

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007
at 7.00pm in the Catcott School Hall

2007/2008 APM - 1

- APM 07/08/1 **PRESENT:** Cllr Westmaas (in the Chair) and 17 members of the public
- APM 07/08/2 **ALSO PRESENT:** DCllr S Kingham
- APM 07/08/3 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Julia Marshall (Clerk to Catcott Parish Council)
- APM 07/08/4 **APOLOGIES:** received from Rachael Fraser and PC Rob Jacobs.
- APM 07/08/5 **WELCOME:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- APM 07/08/6 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting were confirmed and signed.
- APM 07/08/7 **CATCOTT PARISH COUNCIL:** Ron Westmaas, Chairman of Catcott Parish Council for the year 2006-2007 presented the following report. *Welcome to the 2007 Catcott Parish meeting and thank you for your attendance.// Catcott is fortunate in having a variety of groups and organisations whose input to village life makes such a difference to this place and its residents. The Council expresses its appreciation of this contribution and extends its thanks to the representatives of these groups, and to all those who contribute to the quality of life in Catcott.// I think it would be fair to say that in the past year the bulk of the Council's work has involved planning matters. Our dealings with the planning department at SDC have been deeply frustrating and have taken up much of our time and energy. Permit me to read the following . . . "Along with other Polden villages, Catcott has, in the past 12 months, experienced in earnest the pressures of building development. Whilst we cannot expect to be immune from the political, economic and social forces behind today's drive for development, we had hoped at least that the planning control system, might do what we imagined it was there to do. Instead we have been frustrated by what appears to us, at least, to be inconsistencies in the application of policy, and we are disturbed by the sense that so little regard is paid to the wishes and needs of the local community and to those with local knowledge. This Council does not wish, nor does it expect Catcott to be preserved in aspic. However, we do feel that when change does occur it should be not allowed to degrade and despoil the character of the village. Unfortunately, some of our recent experiences have shown that too often this is precisely what is allowed to occur. We will continue to do our best to resist the rot."/* . . . *this is part of the text of the Council report I gave in 2006!// We regret to say that little has changed except perhaps for the worse. To put it politely, this Parish Council continues to experience a very dismal service from the planning department. The evidence is all around us. We find many of their actions unacceptable and believe that we deserve a higher standard of competence to be demonstrated in their management of planning applications. We are currently pressing, and will continue to press that department to discharge their duties competently and with consistency.// Still on planning, but hopefully on a more positive note, the Catcott Village Design Statement was finally adopted by Sedgemoor District Council as supplementary planning guidance. The Council thanks the residents of Catcott for their input to the VDS, and also the many who helped in various ways throughout its very long gestation.// Once printed, a copy of the VDS will be distributed to every residence in the village. In the meanwhile, it can be read on the Parish Council website.// The website was created and is managed by Julia and we thank Julia for her work in developing it and keeping it up to date and informative. We know that it is used not only by residents of Catcott as Julia receives enquiries from far and wide. Do visit the site.// We have once again been able to support a number of 'good causes'. Nevertheless we were pleased to be able to set a reduced precept this year. Whether this feat can be repeated next time we will have to see.// We thank CCllr David Huxtable for his attendance at many of our meetings. Congratulations to DCllr Stuart Kingham on his re-election and our thanks to him for attending our meetings and for his help, advice and information on District matters.// We were sorry to learn that after many years, Joyce Hamblyn had decided not to seek re-election to the Council. We thank Joyce for all her work over this time and for her great contribution to the work of the council. We extend our best wishes to Joyce.// As Clerk to the Council, Julia has had a busy year, especially as a result of our problems over planning matters. We thank her for her work and I offer my particular thanks to her for her help, support and guidance.// To my fellow councillors, I offer my thanks for their much needed support and guidance throughout the year and for all their hard work, especially in relation to matters already alluded to.// Finally, special thanks go to the 'regulars' for attending our meetings and for their input which is very much appreciated and valued.*
- APM 07/08/8 **REGENERATION SERVICE, SEDGEMOOR:** Mr Stuart Martin reported on the changes that are happening in Bridgwater Town, giving an overview of the various regeneration schemes involved. Areas covered included The Bridgwater Challenge which was set up last year and is the Master Plan for Regeneration. There are high hopes for this. The Town Hall Island Site has degraded over the last 20-25 years. A new strategy for cultural facility has been approved for this area with Education Outreach and other hot ideas for development. At Eastover there is a lot of developer pressure and a need for a master plan. The Town Centre has priority for regeneration and the Council is working hard to control developments. The Innovia/Sydenham Farm/Cattle Market Site is expected to undergo mixed use development. Employment opportunities are essential here. There are Conservation Area Appraisals which have gone through the first round of consultation for St Johns and Bridgwater Central. With regard to the Core Strategy the Regional Spatial Strategy is in Round 2 this month. In South Bridgwater a large housing development is scheduled with a site being cleared at present. Several concerns were raised with regard to this but these are now

Chairman

Date

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007
at 7.00pm in the Catcott School Hall

2007/2008 APM - 2

being addressed. In Hamp Ward the single regeneration budget has expired and residents will now run facilities themselves. In Victoria Ward the new Community Centre is now completed. In Sedgemoor developer interest is high. With land values low there are undoubted challenges to be met. The Waterlinks Project is in the running for a big lottery grant. This project involves all councils in Somerset and includes a brick and tile museum, Black Bridge (telescopic), public sculptures, rebuilding/refurbishment of the glass cone, Olympic size rowing centre (Kingfisher) and The Meads (wetlands).

APM 07/08/9 **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs Hilary Mackay presented the following report. *A volunteer for the watch area Steel Lane/Standards came forward last October so the whole village is now covered by the Scheme.// Incidents of crime continue, fortunately, to be minimal and are always reported to me after the event.// Last July/August at the Play Area in Weares Lane, a picnic table was smashed to matchwood, the Wendy House, in spite of its new foundations, was tipped over and the roadside barrier was badly damaged. This was wanton vandalism. No-one is sure by whom but hazy reports suggest that it was done by a group of youths most of whom are not Catcott residents.// As village leader for the Watch neither I nor the coordinators have any powers to deal with a crime. The individual has to be responsible for their property and belongings and to report any wrong doings to the police through the proper channels - 999 in an emergency or 0845-456-7000 for non emergencies. The role of the Watch is to receive from the Police and pass on any relevant information to members of the public.// With the loss of the Post Office information is now posted on the noticeboards by the School and outside Wellfield House and by the bus shelter when it directly relates to Catcott. It is hoped that a new card with all the Catcott Neighbourhood Watch information will be produced soon so that all the occupants of new buildings within the village are aware that the Scheme exists.*

APM 07/08/10 **PLAY AREA:** Mrs Eileen Chilcott reported as follows. *During this year two spates of vandalism have occurred. The picnic table was completely broken up, and many thanks to Mr and Mrs R Ebsworth who kindly donated a replacement picnic table, plus equipment vandalised which could have resulted with a child being injured had these pieces been used before the damage was observed.// Again our fund raising resulted of holding four table top sales during the Autumn/Winter months. These events have been successful and the income raised covered the cost of safety inspections, insurance, plus maintenance. We have also been able to replace some of our very diminished contingency fund.// Candy Brooks is our chairperson and our mainstay. Candy also has taken on the task of mowing the grass and keeping up of the general appearance of the play area, which you must all agree is very pleasing. Christine Jones is our secretary and I am acting treasurer. Our remaining committee being Hilary Mackay (Church representative) and Alison Whitcher, both very enthusiastic helpers. As before we do need more committee members, not much is asked, only about two meetings a year, also extra hands with our table top sales would be welcomed. A special vote of thanks go to our stalwarts Enid and Arthur Beasley who 'man' our table and also obtain goods to sell for us, so a big thank you to them. Also I would like to most sincerely thank KATE (JENKINS), who is 5 years old, she always takes out the cups, saucers, etc and also packs them away! At the November sale she actually did the washing up, so a big thank you to Kate. Thanks also to Anthony Jenkins who always lays out and packs up the tables for the table top sales and a hand with this would be appreciated. A new venture this year at the table top sales being the sale of hot dogs, etc which has proved popular which my daughters Lorna and Kathryn have been in charge of, again our thanks to them. One final vote of thanks to Wyke Cheese who have donated 2 blocks of cheese to each sale, so a thank you to Ashley Wilson for obtaining these.// Also thanks to the King William and Gwilliams who have collecting boxes on their counters, so thanks to Claire, Steve and Mark and all those who have put their change into these boxes.// We are now going to replace the swings, and during August we hope to do a 'door to door' collection and continue with the table top sales, the first two being 21st October and 18th November 2007.// Our AGM is here in the School Hall on Tuesday 12th June 2006 at 6.30pm.// I end by thanking all who have supported the events and a welcome to anyone who would like to join the committee or if only to help out at a table top sale they would be VERY welcome.*

APM 07/08/11 **POLICE:** The Clerk read a report from PC Rob Jacobs. *Reported crimes in Catcott - a horse trailer was taken in January.// There is always great concern regarding what are termed 'distraction burglaries'. These are normally targeted against elderly people who live alone. It is also believed that these victims have been identified prior to a call. To that end I urge everyone to keep an eye on their elderly neighbours and to report anyone suspicious in the village. My view is that cold callers claiming to be Water Board officials, etc warrant a 999 call. Remember you are some distance out from Bridgwater where the majority of us are. Too often these incidents are reported after the event and the offenders are never found. If we check out persons and they are legitimate I'm sure they won't mind as they will have correct ID etc.// For non emergency use my mobile is 07717 701 683. It may just be that someone has seen something suspicious, they call and I happen to be in Burtle and can be there quickly. Remember, for non emergency use and if I am off duty then the phone will be off.*

APM 07/08/12 **CATCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION:** Mr Miles Drake reported on behalf of the CVA as follows. *The main features of CVA activity in 2006 were: a successful senior citizens' lunch held at the King William Inn for about 78 people; the usual traditional carol singing to the music of the Burtle Silver Band around the War Memorial (with over 100 people attending), followed by seasonal refreshments in the School Hall afterwards; Spring and Summer garden*

Chairman

Date

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007
at 7.00pm in the Catcott School Hall

2007/2008 APM - 3

competitions with a successful awards presentation evening in September; planting tubs and troughs in the village; Open Gardens Day at the end of July which raised nearly £1200.// The CVA lost a valuable source of income in 2006 but by careful control of expenditure managed to make a small surplus of £59 over the year, making the accumulated reserves £1391. These reserves should be enough to enable the CVA to survive a 'wash out' at an Open Gardens Day for at least a year and a half.

APM 07/08/13

ST PETER'S CHURCH: Fran Walsh presented the following report. **Repairs and Maintenance.** The Committee were in agreement that the Chancel requires attention. Chancel washing is still required, although concern was expressed over the delicate nature of the walls and the possibility of washing causing damage to the fabric. There is mould on the walls and proper heating is needed in the Church to allow the fabric to dry out.// The type of plaster is unknown and professional advice was sought. Rose of Jericho was contacted. The company do not arrange for representatives to come out and advise, but have requested scrapings off the walls to be taken and posted to analyse. The two different types of material used on the chancel ceiling (a distemper wash and an emulsion wash) puzzled the company. Concern was expressed by Rose of Jericho of the contradictory nature of the two materials.// The coping slab on the west wall needed securing as a matter of urgency and Merv Lang has attended to it. Wood worming of the church has been carried out by an enthusiastic team of volunteers. It is hoped that this will deter the wood rot that has already set in on many of the pews.// Two green wheelie bins for churchyard waste are now in use thanks to Hilary Mackay bearing the cost. We are extremely grateful for this.// A continuity test of the lightning conductor system was carried out - this covered the system from the spire down to the ground. The continuity test needs to be carried out every 5 years to test for corrosion or a break in the conductor from top to bottom. This is obligatory for insurance purposes. During this work being carried out, it was observed that the air terminal on the weather vane is defective due to rusting of the vane. The vane requires dismantling, cleaning, a good inhibitor applied and remade with a waterproof protection. The weather cock is in need of repair and regilding; the estimate for this work is "296. Work for this is currently being undertaken.// Plans to install a heating system from Wibo Heating have been shelved due to cost. The existing radiators have been used as efficiently as possible. The aim has been to keep the radiators on low when the colder weather sets in and to boost them on Sunday for services. The result has been a sharp rise in the electricity bills with, on almost all occasions, no perceptible increase in temperature.// A hose in the vestry roof was repaired by Bill Smart. Bill also attended to the skylight in the Ruscome Pew but managed to create a leak which has yet to be properly dealt with. This has led to the mat in the Ruscombe Pew becoming rotted. This area of the Church needs attention.// The Quinquennial Report is due at the end of this year. An inspection of the whole building must take place and our architect, Mark Taylor, will carry this out.// **Church Services.** Major services have included Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, the Nine Lessons and Carols and the 10 O'clock on Christmas morning. There was a good turn out for the early said Communion on Easter Day.// On 10th April, Rebecca Cleobury-Jones became Mrs Mike Eliot in front of a large congregation, with a trumpeter in the West Gallery welcoming her in. The largest assemblage of the year, a less joyful one, was for the funeral on 10th January of Les Durston. Over the years Les has contributed generously to the floral decoration of the church. On the day of his funeral the Church was flooded with a mass of beautiful tributes from far and wide.// **Website.** We are hoping to launch a St Peter's website. Enquiries are to be made with Richard Culverhouse and Gill Sweetman who set up the Woolavington website. Purpose of the site could be for: displaying the history of the church; advertising functions, services, forthcoming events, etc; making contributions; helping with enquiries about family history. A subcommittee of volunteers has been set up to progress the website.// **Fire Risk Assessment.** There are procedures St Peter's needs to commit to in order to comply with The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005. Progress has been made: Internet research culminating in a very useful 29 page document detailing Fire Risk Assessment Principles for Church Premises has taken place. This document has some useful checklists and questionnaire that could be used for assessment purposes; Somerset and Devon Fire Services Headquarters were contacted. Alistair Gordon-Farley who has received lots of enquiries from churches has offered advice; 3 free copies of the Short Guide to Fire Risk Assessment have been ordered: these give a basic outline of the requirements of the Fire Safety Order.// **Events.** The CVA has donated the money taken from carols around the tree last Christmas. The donation is to be put toward the repair of the weather vane. A very kind and generous gesture. Thanks were given for this.// Marion Kenyon hosted a lovely Garden Party, which was a great success. £300 for church funds was raised. Gift Day (23rd June 2006) raised £1461.47.// Our series of coffee mornings has proved popular and financially helpful. We are most grateful to the hostesses and the patrons. Jacqui Longman is to host the next coffee morning on Wednesday 9th May.// St Peter's tea-towels featuring Peggy Davis's delightful drawings of the church inside and out have been re-issued and are selling well.// Hilary Mackay is to kindly host a Summer Garden Party at Barton Farm on Saturday, 9th June. An open-air service will follow at 6.30pm.// We are very grateful for the gifts of a fine bench from John and Judy Rose; a superior electronic keyboard for the West Gallery from Mr and Mrs John Rigler; a bequest from the late Vera Carruthers; and for the continuing Ministry of Bruce and Geoffrey. We also thank all those who serve in less conspicuous ways, eg dusting, cleaning brass, arranging flowers, dealing with church dustbins, locking and unlocking the church or distributing the Parish News. They will be ever more valued as we face the uncertainties and challenges of life as part of a Local Ministry Group.// We would like to extend grateful thanks to the Parish Council for their much needed and much appreciated

Chairman

Date

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007
at 7.00pm in the Catcott School Hall

2007/2008 APM - 4

grant towards the expenses of the Church, which amount to about £700 per month. It is an important reflection of the value and importance placed upon our local Church in the community.

APM 07/08/14 **MARY GODFREY CHARITY:** Mr Gerald Wheeler reported. *There has been little change over the past year. He thanked the committee and said Sue Fryman has done a wonderful job as Secretary. The land has been let for 2 years and upkeep is going on as planned. Tenants are doing their bit with regard to fences and ditches. There are sufficient funds at present and £575 was distributed to some villagers as usual. There are plans to dispose of two plots which bring no financial return.*

APM 07/08/15 **CATCOTT EDUCATIONAL CHARITY:** Peter Mackay reported. *There is very little change to report from the events of last year. As you know this charity is very small with an income of only about £40 per year. We give the income to the village school to purchase books. This year we were able to donate a considerably larger sum than usual as we have accumulated in our bank account, over many years, an excess over distributed monies. The trustees therefore decided to distribute all of that money as the account does not usually require a current balance as we have little or no day to day expenditure.// I would like to thank Miles Drake who acts as our clerk, and for which he makes no charge, even for expenses.// I have raised the matter before, but am going to do so again - the matter of an amalgamation of the small village charities. The work involved in these very small charities would be much reduced if they were to be amalgamated. This would not mean the loss of the names of the charities as they could be retained within an amalgamated organisation, but it would make far more sense, and possibly be more profitable.// I will be contacting the other charities to discuss possible changes.*

APM 07/08/16 **RHODA NORRIS CHARITY:** Mrs Eileen Chilcott reported that the situation remains as last year. *Situation dormant.*

APM 07/08/17 **SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL:** The following report was given by District Councillor Stuart Kingham. *On behalf of Sedgemoor I would like to thank all the parish councillors and your clerk for all of the work you have put in over the past year.// Once again Sedgemoor has set one of the lowest council tax sets in the country. We pledge to give better service by keeping cost down. The budget set by full council this year focuses very much on environmental issues: additional street cleaners, new and replacement litter bins, annual uplift cleansing and grounds maintenance for new housing estates, Clean Sweep - a district wide clean up; surveying and up-grading public conveniences in the District with some parishes taking over the running of them.// The integrated waste partnership for the whole of the county is well on its way to being finalised and starting in the Autumn.// The Almo now names Homes in Sedgemoor officially started on 2nd April. It's now hoped that funding from government can be drawn down to achieve the required standard for Sedgemoor housing.// Last yer I reported on The Port of Bridgwater, well the pilot boat was delivered and is now in service.// One of the operators went into receivership with the loss of trade but in the mean time a new operator has come forward to take its place, so things are looking good for the port.// On the economic side of Sedgemoor for business and employment things could not be better. Robert Wiseman Dairy, one of the biggest in the country, being built at Huntworth. There's also a new Regional Rural Business Centre at Huntworth. Express Park is expanding all the time with new opportunities. My final comment is unitary authority which I am sure our county councillor will have more information on.*

APM 07/08/18 **JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY:** Val Hollis reported as follows. *The Luttrell Memorial Charity, established by Mrs Luttrell of Edington Manor in 1898, has continued to provide for people living in Catcott, Edington, Chilton Polden and Burtle over many years. Today the Charity is designed to help those who may be ill, in hardship or distress. Examples of help have included, in the past, hospital travel, respite care, the purchase of medical equipment, physiotherapy, educational grants and general grants of benefit to the local community.// The present trustees meet in October and in the Spring to allocate grants, but requests made at other times will always be considered. Applications are always treated in confidence and grants may be either in kind or cash.// During the past year the trustees allocated grants for hospital travel, medical aids and for students with specific needs. We continue to subsidise the Cardiac Rehabilitation group which meets weekly in Edington Village Hall. We also supported the work of the Happy Companions, provided a grant to Catcott School and helped with repairs to listed community buildings.// In spite of publicity given to the Charity, it seems that many remain unaware of it or feel hesitant about asking for help. If you know of anyone or any project which you think might benefit from the Charity's assistance, would you please speak to one of the trustees or apply in writing to the Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs Agnes Auld, West Close, Church Road, Edington.*

APM 07/08/19 **CATCOTT AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:** The Clerk read the following report submitted by Sue Ewbank. *On behalf of Catcott After School Club I would like to thank the Parish Council for the financial support they have given us in the past.// Since Mike Ellis has been head of Catcott School the charge to us for using the school hall has been considerably reduced.// The After School Club is full to capacity every afternoon now and the club is showing healthy profit which is used to purchase new gymnastics equipment and play things for the children. For this reason we will not be approaching the Parish Council for financial assistance in the foreseeable future. Again, I think you for your help in the past.*

Chairman

Date

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007
at 7.00pm in the Catcott School Hall

2007/2008 APM - 5

APM 07/08/20 **ADDITIONAL REPORTS:** It was agreed that if other written reports came in late the Clerk should add them to the minutes as appendices to be included on the website.



Chairman Date