



# TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Cemetery Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.00pm Forton Community Hall**

Present: Chairman Councillor E Peadon, Councillors C Doel, R Down, K Patay, R Wardell and Co-opted member of the public J Coates

Clerk N Tinley.

There were no Members of the Public and no press present.

### **01/26 Apologies for absence**

Councillor C Brown – Holiday

### **02/26 Declarations of interest:**

Councillor E Peadon as he owns a plot  
Councillor R Down and J Coates are St John's PCC members

### **03/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Proposed by Councillor C Doel, Seconded by J Coates. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Cemetery Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be signed as a correct record.

### **04/26 Finance Report – Clerk**

The Clerk presented the figures for the period up to 10<sup>th</sup> February. They showed an income of £12,038 which is 120% of budget with 7 weeks remaining. Together with the precept of £5,000, the total income is £17,038. With the anticipated year end costs being £17,672 this leaves a shortfall of £634. There is an outstanding invoice of £366 and end of March interest which should cover this.

Balances totalled £48,609.

The planning application for the cemetery extension will cost between £27-£30k over the next 4 years.

There were no questions from the Councillors.

## **05/26 Memorial Safety Testing, update from Clerk**

Sections A, B, E and F were checked by Councillor Peadon and the Clerk during 2025 and each memorial was safety checked and placed into a risk category. From this check 18 memorials were deemed dangerous and laid flat. A further 12 were repaired. These 12 have been checked and are solid.

During 2026 Sections C and D will be checked plus those that were repaired and those with a slight wobble in Sections tested in 2025.

## **06/26 To review and determine our policy of one preferred grave digger**

A gravedigger, Charlie Durmon, has contacted us regarding our one preferred gravedigger policy. The Clerk has been in touch with Barry Gibbs, Funeral Director, who has used Mr Durmon previously. Barry confirmed his standard of work was satisfactory and cheaper than the Parish's current gravedigger.

Proposed by J Coates, Seconded by Councillor K Patay. 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED:** Charlie Durmon will be added to the list of preferred gravediggers.

## **07/26 An update on the Cemetery extension planning application - Clerk**

The Environment Agency report has been written and sent to the Clerk and Greenslade Taylor Hunt. The delay was to allow further groundwater level tests due to the extremely wet winter and a couple of chemical questions that GTH raised. After further testing they do not feel it will be an issue. The report will now be submitted to the Environment Agency.

## **08/26 New railings for car park - update from Clerk**

These are due to be installed by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## **09/26 Projects for 2026-2027**

### **a. Garden of Remembrance yew hedge**

Quotations should now be sought. The budget is £3,500.

### **b. Powder coat railings**

There has been an inspection with Derek Hunt. The railings can be removed, sand blasted and powder coated; however, the central posts fixed to the wall will have to be done manually.

Councillor Down suggested a method where the posts can be removed and welded back into place.

Quotes are now to be obtained. There is no budget so this will need to be paid from additional income or savings.

**c. Repainting of gateway and entrance**

There is no budget for this item. It was suggested that we investigate whether there are any grants available for cemeteries.

**10/26 Maintenance issues. Anything to report**

The Clerk is to investigate how long memorials should be left flat.

*Councillor Down left the meeting*

**11/26 To approve maintenance contract for the Cemetery and St Johns Churchyard from quotations received**

The Clerk presented a report with quotations A and B covering both the cemetery and Churchyard, and quotation C covering just the Churchyard.

Financially quotation B is the best value for money for the cemetery and quotation C for the Churchyard.

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by J Coates. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The Cemetery award is to go to quotation B and the Churchyard to quotation C. Both are local contractors that have done work for the Parish previously.

**12/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report**

Councillor E Peadon

Is monitoring the cemetery for new molehills but it is too wet to determine which are fresh and which are old.

**Date of Next Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Meeting Closed 7.50pm**