



Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Catcott Village Association

held on Monday 10th February 2025
at 7.30 pm in the School Hall Catcott

There were 37 members in attendance

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Kay Lang & Sue Fryman

3. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

The minutes from the 2024 AGM were presented as a true record of proceedings. There were no matters arising. It was Proposed by Dave Parks Seconded by Linda Wilson that they be passed as a true record. All present were in favour.

4. **Chair's Report**

Another year has gone past so quickly, a year full of events planned and are held in the village.

As usual we started the year with the community lunch, (held before this A.G.M.) at the Crown Inn with about 30 villagers attending.

The village clean up kicked off the year in March. Starting at the Pound with a very good turnout of villagers, Bags and pickers were given out, routes were collected and away we went. A big thank you to all who come out for this each year and for those who did their bit earlier, having other commitments for the day. Bags were left in the pound for the council to collect the next day. Bacon Butties and drinks 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 round the village in between courses and meeting different villagers at each stop.

The big event of the year was the Open Gardens held on Sunday June 23rd where we had 20 places of interest to see including 16 gardens, Scarecrows, the Church Tower, Plant stall. Refreshments were served in the Hall at Edington, Cream Teas in Catcott School, with 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 put on in various place, including words to find for the first time we had Chloe, the roving Piano Lady, who stopped at various places around the village, played the piano and sang for our entertainment. Again, a big thank you to the Wheeler family for allowing the Vintage Cars to be used again for this event, and to ALL who helped at this event, by stewarding, making cakes, catering, opening your gardens, and many other unseen jobs helping to make it a good day out, we could not do it without you.

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

In December we helped with the “Spirit of Christmas, Be a Star” organised by the Church to provide gifts, and food for the Salvation Army and the Food Banks to distribute to those in need, and a big thank you to you all for your generosity for this.

The annual Carols Round The Christmas Tree was held on Monday 16th December, with The Burtle Silver Band proving the music. Refreshments were provided by the CVA. A collection was made and donated to St. Margarets Hospice.

Again, for the Month of December we asked villagers to decorate windows or to dress their gateways and entrances for those whose windows were not seen from the road. A lovely, colourful, and various displays were seen around the village.

Other things the CVA have been involved in have been:-

The refurbishment of the Bus Shelter and its plaque has now been done. It also has a book stop/swap included inside.

A donation to the school for a new notice board, which was in much need of repair.

A couple of new tubs or planters that were past their best as well as providing plants for the village flower displays

The village WhatsApp Group called “Catcott News” is now up and running with over 70 members.

We helped out at the Village Halls Fun Day in the Summer.

The CVA was asked to partake by BBC Radio Somerset in their daily quiz, 7 committee members agreed to do so and became one of their champions, we were given a BBC Radio Somerset Mug for doing so which we then auctioned for charity.

Looking forward to this coming year we have booked the following:-

The Village Clean up Sunday 23rd February, meeting at the Pound at 10.30.

Open Gardens on Sunday 22nd June 12.30 till 6.00

Grow your own potato competition (More details to follow)

Carols round the Tree in December.

I would like to thank all for your support throughout this past year, and hope this next year will be just as good.

5. Treasurers Report – For year ending 31st December 2024

We had a very successful year with many social events taking place and donating a total of £1099 to various charities. The committee have again worked very hard this year and I wish to thank them for their generosity and commitment to the village.

As at 31 December 2024 our retained reserves were:

Current a/c	£113.53
Bus a/c	£4284.00
Cash	£656.44

I will go through 2024 the events in date order:

Community Lunch

This event was held at The Crown Inn with 40 residents attending at £16 per head. The cost of the lunch was £760, the deficit of £120 was paid by the CVA. The raffle took £175 and the costs of raffle prizes and raffle tickets were £24.64 making a £150.06 profit on the raffle. The event in total therefore made £30.06. Ours thanks to The Crown again for a fantastic lunch.

AGM

This legal requirement incurred a hall hire cost of £20.

Village Clean-Up

A very well attended event. The cost of the refreshments and thank you flowers totaled £22.88 with £30 collected as refreshment donations so a total profit of £7.12. The CVA would like to thank Phil and Maria Elliot for their continued generosity in hosting this event and for all the villagers who turned out on the day.

Catcott Come Dine with us

This event was less attended than previous years with only one £20 donation for non-cook participants and this was donated to The Children's Hospice SW. This was still a good evening and thank you to all the hosts for their hard work. A special thank you to Carole and Martin Melia who organised this event.

Open Gardens

Our flagship event was another very successful day with 309 people attending. We took £496.50 for teas and cakes at the Village Hall Edington, and £ 276 in ice cream sales.

We received a £300 donation from Gwilliams and other donations including stall fees and a donation from St Peters Church totalled £428.35.

This year saw the introduction of Chloe Aston the Piano bike girl and her busking around the village certainly added to the atmosphere. She collected £37.20 and along with £70 collected in the vintage limos and £250 from Steve Wheelers Pimm's garden we were able to gift a massive 357.20 Children's Hospice SW. Our expenses totalled £1429.28 which included programme printing, advertising, and a taxi to help ferry people around the village. The event made a fantastic profit of £2664.27. The CVA would like to give an enormous thanks to the Wheeler family for generously providing the vintage limousines again and the subcommittee for their hard work in coordinating this event.

Macmillan Coffee morning

We held another Macmillan coffee Morning, which was well attended and collected an enormous £409 for the charity.

Mexican Evening

The CVA decided to change the annual dinner dance to a Mexican evening this year which was held at the Village Hall, Edington in October. The village embraced this change and we sold 46 tickets at £15 per head. The bar was again run by Edington Village Hall and they paid us 15% of sales above £250 which totalled £17.78 and the CVA would like to thank them for running the bar on the night. The raffle took £142 and the Sombreros and Maracas game took £41 making the total income £890.78. Expenses totalled £566.39 making a profit of £324.39 before taking off the cost of the Mariachi Band. The CVA decided to use some of our excess funds to subsidise this and therefore the event actually made a loss of £269.37. Special thanks to the subcommittee who did most of the arranging of this event and for all the cooks who made the delicious food.

Carols around the tree

The weather was kind to us and we managed to be outside by the tree again. There were approx. 100 villagers who wrapped up warm to come and support us. We collected a total of £201.26 for St. Margaret's Hospice. We used their own collecting buckets so this money did not go through our bank account. Thank you to Catcott Parish Council for the annual donation of the Christmas tree and electricity.

The cost of the event totaled £224.94 which the CVA are happy to pay as the event is held for the village and not intended to make a profit as all income is donated to charity.

Sundries

The website charges this year increased to £103.15 and our interest income amounted to £48.82.

Our Public Liability Insurance of £12.32 per month, which covers all the events, has stayed the same this year.

The CVA need to thank Janet for all the hard work she puts in with the plants around the village making it look amazing. This year the cost of plants and compost was £349.08.

We have made several donations this year apart from the ones mentioned above. We donated £250 to Catcott Primary School towards their new notice board. £170 to Catcott Parish Council for the purchase of a new dog waste bin and £250 to The Catcott Educational Charity.

The CVA has also worked hard refurbishing the bus shelter and purchasing a book shelf which cost £85.24 in total. A huge thank you to all who helped. The CVA also paid £37.10 to refurbish the jubilee bench and would like to thank Meagan and Jodi Garrett for their hard work.

Our thanks to Stephen St Clair for independently reviewing our accounts again this year.

This concludes my report for 2024

Jill Tompkins
Treasurer

6. Rules & Constitution Proposed Amendments

The committee have reviewed the rules and constitution and there are no amendments proposed at this time therefore it was proposed by Dave Parks Seconded by David Strickland that the constitution stay as it is. All present were in agreement.

7. Election of Committee Members

The following is a list of members who have elected to form this year's committee. (Roles to be decided at the next committee meeting on Thursday 20th February).

Andrew Thompson, Anna Bradford, Dave Parkes, David Strickland, Margaret Strickland, Dee Eaton, Janet Holden, Kay Lang, Linda Middleton, Linda Wilson, Martin Melia, and Ian Bradford.

Others who attended the meeting offered support but did not want to serve on the committee. Names of which have been noted for future reference.

8. Any Other Business

The committee was asked if there were any plans for the 80th anniversary of VE day which falls on 8th of May this year. This is on the agenda for the next committee meeting. The Royal British Legion have already been in touch offering support for this event.

Athos Vassilou asked about traffic speeding problems in the village. It was suggested that this issue be taken up with the Parish Council.

Stephen St Clair submitted a comprehensive list of suggestions for future events, these suggestions (filed with these minutes) will be discussed at future committee meetings and we thank Stephen for his input.

David Thomas offered to start up a Cycling group for the village. Again, to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The committee outlined the proposed purchase of a Defibrillator for the village, various sites are being considered such as Church Porch & Bus Shelter, Sandra Pearson also suggested the School. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

9. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm