

APM 24/25 /1 **PRESENT** - Cllr Barnett in the Chair and 15 villagers.

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

APM 24/25 /3 **APOLOGIES** for absence were received from SCllr Martin

APM 24/25 /4 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting dated 9th 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. The order of reports was changed to suit those present.

- 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 - The Clerk gave a brief outline of the work of Village Agents.
- d. Police - Written report from Tom Russell read by the Clerk.
- e. JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - Report from Catherine Andrews read by the Clerk.
- f. Edington and District History Group - The Clerk reported that the group is not very active presently.
- g. Catcott Educational Charity - Report from Sheila Hamilton read by the Clerk.
- h. Mary Godfrey Charity - Report from Peter Mackay read by the Clerk.
- i. Neighbourhood Watch - David Thomas.
- j. Playing Field Committee - Report from Liz Baker read by the Clerk.
- k. Catcott Village Association - Janet Holden.
- l. St Peter's Church - Report from Martin Melia read by the Clerk.
- m. Somerset Council - The Clerk outlined a report Tessa Munt gave at Edington Parish Meeting.

It was agreed that any late reports received would be added to the file.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Chairman's Report - Catcott Parish Meeting - 14th May 2024

Well another year has gone by and for me each one seems to go quicker.

As a Council we have dealt as best we can with the usual complaints of potholes all of them logged on the app or by email. As you know some get filled, many get left until they are a bit deeper and dangerous.

Flooding has been a problem. We have had some luck with that at the bottom of Old School Lane. Also in Lippetts Way. But we know more needs to be done to solve this problem. Many drains are blocked with stone. They have been reported on the app by James, also again by email and we hope they will be cleared by Somerset Council.

Parking at the School. This has been a problem for many years. We have asked for increased yellow lines and are still waiting for this to happen!

Planning applications have been dealt with as required but the Manor Farm project still seems to be hanging in the wind. Wellfield House has been refused permission for change of use. Not only the Parish Council and many other consultees but it was also pleasing that so many of the public wrote in.

In April the new Unitary Council came in to being. This was the way forward we were told. Huge amounts of money would be saved. Unfortunately it seems someone got it wrong. We are finding that parish councils will be having to take over tasks historically always dealt with by Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council.

This will cause an increase in work for parish councils and their Clerks and an increase in the precept we set for payment from each of you.

However, be assured we, as parish councillors, will always do our best for the village and the people of Catcott.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for the time and work they put in. Andrew for footpath and strimming work and erection of dog waste bins. Dan for knowledge on planning and maintenance work. Lorna, who I know has had a difficult year with her health but still puts in 100% into the play area. James for trying to fill that Council app with drain and pothole complaints - also for being willing to attend all the meetings we seem to go to. Also we mustn't forget our Clerk, Julia, for her knowledge and work through the year. Thank you Julia.

Other things we help with as a parish council - Grant to the church to help with grass cutting; Christmas tree and lights and payment for electricity; help with equipment, et to the play area and various donation to other groups.

Geoff Barnett

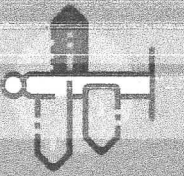
Catcott Parish Council – Accounts summary and Bank Reconciliation – Year Ending 31-03-2024

Catcott Parish Council

Financial Summary 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024

*JAM
CPTM*

Ring Fenced Balances at 1st April 2022		£	£			
Environment						
Parish Plot		6,430.68				
Total Ring Fenced		6,430.68				
Bank Balances at 1st April 2022						
Current Account		10,565.87				
Reserve Account		3,231.62				
National Savings		3,576.31				
		17,373.80				
Less Ring Fenced Balances		6,430.68				
Net Funds Available					10,943.12	
Receipts						
Input VAT repaid by HMRC		3,703.10				
Play Area		0.00				
Parish Plot		794.20				
Precept		9,500.00				
National Savings interest		76.77				
		2.74				
CIL		3,369.71				
Wayleave		7.61				
Nat West Interest		43.46				
				17,497.59		
					17,497.59	
Transfer from NS earmarked funds		31.41				
						28,472.12
Payments (ex VAT – shown separately)						
Staff Costs:						
Clerk's Salary			3,989.76			
Administration:						
Telephone		114.00				
Broadband		92.04				
Postage		25.17				
Office Equipment		40.00				
Stationery & Printing		76.35				
Website x 2 years (for last year)		237.26				
Office Sundries		0.00				
Software		0.00				
Subscriptions		266.71				
Data protection		40.00				
				891.53		
Other:						
Dog Waste bins		505.24				
Monthly Meeting Room Hire		175.00				
Mileage Allowance		117.68				
Insurance		716.24				
Fees - audit		230.00				
Environment		300.00				
Training & Courses		0.00				
Election expenses		0.00				
Repairs/Renewals		0.00				
Office		120.00				
Defibrillator		0.00				
Playing Field		0.00				
War Memorial		0.00				
The Pound		0.00				
Parish Plot		31.41				
Special occasions		152.53				
Contingency/Sundry		30.00				
S137 Poppy Wreath donation		25.00				
S137 Christmas Tree		110.00				
Grants:						
St Peter's Churchyard grant		500.00				
Other S137		0.00				
RPA funds to Parish Plot						
				3,013.10		
VAT input tax			227.53			
					8,121.92	
						20,350.20
Bank Balances at 31/03/24						
Ring Fenced Balances at 31/03/24						
Environment	289.21		279.21			
Parish Plot		6,399.27				
CIL 2016/2017	818.90		818.90			
CIL 2020/2021	2,276.80					
Highways	0.00		528.16			
Total Ring Fenced		6,399.27				
Represented by:						
Current account				9,858.57		
Reserve Account				3,277.82	648	40.00
Investment Account				13,653.08		Data protection
Total bank				26,789.47		
+ Unshown income						
- Unpresented cheques				40.00		
						26,749.47
Less Ring Fenced Bal						6,399.27
Working balance						20,350.20
						40.00



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HELP





SUPPORT

ADVICE

GUIDANCE

**A Village Agent offers
free, confidential,
practical support
for you and
community groups**

**How can a
Village Agent
help you?**

-  Support if you are an unpaid Carer.
-  Assist if you are feeling lonely and isolated.
-  Help if you are struggling with a problem, but don't know who to contact.
-  Lend a hand to communities wanting to solve a collective problem.

Community Solutions

You can request help directly or via your GP practice, as Village Agents work closely with your local surgery. Village Agents are experts in creative community solutions to get the right support for you and your family.



info@somersetccc.org.uk

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Home Visits

Village Agents provide phone support as well as home visits, which helps to assess the whole family need, often identifying other issues you did not know a Village Agent can help with.



01823 331 221

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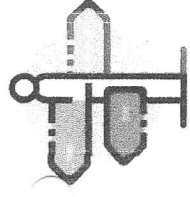
**Somerset
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**Somerset
Integrated
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V2 11/2023



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CCS Village Agent
service includes
support for Carers?**

**ANY adult who
cares for a
family member
or friend can
request support
for ANY issue.**

 Freephone advice line for Carers
0800 31 68 600

 Dedicated Carers website where you can:

-  Search the Carers Hub for training and support
-  Join our online forum and chat with other Carers
-  Sign up for our regular Carers newsletter
-  Find your local Carers Group to attend
-  Find practical support guides



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Somerset Carers is working to help Somerset be more Carer Aware, leading to a better understanding of the challenges Carers face, supporting them at work and home.



Carers Groups

There are over 20 Carers support groups across Somerset, where you can have a cuppa and a friendly chat with people who understand. Often there is an activity for the person you care for.



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**SPARK
SOMERSET**
NHS UK, 0520001785

Subject: Parish Council Meeting - Police Report

From: Thomas Russell <Thomas.Russell@avonandsomerset.police.uk>

Date: 03/05/2024, 07:04

To: "catcottpc@gmail.com" <catcottpc@gmail.com>

Good Morning,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting due to shifts. I have completed short report:

A total of 21 crimes in ^{Catcott}Edington over the last 12 months, 4 in the last month

Arson = 1

Burglary = 7

Sexual offences – 1

Theft = 2

Violence against a person = 11

In April, there were 4 recorded crimes, 4 of which were related to the violence against a person.

I would like to reassure the concern you may have with regards to the number of violence against a person. Due to our crime recording standards we need to record each and every incident as a separate report, the violence against a person is an isolated incident and is only between two parties there are NO community concerns in relation to this.

The Burglaries are predominantly linked to theft from outbuildings, just a reminder to keep outbuildings and sheds locked and secured.

No further concerns or reports to raise from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Kind Regards

Thomas Russell

Police Community Support Officer

6512@Avonandsomerset.police.uk

☎ 07935013566

✉ Bridgwater Police Station, Express Park, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4RR

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JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY

The JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity (not to be confused with the Luttrell Trust, there is no connection) was founded in 1898 by Mrs Luttrell of Edington Manor to benefit the sick poor of the parish (changed in 1989 to those in Need, Hardship or Distress), within the neighbourhood of Edington (now interpreted to extend to Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington and to be assistance in times of difficulty). All grants are in confidence and paid on receipt of invoice or in some circumstances a money grant is awarded.

At our AGM in the autumn we welcomed our new Trustee, Reverend Andrew Stevens and look forward to working with him.

The Trustees are continuing to cover all the work previously carried out by the clerk and any applications can still be sent to JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com or by contacting a Trustee as detailed in our local advertising.

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. Much work has been done over the last few months to complete the update of the Charity's guidelines and procedures and also GDPR. We are also considering a Trustee completing a course on safeguarding.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need. Over the past 12 months we have seen the effect of the cost of living crisis in the grant applications. This year grants have assisted with rent, home refurbishments, heating oil, hospital travel costs and a grant to assist a student purchase course materials. We also send flowers following bereavements and gifts at Christmas to help lighten burdens and show support. The Charity will continue to support general grants if funds are available.

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 (details in this report).

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Friday 18th October 2024

Report to Edington and Catcott Parish Council Annual General Meeting
by Catherine Andrews, Edington Parish Council representative. May 2024

Edington and District History Group

John Rigler reported that the group is not very active at present.

The archive has grown gradually.

It is difficult to find speaker who are willing and able to attend for the price the group can afford.

Subject: The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2023
From: "svhamilton@sky.com" <svhamilton@sky.com>
Date: 11/05/2024, 22:50
To: "CatcottPC@gmail.com" <catcottpc@gmail.com>

Hello Julia,

Please find below The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2023.

The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2023

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

In 2023, The Catcott Educational Charity has again funded the purchase of a number of educational aids to support the learning of local children at Catcott School. These educational aids 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

Please would you kindly let me know that you have received this.

Thank you,

Sheila

Mary Godfrey Charity report to Catcott Parish Council 14th May 2024

The Mary Godfrey Charity continues to function by virtue of the income derived from ownership of approximately six hectares of agricultural land. This income is made up of rents received, and government subsidy payments. The latter is reducing progressively, and has gone down by about 25% over the last two years, in line with government policy.

The income received is used to give help to deserving persons within the community, usually distributed, but not exclusively, at Christmas time. The reduction of income will obviously impact on our capacity for making donations in future.

The trustees welcome information as to residents who may be suitable recipients, as they are not always aware of such situations.

The trustees of the charity are

Geoff Barnett, Lorna People, Brian Robins and Peter Mackay

Catcott Neighbourhood Watch Annual Village Report 2024

Catcott Neighbourhood Watch continues to be an active member of the Polden Villages Neighbourhood Watch Group which now comprises 8 villages and benefits from bi-monthly meetings of Village and Police representatives. The Police generally give as much feedback on cases and incidents as they have available.

Although the Neighbourhood Policing Team cover a significant part of East Bridgwater, which can distort the stats, they give individual village detail from their records.

Membership of the eWatch Messaging Service is gently increasing and has almost reached a 1,000 members across the villages in the Polden Group.

A good proportion of Catcott residents are registered to receive the regular messages issued, currently around 180, although exact figures are not available at the time of writing this report. Most residents are aware that membership of the Catcott Neighbourhood Watch scheme is recognised by registering with eWatch. Some, for specific reasons, are unable to use the email system of messaging and arrangements are made for them to be informed individually. However, those who do use internet and emails but choose not to register with eWatch are regarded as not wishing to be members of the village Watch. It's a matter of choice for them but no special arrangements will be made to inform those residents.

The advantage of eWatch is that Advice and Warnings issued by the Police are shared with everyone and can be distributed quickly and simply. Police reports on criminal activity in and around the Poldens are forwarded as soon as they're received, but inevitably there is a delay in the Police notification.

If residents inform Neighbourhood Watch when a crime occurs then an early message can be sent, almost immediately, by eWatch. It depends upon telling Neighbourhood Watch in the first place. With the best will in the world we are not 'mind readers'!

Of the successful and attempted burglaries last weekend only one resident in Catcott informed Neighbourhood Watch, which has given the village team concern. An urgent meeting was called on Thursday (9th) to review why this may have been and together it was concluded that there may be lack of understanding in the way that eWatch can be used and the process to do so.

As a result it is proposed that action be taken to re-inform all residents of the 2 stage process..... Report to the Police and Inform Neighbourhood Watch, immediately.

Even if the break-in was unsuccessful both the Police and Neighbourhood Watch should be told because it may connect with other activity which the Police are dealing with. Also, when more incidents are reported it may impact the level of policing in our village.

Being aware that there's an increasing number of residents using CCTV on their property's consideration was given to whether the roads into the village may be covered by any of those existing cameras. It was agreed to research this and carry out a survey by approaching the residents living on the village approach roads. Potentially, activity at unusual times of day or night could be caught on camera and provide useful information, for example vehicle type and registration number or people moving about on foot.

Cameras may become an appropriate subject for village discussion in due course.

The Catcott Team believe that we need an increased number of 'Street Contacts' who can establish a relationship with their neighbours in their bit of the village. Volunteers would be welcomed, please.

Subject: Fw: Chairman's report
From: lorna <lilop1960@aol.com>
Date: 13/05/2024, 16:30
To: Julia <catcottpc@gmail.com>

Our report

Sent from AOL on Android

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Liz Baker" <lizb3143@gmail.com>
To: "Lorna" <lilop1960@aol.com>
Cc:
Sent: Mon, 13 May 2024 at 15:53
Subject: Chairman's report
Chairman's Report

Catcott Playing Field

This past year we have had a few successful events which has been well supported by the community which has enabled us to pay for a number of cosmetic improvements. We have had the hedges cut right back and the overhanging branches. We have also been able to buy rubber safety matting. We are currently having the equipment area re surfaced (many thanks to Dan Salter and Dave Gardener for the soil and support they have given us) once this is finished we will be able to lay the matting and grass seed. We would like to thank Callum who has undertaken this project for us. As a committee we are so pleased to be at last able to get the resurfacing completed, not only will it look so much better, be safer it will also mean we no longer have to keep replacing the costly bark. Once this is finished we hope to be able to hold an event in the summer for the children

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their time and hard work and for everyone who supports us. Without you we would not have a playing field

Liz Baker
Chairman

Report for the Catcott Parish Council Annual Meeting From the C.V.A.

May 2024.

At the beginning of the CVA's year we held our annual Community Lunch at the Crown Inn with 30 villagers attending.

In March we arranged the village clean up, gathering at the Pound for the start. There was a very good turn out for this event. Pickers and bags were provided by Somerset Council, and Bacon Butties were served at Court Farm, afterwards.

In April a Jumble Trail was held with refreshments being served from Buckfurlong Farm.

May was the Coronation of King Charles 3rd where Catcott joined forces with Edington at the Village Hall to celebrate the occasion. A fun and games day was held and enjoyed by all who attended.

In June, a welcome return of the Safari Supper/Come Dine with Us, evening took place. A very enjoyable evening and a well organised event arranged by Carole and Martin Melia. Monies raised from those not hosting was donated to charity .

In July, the much anticipated return of the Catcott Open Gardens event. There was a Classic Car display, lots of gardens to visit, cream teas in the middle of the village, cakes and refreshments served at the Village Hall and a plant stall A display of Scarecrows was put on by the Catcott school children, there were other attractions around the village .There was a displayed in the pound, detailing how Gerry and Lily Wheeler had made such a difference to the Village and the CVA. Also this was combined with a collection in the Wheelers Vintage Limosines , (kindly donated by the Wheeler Family for the day) to be used in their memory in the village, suggested by the family.

Sunflowers were measured, A very close result within 3 cms of each other

.

After the summer break we geared up and put on the 2nd Dinner Dance in October which was held in the beautifully decorated Village Hall for the occasion, with a 3 course meal, Live music, raffle and the Spin the Wheel Game.

November being the month of Carnival in Somerset . Some of the committee volunteered to steward the stands in Bridgwater A long evening and thanks must go to them . Luckily the weather was kind to them.

The Annual “Carols Round The Tree” (with new booklets) was held in December with the Burtle Silver Band providing the music for all to sing along to. Refreshments were provided by the CVA and donations collected on the evening went to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance

With St Peters Church, we helped out for the “Spirit of Christmas Be a Star” collection for the Food Bank and the Salvation Army to provide gifts for families We Must thank the villagers for all their donations making it another successful event.

The CVA have set up the Catcott News whatsapp group which provides news of forthcoming events in the village and other information useful to all.

This should also help “Neighbourhood watch” with getting any important information out quickly. when necessary, to help inform the village . Please ask if you haven’t joined and wish to do so.

We have already got events planned for the coming year starting with The Catcott Open Gardens on the 23rd June, Not too late to enter your garden. Please contact one of the committee if you wish to do so.

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Report to Catcott Parish Council AGM for St Peter's Church, Catcott 2023

Fabric of the building

According to our Quinquennial Inspection Report of October 2023 the fabric of the building is generally in good repair. There are, of course, a number of recommendations for maintenance and repair, the most urgent of which have largely been completed. There are a number of works which are meant to be completed by October 2024 but we are hesitant to spend money on these at present due to uncertainty about our finances. One priority needs to be the repointing of a buttress @ SE corner of the tower, as this is allowing ingress of water into the plasterwork on our gallery.

In 2023 we completed our annual checks to the lightning conductor and fire extinguishers.

Maintenance was done to check and clear gutters and downpipes and an unsteady gravestone was lowered. Some work was done to cut out dead branches of cherry trees in the church yard, though more work is needed on this. Overhanging branches from the conifers on the North side were cut and we hope that the remainder of these recently topped trees will be felled later this year, reducing damage to our North wall. Church yard maintenance cost over £1,000, which has proved hard to find, but the annual grant of £500 from Catcott Parish Council has been a great boon, for which we are very grateful.

Further repairs were completed to rendering on the South boundary wall of the church yard.

Work was completed on the installation of a handrail leading into the church from the South porch.

We are now exploring how to make access to the church easier for the less mobile members of our congregation.

Activities

During 2023 we were delighted to celebrate a large family wedding and a christening, as well as bidding farewell/laying to rest five members of our community.

Easter was a busy time, with an Easter Vigil as well as the creation of an Easter Garden and the raising of three large wooden crosses in the church yard, to remind the community of the story of Easter.

In July St Peter's participated in the village Open Gardens event, hosting a cream tea, which raised much needed funds for the church, and opening the church tower to raise funds for the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance..

We also held a very successful Gift Day and Open Day, where we displayed the historical artifacts and told the history of St Peter's.

Our Harvest Festival was most inspiring, with some beautiful displays and numerous contributions to the Food Bank.

Our Remembrance Day service at the village war memorial was very well attended (80+) and very moving. Our thanks go to Revd .Andrew Stevens for leading the service and to Henry Routley for playing the Last Post.

Christmas saw the Friends of St Peter's hard at work, organizing what has become our annual Spirit of Catcott appeal to collect Christmas food and children's gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute. We were delighted by the number of villagers who participated and the amount of donations received. We were supported by the Catcott Village Association in this venture.

Throughout the year we held monthly coffee mornings, run by the wonderful members of our Friends committee, raising essential funds for the maintenance of the church. Particular thanks go to Sandra Pearson, Bridget and Stuart Frier and Corinne Reynolds, as well as the kind neighbours who hosted the events.

Looking ahead, we are faced with increasing concerns about funding our contributions towards the Parish Share and Benefice contribution, as well as paying for electricity charges. Monthly outgoings exceed regular monthly income by about £450 per month. Our regular coffee mornings plus fundraising activities such as Open Gardens Day teas go some way to plug the gap, as does our annual Gift Day collection which, thanks to our generous neighbours raised in excess of £1,200 in 2023. Even so, it is likely that the cost of running the church as it stands will not be sustainable for very much longer.

Somerset Council - Tessa Munt

The Gravity site is going well but a lot of money had to be borrowed for infrastructure.

Talking about potholes, Tessa mentioned that she drives around with a couple of rubber ducks and some water in her car. When she comes across a pothole she fills it with water and floats the ducks on top. Then she measures the depth and reports it with the use of what3words.

Regarding Council Tax she made sure everyone was aware that people with serious long term illnesses such as Parkinsons and Dementia either pay no caouncil tax at all or, if they share accommodation the bill is reduced appropriately. This is the Council Tax Help Scheme.