change since the last report. There are 5 available plots and plot 11 is to be kept free in case the community plot gets the go-ahead. Some plots are looking untidy – this will be monitored in the Spring.

At the next meeting next year's rent charges will need to be discussed. It has been at £25 for the past 2 years. 12 months' notice of change has previously been given.

The Chair thought the Council had made a decision 12 months ago – the Clerk checked the Minutes but nothing has been recorded.

- 2) *To update the committee with the response from the Tatworth Horticultural Association regarding judging the best allotment plot cup*

Tatworth Horticultural Association will be discussing this at their February meeting.

- 3) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about the allotments. No decisions can be made*

The member of the public indicated that the pump needs priming every time. Councillor E Peadon said this should not be the case and will look at it in the Spring.

Councillor L Matthey updated the Committee that member of the public Matt Giles was considering resigning. The Clerk had not received any correspondence from him. As a member of the public he will need to be re-co-opted in May.

07/26 Coombses Pond-

- 1) *Grant approval from “Rivers Run Through Us” Community grant fund, update from clerk with next steps*

The Forton Brook report has been received and forwarded to the Councillors. There is no real action necessary for the Committee to undertake but the report will be beneficial to the relevant authorities.

The Coombses Pond Management Plan is still awaited but is not far away from completion.

There is £666 left of the grant awarded. The Clerk has enquired how this can be used.

- 2) *To authorise clearance of the leat of leaves and branches*

Due to the quantity of rainwater this winter the leat has been in use with the excess water flowing into the pond. Unfortunately, the pipe leading into Forton Brook is insufficient to manage this level of water and the excess is flowing over the footpath into the brook. This may destabilise the pond bank. It was also noted that a lot of leaves and branches had collected in the leat and needed clearing.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk is authorised to contact Shaun to do the work.

- 3) *Projects for 2026*

- 1) Outlet of water from the brook -To fill in the gap and level off the footpath.
- 2) Health of the Pond – from the report.
- 3) Picnic table.

- 4) Start reinstating the pond path.
 - 5) Tree clearance – There is an organisation that cuts trees for fuel burning.
-
- 4) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about Coombses Pond. No decisions can be made*

None.

08/26 Speed indicator device

- 1) *Finance committee has authorised the purchase of one unit from CIL funding, discuss where to site this unit and approach highways to approve.*
- 2) *To review current sites for our mobile unit and approach highways for approval of additional spots.*

This may require a working party to investigate.

It was decided to create 2 working parties; Councillor R Down and R Chubb to cover Tatworth, Councillors K Patay and S Adams to cover Forton. This will be coordinated by the Clerk.

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

RESOLVED: These working parties have been approved and will report back at next meeting.

09/26 Morrisons Community Notice Board

To consider replacement or repair. Clerk will obtain quotes once decided

After discussion Councillor E Peadon proposed, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To replace the existing noticeboard with new. The Clerk is to obtain quotations.

10/26 Road Junction Street Signs

No longer maintained by Somerset Council as considered non-essential, do we want to spend funding on cleaning/replacing. We have had an offer of a free parish wide assessment

Via Councillor L Matthey the Clerk has had a discussion with Tim Beer, a Winsham Parish Councillor, concerning Fingerpost signposts. Winsham are gradually improving theirs but it is not cheap. They use Somerset Forge who previously did this for Somerset Councils. They remove, repair/replace and then refit. CPRE Countryside Charity can help towards the cost.

Tim is offering to do a parish wide survey free of charge, making recommendations.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by R Chubb. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To request that Tim Beer carries out that assessment so the Clerk can obtain a costing.

11/26 Update on the purchase of the green land opposite the Memorial Hall

There has been no update since the email from Somerset Council in September stating that they were going to renew planning consent. Nothing has been passed through the Planning Committee.

12/26 To update on the problems we are having with the repairs to Solar panel streetlight

Councillor R Down was speaking with a local solar panel company about the streetlights and a quote of £120 plus VAT was agreed in order for them to investigate. They tested the cables coming from the panel to the battery and they were found to be dead. This means the fault lay in the solar panels. The company does not have the means to investigate further so we are back at the beginning.

The Clerk has determined that it is correct that columns over 18 years do require structural tests and then after every 6 years. The cost is over £1,000. To replace both columns would cost £4,410. Do enough residents use the footpath to make the expenditure worthwhile?

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

RESOLVED: It was decided not to proceed with the repair.

13/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

Somerset Council has partly completed the A358 footpath clearance. The Clerk emailed to chase completion of the remainder and the return email stated that it couldn't be completed in this year's budget. It may be done next year. The Clerk will monitor the situation after April 2026.

Date of Next Meeting – 19th March 2026

Meeting closed 8:45pm