



# TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Cemetery Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.00pm Brewer Room, Tatworth Memorial Hall**

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

Clerk N Tinley.

There was 1 Member of the Public and no press present. The Member of the Public was invited to speak but declined.

### **13/26 Apologies for absence**

Councillor R Down – Called away for work  
Councillor C Brown – Childminding issues

### **14/26 Declarations of interest:**

Councillor E Peadon as he owns a plot  
J Coates is a St John's PCC member

### **15/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Cemetery Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be signed as a correct record.

### **16/26 Year End Finance Report – Clerk**

The Clerk produced the year end finance figures. Cemetery income was 125% of budget with expenditure 11% of budget, leaving a surplus of £1,432, rather than the expected deficit of £722. In reality the car park railings were only completed as the Committee appreciated that extra income would cover this.

The Clerk then produced the budget for 2026-27. Income is hoped to be similar to this year. Outgoings reflect the approved maintenance contracts, admin, yew hedge and memorial safety, leaving a deficit of £315. Balances after receipt of precept, VAT refund and extra £3,000 from the main earmarked reserves to the cemetery expansion earmarked reserve is £53,518.

There were no questions from the Councillors.

### **17/26 Cemetery fees for 2026**

The Councillors discussed various options and agreed that regular smaller increases were preferable to a freeze and then a sudden jump. As the maintenance contracts increase by 3% a year it was proposed by Councillor E Peadon, seconded by Councillor K Patay. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** The cemetery fees will increase by 3%. This is still in line with Chard and Ilminster and cheaper than Axminster and Crewkerne.

### **18/26 2026 Memorial Safety Testing Schedule**

The Clerk and Councillor E Peadon will commence memorial safety testing in early June for an update at the next meeting.

### **19/26 An update on the Cemetery extension planning application – Clerk**

The Environment Agency application was submitted on 26<sup>th</sup> March with a result normally after 21 days. The Clerk explained that he expects an invoice once a decision is made.

### **20/26 To consider reinstating grass bank under new car park railings**

It was the Committee's desire that the bank be reinstated with bulbs and turf in the Autumn. This item is to be moved to the projects section.

### **21/26 Projects for 2026-2027**

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

Quotations will be obtained by the Clerk. The budget is £5,000.

#### **b. *Powder coat railings, consider quote***

A quotation has been received by Derek Hunt of Turnweld Engineering for £5,875 plus VAT. The front railings are about 4 times the length of the new side railings. The cost will have to come out of savings. The Committee felt that powder coating will last considerably longer than liquid paint and it is a good investment.

Proposed by Councillor K Patay, Seconded by Councillor C Doel. All in favour.

**RESOLVED:** To proceed with the quotation requesting that the temporary stock fencing be placed whilst the work is in progress.

#### **c. *Repainting of gateway and entrance***

This item will be reviewed later in the year when finances allow.

## **22/26 Maintenance issues. Anything to report**

Tap            This will need to be replaced.

Shed           The side panels have rotted. Councillor E Peadon will look at it.

## **23/26 Progress report from Clerk regarding upgrading Cemetery rules**

The Clerk has started to review these based on other cemeteries. There are 2 items for future discussion.

Cardiff and East Devon Councils allow dogs on lead in cemeteries.

The removal of laid flat memorials. The Clerk could not find anyone giving a time limit although one Council stated "In extreme cases it may be necessary to remove a memorial from the grave and place it into storage".

## **24/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report**

Kitchen units were dumped on the rear ditch of the car park. Powells have removed them.

**Date of Next Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Meeting closed 7:50pm**