



TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Amenities Committee held on 19th March 2026 at 7pm Forton Community Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor L Matthey, Councillors S Adams, R Down, R Jacobs, K Patay, E Peadon, M Rees 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.

14/26 Apologies for absence

Member of Public Matt Giles – Looking after children

15/26 Declarations of interest

Councillor R Jacobs has an allotment plot and a pecuniary interest in 19/26, item 4 Allotment fees.

Councillor R Down has a pecuniary interest in 24/26 Grass Maintenance Contract.

Both Councillors will leave the room.

16/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 22nd January 2026

Proposed by Councillor S Adams, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. 4 in favour, 4 abstentions (3 not at last meeting, 1 could not read them due to email system failure).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Amenities Committee Meeting held on 22nd January 2026 be signed as a correct record.

17/26 Year End Report of Amenities finances against budget

The Clerk produced and explained a spreadsheet with year end expenditure against budgets. The open spaces budget was exceeded by £1,648 which was 107% of budget. It was noted that allotment income was £609.

There was a question asking what did the item "street furniture" consist of. The Clerk confirmed that 3 dog bins had been replaced, there were new waste bins at Dyke Hill bus stop and Coombes Pond plus the cost of fitting these items.

18/26 Jubilee Field:

- 1) *To discuss and confirm which hedges will be laid down - Clerk to get quotes*

After discussion.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk will obtain quotations to lay the hedge between the gates of the allotment and upper entrance to the dog exercise field, and the front hedge: the work to be completed this Autumn.

- 2) *To discuss and decide if any additional groundworks are required*

There is a particularly muddy area just down from the allotment gate where new springs have appeared. There is another place next to the fenced off boggy area. The water runs down a natural gully but cannot get beyond the fence as the gully beyond has become silted up. It was suggested that two 13m 80mm drains with stone infill and reinstated grass would help the first area. In the second area it was suggested that the ditch in the wet area be reinstated down to the stream.

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

RESOLVED: The Clerk has been instructed to obtain quotations on this basis.

- 3) *To assess if any trees need attention, consider using Jason Wright Tree Services*

There are no obvious trees that need attention; however, it was felt that more expertise was needed.

Proposed by Councillor M Rees, Seconded by R Chubb. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to approach Jason Wright Tree Services for an assessment.

- 4) *Any action needed to the stream and bottom outlet*

The stream seems to be flowing well and any vegetation seems to help in slowing the flow. The bottom outlet pond slows the flow; however, during this very wet winter water is seeping through the bank and down into a road drain which is now full of silt. Councillor Matthey will report it to highways.

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

Councillor R Jacobs

The loose dog is back. She will have a look for the gap in the hedge and report back.

19/26 Allotments

- 1) *General update from Clerk*

There have been 2 cancellations and 2 new tenants and there are 5 available plots. The invoices will go out in April.

There was a telephone message this evening that someone else is interested.

- 2) *Report from allotment association*

There is still not much happening. The new Treasurer is struggling to open an organisational bank account.

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

The Clerk read out the response from the Horticultural Society suggesting that they will provide 2 judges and we should have one Councillor on the judging panel and a meeting be arranged to discuss the criteria for judging.

Proposed by Councillor L Matthey, Seconded by Councillor M Rees. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Eric Peadon is to represent the Council on the judging panel. A meeting will be arranged to agree the judging criteria which will be brought back to the next meeting.

The Councillors requested that a copy of the allotment regulations be forwarded to them.

Councillor R Jacobs left the meeting

- 4) *To review and determine allotment rents*

After discussion.

Proposed by Councillor M Rees, Seconded by R Chubb. All in favour.

RESOLVED: The allotment rent for 2026-27 will be increased to £26 per plot and £15.50 for a half plot.

It is to be placed on the Agenda that the regulations be amended to keep rent increases in pace with precept increases.

Councillor R Jacobs returned to the meeting

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

None.

20/26 Coombes Pond-

- 1) *Grant approval from "Rivers Run Through Us" Community grant fund, update from clerk*

The original awarded grant was £3,867.50.

The Council has paid out:

Dan Rivers Ltd	£1,867.50	No VAT	Forton Brook survey
Halpin Robbins	£1,334	Plus VAT	Coombes Pond management plan

This left £666 available.

As time was short and with the Committee Chairman's knowledge the Clerk gained approval to use the surplus funds to replace the damaged picnic table. This was at a cost of £481.50.

In total £3,683 was spent and refunded back to the bank account.

There will be a small cost to fit the table.

- 2) *Assessment of Coombes Pond management plan and decide next steps*

The Committee appreciate the Coombes Pond Management Plan is a comprehensive and full document that future plans can be based on. Pages 18 and 29 give a summary of works and it was suggested that 3 key areas be chosen to be concentrated on.

The Clerk will email the author for guidance to remove the duck weed and where grants to assist with the costs can be obtained.

- 3) *Approve quote for clearance of trees fallen across the path*

Due to the email failure the Clerk has not been able to view the quotation from Jason Wright Tree Services.

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

RESOLVED: Under these special circumstances and due to the urgency the Clerk can proceed if this quotation is under £750.

NOTE! The quotation was £380.

4) *Update on the outlet of water from the pond*

Further to the Full Council Meeting the Clerk has been given the names of 2 surveyors to approach for advice. We do not want to endanger the structure of the existing bank.

5) *Consider signage at the pond*

Councillor R Jacobs will put a sign together for presentation to the next meeting. In the future the Committee will need to consider an information board.

6) *Other matters that committee members wish to discuss about Coombses Pond. No decisions can be made*

None.

21/26 Speed indicator device

1) *Finance committee has authorised the purchase of one unit from CIL funding, report from Tatworth working party where to site this unit and approach highways to approve*

After discussion.

Proposed by Councillor E Peadon, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

RESOLVED: To apply to Somerset Highways to place the permanent SID on the Station Road B3167 and Waterlake Road crossroads heading towards the village just after the Waterlake Road junction. There is a 30mph sign that can be used.

2) *To review current sites for our mobile unit and approach highways for approval of additional spots. Report from Forton and Tatworth working parties*

After discussion.

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

RESOLVED: To apply for additional spots for the moveable SID in Forton by the old railway bridge, opposite Perry Street Club and B3167 Holway Road junction, both sides. The Clerk is to check if street light posts can be used.

22/26 Morrisons Community Notice Board

Update from Clerk on progress to replace this notice board

There is no progress to date.

23/26 Road Junction Street Signs

To consider assessment and decide on a quote to repair the sign at Whitegate crossroads

As requested, an assessment of the street signs was completed and 7 were identified as requiring refurbishment or replacement. As an example, the Clerk obtained a quotation from a specialist company, Somerset Forge Ltd, for the post at Whitegate crossroad at £855 plus VAT. The Committee wanted another quotation for the post at Crossways where more villagers would pass by. It was also suggested to approach Lawrence Contractors who did the railings at the War Memorial.

Councillor R Down left the meeting

24/26 Parish Grass maintenance contract for next 3 years

To approve from quotes received.

The Clerk produced a spreadsheet of quotes A, B and C from local contractors that have carried out work for the Parish previously.

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

RESOLVED: The Council will accept quotation B, being the cheapest quoted at £8,850 increasing by 3% per year; the budget being £11,000.

25/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report

None.

Date of Next Meeting – 21st May 2026

Meeting closed 9:00pm