TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tatworth & Forton Parish Council Cemetery Committee held on 20th August 2026 at 7.00pm Brewer Room, Tatworth Memorial Hall

Present**:** Chaiman Councillor E Peadon, Councillors R Down, K Patay, J Stevenson, R Wardell and member of public J Coates

Clerk N Tinley.

There was 1 Member of the Public and no press present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of public was invited to speak but declined.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillor Jack Stevenson to the committee

38/26 Apologies for absence

Councillor C Doel – Working night shift
Councillor M Rees – Unwell
Councillor B Quinn - Holiday

39/26 Declarations of interest

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

40/26 To approve and sign as a correct record Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 18th June 2026

Proposed by J Coates, Seconded by Councillor E Peadon. All in favour with one abstention (not at last meeting).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Cemetery Meeting held on 18th June 2026 be signed as a correct record.

41/26 Finance Report – Clerk

The Clerk presented the figures for the period up to 18th August. They showed a strong financial start to the year with income of £7,660 which is 64% of budget in 4½ months. Expenditure is within budget. We have paid £10,355 including VAT toward the cemetery extension costs. The balance is £47,436.

42/26 2026 Memorial Safety Testing update – Clerk

Councillor E Peadon and the Clerk have retested Sections A, B, E and F. One memorial that we laid flat had been stood back up; we re-laid. Out of 12 memorials re-glued, just 4 have failed and need redoing. The Clerk has been contacted by the families of 2 laid memorials and the process is taking place to enable them to be re-erected. Section C has been started. The last six rows of Section C, and Sections D and H plus the Churchyard are still to be done.

43/26 An update on the Cemetery extension planning application - Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that the Environment Agency have accepted the groundwater assessment. The cost to date is £8,630 plus VAT. The Environmental Permit application is in the process of being put together. The next stage is the topographical survey and biodiversity assessment. Greenslade Taylor Hunt has obtained 3 quotes for each and advised us to go with the cheapest. They have worked with each company previously and have no concerns or preferences. The Clerk will confirm the go-ahead.

A decision is close on what is needed, ie, roads, paths, sheds and types of plots. A site meeting with Barry Gibbs was suggested to make use of his knowledge.

44/26 Projects for 2026-2027

a) Garden of Remembrance yew hedge, update from Clerk

300 Yew trees have been ordered for delivery in the Autumn at a cost of £1,480. The Clerk has obtained a quote for planting and detailed the specification to the Committee. There was concern that the trees were being planted too close together. The Clerk will visit North Petherton Cemetery to check how their new hedge is growing and to check the spacing. He will also check with the suppliers and re-measure the area.

2 further quotations are needed.

b) Powder coat railings, Update on time scales

Derek from Turnweld had expected to start by the end of August but has won an unexpectedly large order from a regular customer that is needed asap. He is hopeful to start in September.

c) Reinstating grass bank under new car park railings with daffodil bulbs

The Clerk will commence getting quotes.

d) Repainting of gateway and entrance

Though the income might well allow funds to get this job done it is unwise to complete the work during the winter months. The Clerk is to obtain quotes early in 2027 for the work to be completed in the next financial year.

45/26 Maintenance issues.

a) Repair Cemetery shed, update from Councillor Eric Peadon

The weather has been too hot to commence this work. The timber has been purchased and the work will be completed in the next few weeks.

b) Shed Water Butt, time scale for fitting

This is to be done at the same time as the shed repair.

c) Replacing tap, update

Chris has the tap and will complete in the next few days.

46/26 St John's Churchyard.

To approve quotation from Jason Wright Tree Surgeon to remove Holly Tree £380.00

A holly tree in the Churchyard is almost dead and if it falls over the winter it will damage the War Memorial. The Clerk obtained a quote to remove it from our usual Tree Surgeon, Jason Wright. It is the Council's responsibility to maintain the Churchyard.

Councillor K Patay proposed, Seconded by Councillor J Stevenson. All in favour with the PCC members abstaining.

RESOLVED: To approve the quotation of £380 to remove and to remind Jason that the Churchyard is in a conservation area.

47/26 Progress report from Clerk regarding upgrading Cemetery rules

The Clerk has not progressed any further since the last meeting as he has been concentrating on the 2026 memorial testing schedule.

48/26 Matters which the Councillors wish to report.

There is a need to make up a number of plots with top soil. This will be investigated during the suggested visit.

Date of Next Meeting – 15th October 2026.

Meeting closed 7:50pm