

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Catcott School Hall at 6.30pm

APM 24/25 /1 **PRESENT** - Cllr Barnett in the Chair and 12 villagers.

APM 24/25 /2 **IN ATTENDANCE** - the Clerk to the Council.

APM 24/25 /3 **APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Mr Melia.

APM 24/25 /4 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were confirmed and signed.

APM 24/25 /5 **REPORTS** were given as follows and will be attached to the minutes as appendices. After each report there was an opportunity for questions.

- a. Catcott Parish Council - Geoff Barnett, Chairman of the Parish Council
- b. Catcott Parish Council accounts - the Clerk had provided copies of the accounts for all present. There were no queries.
- c. Village Agent - Unable to attend.
- d. Police - Unable to attend.
- e. Catcott Primary School - Report from Ms Constanza read by the Clerk.
- f. JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - Report from Catherine Andrews read by the Clerk.
- g. Edington and District History Group - Mr Chaplin reported that the group is virtually inactive at present.
- h. Catcott Educational Charity - Report from Sheila Hamilton read by the Clerk.
- i. Mary Godfrey Charity - Report from Peter Mackay read by the Clerk.
- j. Neighbourhood Watch - Not present.
- k. Playing Field Committee - Report from Liz Baker read by the Clerk.
- l. Catcott Village Association - Janet Holden.
- m. St Peter's Church - Report from Martin Melia read by the Clerk.
- n. Somerset Council - Not present.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm

Well I must say it has been an interesting year for Catcott Parish Council.

We still await directions from Somerset County Council as to what we will be asked to pay for, in maintaining council services.

Along with James and sometimes Julia I have attended many meetings organised by various 'bodies', and asked when will we be told what extra maintenance etc. we will be responsible for, no one can tell us what or when. To be honest Somerset county council seem to be in complete disarray at the moment.

We also attend the Highways Working Group meetings, of which I am joint Chairperson, various council employees attend, and we hope to make headway in making villages safer places.

Sadly we do not have buses coming through the centre of Catcott anymore, due to parking problems, particularly outside of the school.

At a meeting with Bus company representatives, Highways and a Somerset County councillor, we were forced to accept that the Bus Company would cease stopping in Catcott altogether if we did not agree for them to change the Bus Stop to Lippetts Way. However an extra stop has been allowed at The Surgery.

Of course this all happened after the CVA repainted the shelter, but with the inclusion of the bookcase and books to swap, it will still remain an important part of the village. Thank you CVA, and also for other parts you play in village life.

The Parish Council have had maintenance work carried out on the bridge past the Nydon, we felt this was needed to keep it in good condition. New white lines are on order, more details in the PCC meeting after this meeting.

I can assure you the Parish Council will keep pushing to get those potholes filled, white lines done and bad road signs replaced.

Both James and myself will continue to attend meetings pushing Somerset County Council to 'move further and faster!'

The Council has 5 members who all work to make Catcott a better place. So I would like to thank Vice Chair Dan, Andrew for strimming and footpath maintenance etc., James and Lorna for all their help and support in many ways. Julia our clerk, whom we appreciate for her knowledge and work throughout the year.



Update to ~~Edington~~ Parish Council

As we reflect on the period since September 2024, it has been an exceptionally vibrant and rewarding time at the school. With the arrival of the summer term, there is a palpable sense of energy in every classroom, amplified by the sunshine and the wealth of learning and creative opportunities available to our students.

During the spring term, our core values of Curiosity, Creativity, and Compassion have been prominently demonstrated throughout the school community.

World Book Day, held in early March, was a resounding success. We celebrated the works of Rachel Bright through engaging activities inspired by her beloved books. The children embraced the day with imaginative costumes, bringing to life characters such as witches, dragons, superheroes, princesses, and even a dinosaur! The staff also participated enthusiastically, dressing as their favourite children's book characters. I had the pleasure of embodying Mildred Hubble, while Mrs. Gibbons captured attention with her exceptional portrayal of Miss Trunchbull.

Our School Council once again organised the highly anticipated 'Break the Rules Day' in support of Comic Relief. The most popular "rule to break" was bringing an unhealthy snack, with some particularly creative choices, including a bacon roll! It was a day filled with laughter and enjoyment, while also raising funds for a worthy cause.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jo Horn and the team at Millfield for their invaluable contribution to Science Week. The two-day workshop provided students with the opportunity to explore real-life animal skins and skeletons, as well as interact with fascinating creatures such as Giant African Land Snails, Salamanders, Tortoises, Locusts, and Cockroaches. It was inspiring to witness the children's enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the experience.

Additionally, we were honoured to welcome Paralympian Katrina Hart, who visited as part of our Great Athletes session. The children participated in sponsored fitness circuits, raising money for both the charity and the school.

As the weeks continue to pass in a whirlwind of learning, creativity, and laughter, we look forward to the opportunities and experiences the remainder of the school year will bring.

Mrs. Constanza  
Headteacher

## JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY

The JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity was founded in 1898 by Mrs Luttrell of Edington Manor to benefit the sick poor of Edington. Over the years this has been modified to 'need, hardship and distress' and to be assistance in times of difficulty for the residents of Edington, Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington.

The Charity has no connection to the Mostyn Owen Trust or the estate of the late Adrian Moon.

As in previous years the trustees continue to be proactive by advertising locally, to seek out people and organisations who may benefit under the conditions laid down. We advertise on a regular basis in the Polden Post, and in the village hall PowerPoint presentations at local events, prior to our twice yearly meetings. We also post notification of the next meeting in all villages in the area of benefit and on the Parish Council and village websites and with the co-operation of Gill Bertolucci, the Carers Champion, we have details in the surgery at Edington. At all times we ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission recommendations regarding safeguarding, and data protection. We have completed our review of GDPR and, since our last report, Trustee Anita Hayne has completed a safeguarding training course. We are currently reviewing our safeguarding policy and have been given useful guidance from Spark Somerset.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need. During the past 12 months we have continued to see the effect of the cost of living crisis in the grant applications. This year grants have assisted with heating oil, furniture and household items and hospital travel costs. We send flowers following bereavements and illness and to help support those going through difficult times, also gifts at Christmas to help lighten burdens at a time that may not be happy for everyone. The Charity will continue to support general grants if funds are available. All grants are in confidence and paid on receipt of invoice or in some circumstances a money grant is awarded.

The Trustees meet twice yearly (spring and autumn) and normally all applications need to be with the Clerk in good time to be included, enabling Trustees to portion the assets to the greatest need. We are flexible, and in an emergency, applications can be considered at other times. We often rely on a third party bringing a case of need to us, so if you know of someone living in the area of benefit who might benefit from the Charity's assistance, please give them our details, or if appropriate, apply on their behalf. Applications can be sent to [JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com) or by contacting a Trustee as detailed in our local advertising.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Report to Edington and Catcott Parish Council Annual General Meeting  
by Catherine Andrews, Edington Parish Council representative. May 2025

Trustees

~~Dr Simon Hayne, Catherine Andrews, Rosemary Tucker, Anita Hayne, Rev Andrew Stevens~~

APM  
2025

**Subject:** RE: Annual Parish Meeting  
**From:** "Phil Chaplin" <phil@chaplinp.plus.com>  
**Date:** 30/04/2025, 15:24  
**To:** "Edington Parish Council" <edingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com>

Hi Julia

EDHG

Regretfully, the EDHG is still moribund.  
Having lost both Geoff Quick (archivist) and John Rigler (publications and more) recently, we effectively have no committee left.  
John arranged for Nadia Wilson to take over monitoring the archive; and the finances are being managed within the ESR committee.  
We did run a couple of talks/displays, thanks to Patsy Atkins, but there is nobody prepared/able to put together a full programme of events currently – which is what we would need to rebuild awareness and interest.  
The website is still functional, but has not been updated for some time (as nothing has changed!)

Regards  
Phil

**From:** Edington Parish Council  
**Sent:** 23 April 2025 13:55  
**To:** Phil Chaplin <phil@chaplinp.plus.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Annual Parish Meeting

Hello Phil

Any chance of a report from the History Group for Catcott and Edington Parish Meetings?

Our Annual Parish Meeting in Edington is due to take place on Thursday 8th May.

*As usual you are cordially invited to submit a report on behalf of the body/group you represent.us.com*

It would be greatly appreciated if you would let me have a copy of your written report prior to the meeting. If for any reason you are unable to attend or send a deputy we will be able to give your report to the meeting.

Reports are not minuted in detail but the written reports are attached to the minutes as appendices.

I attach a copy of the agenda together with a copy of last year's APM minutes with attached reports and we look forward to seeing you at this year's meeting.

Kind regards

Julia Marshall

Julia Marshall  
Clerk to Edington Parish Council



## The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2024

As Trustees, we are pleased to report that The Catcott Educational Charity has received several generous local endowments during the year.

In 2024, The Catcott Educational Charity has funded the purchase of an iPad to support the learning of local children at Catcott School, following an appeal by the Head Teacher to our local community. This educational aid will continue to provide a valuable resource in the future.

We, the Trustees, also aim to help education in a broader sense. We will consider applications for financial help with an educational purpose, outside the school environment. In the past, financial support by the Charity has enabled the provision of private brass instrument lessons for a local musically-talented child. Another example has been the finance of an educational visit to London for two children, which would not have otherwise been possible.

The Charity is always very keen to accept donations to bolster existing funds and provide more educational support for local children.

Sheila Hamilton, Correspondent

# The Mary Godfrey Charity

## Report to Catcott Annual Parish meeting May 2025

The charity is experiencing a steady reduction of income from government subsidies. New rules prioritise payment for conservation as opposed to traditional farming practices as previously. New schemes are not appropriate for our land holdings so our income has dropped significantly.

At Christmas time the charity made donations to twelve recipients within the village. Notification of deserving cases is welcomed and donations are possible at times other than our normal timetable.

06/05/2025

Play Area

We have held a number of successful events in the past year. Although the footfall was down we were still pleased with the support which allows us to raise the money required to keep the playing field going.

One of our biggest annual expenditures is our insurance which has rocketed in price in the last few years and is unlikely to get any cheaper. We have tried many different companies but there are not too many who will ensure an outdoor play area.

We currently have no plans to replace any equipment.

We have started to maintain the shelter in the play area and whilst not finished it does look really good. A special thanks to Georgie Ramsey who has volunteered to help with the maintenance and also the organising of events as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award.

Also a special thanks to Shiela Hamilton and her family who have also helped in maintaining the upkeep of the area and added flowers to the tubs and regularly water them.

I would also like to thank the committee for all their continued help and support.

Liz Baker

Chairman Catcott Playing Field

## **CVA**

### **Report for the Catcott Parish Council Annual Meeting From the CVA, May 2025**

The CVA's year began with the Community Lunch, held at The Crown Inn in January, with about 30 villagers attending.

The annual village clean-up took place in March on a very windy morning, starting at the Pound, with a very good turnout of villagers. A big thank you to all who came out for this event and to those who did their bit earlier due to other commitments on the day. Bags were left in the Pound for the Council to collect the next day. Refreshments were served at Court Farm as a small thank you to all who helped.

In May, we held the "Come Dine With Me" event—an enjoyable evening walking around the village between courses and meeting different villagers at each stop.

A very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning was held, and all proceeds were donated to the charity. Thanks go to Andy and Jill for hosting this event.

The big event of the year was the Open Gardens, held on Sunday, June 23rd. We had 20 places of interest to visit, including 16 gardens, scarecrows, the Church Tower, and a plant stall. Refreshments were served in the Hall at Edington, cream teas at Catcott School alongside the children's scarecrows and the Pizza Oven. There was also a walk through the Standards, croquet on the lawn, a treasure hunt, and games hosted in various places.

For the first time, we had Chloe, the roving Piano Lady, who stopped at various places around the village, playing the piano and singing for our entertainment.

Again, a big thank you to the Wheeler family for allowing the vintage cars to be used for the event, and to all who helped—by stewarding, baking, catering, opening your gardens, and many other unseen jobs. We couldn't do it without you.

This year, we held a Mexican Evening on 19th October in the Village Hall at Edington, in place of the Dinner Dance held over the last two years. A live band performed, and Mexican food was served and enjoyed by all who attended.

In December, we supported the "Spirit of Christmas, Be a Star" initiative organised by the Church to provide gifts and food for the Salvation Army and local Food Banks. A big thank you to everyone for your generosity.

The annual Carols Round the Christmas Tree was held on Monday, 16th December. The weather was kind, and the event took place by the War Memorial with the Burtle Silver Band providing the music. Refreshments were provided by the C.V.A., and a collection was made for St. Margaret's Hospice.

Again in December, we invited villagers to decorate their windows or dress their gateways and entrances—especially for those whose windows aren't visible from the road. Lovely, colourful, and varied displays were seen throughout the village.

Other things the CVA have been involved in include:

- The refurbishment of the bus shelter, now with an added plaque and a book stop/swap inside.
- A donation to the school for a new noticeboard, which was much needed.
- Refurbishment of the Jubilee Seat on Manor Road.
- Sending out a newsletter four times a year to keep villagers informed.
- The Catcott WhatsApp group, known as "Catcott News," continues to grow and helps keep residents connected.
- A couple of new tubs or planters were provided to refresh the village's floral displays.
- A new community noticeboard has been installed on Manor Road.
- Support for the Village Hall's Summer Fun Day.

The CVA was invited to take part in Somerset Sound's daily quiz. Seven committee members participated and became one of their champions. We were awarded a Somerset Sound Mug, which we then auctioned for charity.

**Looking ahead:**

- **Open Gardens:** Sunday 22nd June, 12.30–6.00 pm. Gardens, places of interest, and scarecrows (Nursery Rhymes theme).
- **Race Evening:** To be held on 18th October in the Village Hall—details to follow.
- **Grow Your Own Potato Competition:** Now underway—varieties will be judged at cropping times later this year.
- The Committee is still exploring the possibility of purchasing a **defibrillator** for Catcott.
- **Carols Round the Tree:** Scheduled for Monday 15th December at 7.30 pm with the Burtle Silver Band.

Structurally, St Peter's is generally in good repair. There is some concern about damp penetrating a section of the West wall at the level of our gallery, and this is something which we are monitoring. We are conscious that St Peter's lacks a toilet, kitchen and disabled access, and are exploring ways in which we can get grants specifically to provide these without altering the appearance of our Grade One Listed building. Informal discussions with members of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee – the equivalent of the local planning authority for church buildings) and interested villagers are at an early stage.

Outside, we lost a large cherry tree in our church yard to the storms in November, but fortunately it missed the church and boundary walls. The church yard walls are still in need of repair but nothing can be done until the conifers are removed from our boundary. The church yard itself remains beautifully tended, thanks to the efforts of Garry Jones and the Friends of St Peter's group, with the much-appreciated financial support of Catcott Parish Council.

During the year we continued to hold monthly Services of Quiet, as well as monthly BCP Communion services, with attendance sometimes reaching or nearing 20. Attendance at services has actually increased a little in the last year, despite losing some of our most faithful members in that time.

Fundraising for the church is, as ever, at the heart of our activities, but we also sought to raise money for other causes during the year. This included regular collections for the Bridgwater Food bank, donations from the opening of our church tower in June, which were given to the Air Ambulance, and gifts of new toys, clothing and Christmas fayre, generously donated by the people of Catcott and given to the Salvation Army to distribute as part of their Be a Star Christmas appeal for families in need.

To support our own income we held monthly Coffee mornings, thanks to the generosity of our neighbours who hosted them, sold cream teas at the Catcott Open Gardens Day, held our annual Gift Day, raising £1,203, staged a Harvest Light Lunch and participated as stall holders at several local events. Whilst we continue to struggle to meet increasing costs, donations have increased somewhat and we keep our heads above water!