

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2008
at 7.00pm in the Catcott School Hall

2008/2009 APM - 1

- APM 08/09/1 **PRESENT:** Cllr Mackay (in the Chair) and 17 members of the public
- APM 08/09/2 **ALSO PRESENT:** DCllr S Kingham
- APM 08/09/3 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Julia Marshall (Clerk to Catcott Parish Council)
- APM 08/09/4 **APOLOGIES:** received from Eileen Chilcott, Ron Westmaas and David Huxtable.
- APM 08/09/5 **WELCOME:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- APM 08/09/6 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting were confirmed and signed.
- APM 08/09/7 **CATCOTT SCHOOL:** Mike Ellis, Headmaster of Catcott School reported that the school currently had 205 pupils (the maximum allowed is 210). There are 9 teachers, 12 teaching assistants and various other part time and support personnel making a total of 33. Daily hot lunches are soon to be reintroduced. Any surplus to requirements at Catcott will be made available to other local schools. An application is being submitted for a wind turbine to make the school carbon neutral and to provide the children with an understanding of sustainability. An 80% grant is obtainable. The walking bus scheme was discussed together with the problems encountered because of the kissing gates on the Church path.
- APM 08/09/8 **PLAY AREA:** Candy Brooks reported. New people have joined the committee which is a great help. The new swings are now in use.
- APM 08/09/9 **CATCOTT PARISH COUNCIL:** Pete Mackay reported on last year's activities. The main problems arose, yet again, in planning. He thanked his fellow councillors, the Clerk and those members of the public who regularly turn out to attend the Council meetings.
- APM 08/09/10 **POLICE:** PCSO Linda Ebdon reported that Catcott is in a good quiet area generally. Speedwatch will be backed up by the police. Clerk to contact her when the scheme has volunteers and she will then arrange training and inspection of suitable sites. Plant and machinery theft is the worst problem and garages etc should be kept locked.
- APM 08/09/11 **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Hilary Mackay said that much of her report had been covered by the previous speaker. She gave the usual warnings regarding security. Oil has been stolen on twice from the same tank! New co-ordinators are required for Brook Lane and Steel Lane. Everywhere else is covered.
- APM 08/09/12 **CATCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION:** Colin Pritchard reported on the pensioners lunch at the Crown Inn. On 7th June there is to be a curry evening to raise funds. Open Gardens Day is scheduled for 27th July.
- APM 08/09/13 **ST. PETER'S CHURCH:** Fran Walsh said the most significant event had been the departure of Revd Bruce Graham who returned to Newfoundland. With help from Geoffrey Fenton, Stan Bolton and Andrew Gordon Clark the schedule of services will be maintained while the parish is reorganised into a Local Ministry Group of twelve villages with two new priests. A sad loss was the death of Lloyd Williams who had been a pillar of village life.
- APM 08/09/14 **MARY GODFREY CHARITY:** Chairman reported that the trust lets out 4 parcels of land. 2 others are so insignificant they hope to get rid of them. Income is distributed to deserving in village - 23 benefited at Christmas.
- APM 08/09/15 **CATCOTT EDUCATIONAL CHARITY:** Pete Mackay reported that £35 from funds had been given to the School for the purchase of books.
- APM 08/09/16 **RHODA NORRIS CHARITY:** Chairman read a report from Mrs Barnett. The charity is dormant at present with assets of approx £40.
- APM 08/09/17 **SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL:** DCllr Kingham said the concessionary bus fares had cost the District Council a great deal of money. Various economies had been made in order to keep the council tax bill down. Burnham swimming pool had been in the spot light because of this but had been rescued by a private couple who would continue running it. New waste collections are being trialled now.
- APM 08/09/18 **SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL:** Clerk read a report from CCllr Huxtable. The County's bid for Unitary status had caused resentment between all the Somerset Authorities which they are now working to overcome. In spite of a generous increase in grant from central government the County's portion of the Council Tax, which could have been 2.5% increase, was levelled at 3.5% to fund a new £22m mortgage for an unscrutinised Capital Programme. This borrowing costs each taxpayer in Somerset nearly £1,000!
- APM 08/09/19 **JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY:** Val Hollis outlined the history and purpose of the charity. Dr Simon Hayne is taking over the Chairmanship from Revd Bruce Graham who has returned to Newfoundland. Independent advice on investments has been sought this year. Support is given to the cardiac rehabilitation class and the Happy Companions. There have been travel grants to visit close relatives in hospital and some educational grants.
- APM 08/09/20 **CATCOTT AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:** Clerk read a report from Sue Ewbank. The club is full to capacity most afternoons and showing a healthy profit now that the cost of using the school's facilities has been considerably reduced.
- APM 08/09/21 **CATCOTT PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:** Clerk presented the accounts to the meeting and, in response to questions, clarified a couple of points.

Chairman

Date