



Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
Catcott Village Association

held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
at 7.30 pm in the School Hall Catcott

There were 21 members in attendance

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

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Kay Lang, Sue Fryman, Mark Adamson, Mark Coakely, Denise Watson, Corrine Reynolds, Martin Melia, Dee Eaton & Margaret Woods

3. **Minutes of the 2025 AGM**

The minutes from the 2025 AGM were presented as a true record of proceedings. There were no matters arising. It was Proposed by Dave Parkes Seconded by Linda Middleton that they be passed as a true record. All present were in favour.

4. **Chair's Report**

It doesn't seem like another year has gone by since I stood here to give you the Chair's report, a busy but sometimes, a very frustrating year for the CVA. It has been brought to my attention that not every resident of Catcott realises they are a member automatically of the CVA, and they DO NOT have to apply to become one. Even if you don't wish to get actively involved, you may like to help the committee act on your behalf, suggesting future events etc. Like this evening. So, the committee decided to put on a Wine and Cheese event after this meeting, then residents could get together and put forward ideas to the committee for the village. We started the year with the community lunch held at the Crown Inn on Friday 16th January with about 34 villagers attending. The next event in March, with a newly formed committee, was the Annual Village cleanup which took place starting at the Pound, with a very good turnout of residents. Then after the R and R's were read out, pickers and bags were picked up, routes chosen and off went 30

plus villagers in very windy conditions. Afterwards hot drinks and Bacon Butties were provided at Court Farm. Thanks were given to Maria and Phil Eliot for hosting it. The CVA combined with Edington to hold a fun day at the Hall with games and picnics to celebrate VE Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. Unfortunately, the Safari Supper/Come Dine with Me Evening, booked for 14<sup>th</sup> June, had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, making it a non-viable occasion. The big event of the year was the Open Gardens held on Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> where we had 20 places of interest to see, including 16 gardens. The school put on display of the children's scarecrow, and other attractions were held in various gardens were, croquet on the lawn, a treasure hunt and one serving Pimm's for the second year, Chloe, the roving Piano Bike Lady, stopped at different places around the village, played the piano and sang for our entertainment. A BBQ was available at the end of the day. A big thank you must go to the Wheelers family for the use the Vintage Cars, to the Taxi, which helped people get around the village, and to all who helped in so many ways, opening their gardens, cake making, stewarding, preparing and clearing up for this event and to the lots of unseen volunteers. A day to remember. A WhatsApp Group is being set up for anyone in the village who would like to offer help at any of our events More information will be circulated, later. A TREASURE HUNT took place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September, starting at the Hall in Edington, ending up at the Crown in Catcott. This was a very well organised and well-planned event with 6 or 7 cars taking part, setting off at 5 minutes intervals. Despite the rain, it was a very enjoyable event, testing one's skills of answering local clues and navigating the best route to make. Thanks must go to Steve St, Claire for the running and organising of it. During the year we held a potato growing competition, with two categories, an early variety and a main crop, both crops were measured at maturity. The results were very mixed, and the winning ones were within grams of each other. The potatoes and compost used were returned to be reused and eaten. (But not the compost). We plan to hold it again but only having a main crop section. To make it easier you must be registered in advance before the end of March. (please leave your details on the table over there! you will get a bag and a potato. The entry fee will be £1.00. The RACE NIGHT for the 18<sup>th</sup> of October again had to be cancelled. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December Catcott Church organised the annual "Spirit Of Christmas, Be a Star" to provide Gifts, and Food for the Salvation Army and the Food Banks then to be distributed to those in need. Donations to be brought to the Church during the morning and a big thank you to you all for your generosity for this. The CVA helped out with the leaflet drop to all properties in Catcott. Again, for the Month of December, we asked residents to decorate a window or to dress their gateways and entrances (for those whose windows were not seen from the road). A tour was arranged for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to view as many of the registered windows and gateways as well as many more. A lot of work had been put into them making it a various and colourful display. Refreshments were available at the top of Vine Orchard. Due to inclement weather, rain, the annual Carols Round the Christmas Tree was held in the School Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December with about 12 members of The Burtle Silver Band providing the music. Refreshments were provided by the CVA. A collection was made which was donated to the RNLI. We continue to keep the village planted and tidy. A survey pointed out that one barrel needed replacing whilst another one may

only last until the next year. The WhatsApp Group, called CatcottNews membership still continues to grow informing all of various types of forthcoming events that are taking place. The Forthcoming events that are already booked are, The village clean up Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March starting at the pound at 10.30 all are welcome, but children must be accompanied by a person responsible for their safety. The Potato competition, please register, and Open Gardens Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 12.30 till 6pm. other events will include the Decorated Windows and Gateways, Carols round the Tree. Others under discussion including another Treasure hunt and a possible Autumn event. After a successful financial Open Garden two years ago, the suggestion was put forward for a Defibrillator for this village, for the funds to be used to benefit the whole village. This was discussed at length over the next few months, it was going to be a big undertaking. Various types were looked into, how it could work in the village. Once one was decided upon, the process of getting it, how and where it would be the best place for it to be sited, easily seen and accessible, was looked for. We had to take into consideration that it would need a nearby power supply to it, a meter box. Etc. We thank the Parish Council for offering to help us from the community fund that they are granted to be used in and for the community. It was then agreed the Pound area where there is an electricity pole, would be the ideal place. But things don't happen overnight. After many, many setbacks we decided to purchase the unit asap and get it fitted in a temporary place as near as possible to the Pound, and then wait until the combination of the National Grid an Electrician and the preparation of the site by a Parish councillor, could happen. So, a few days before Christmas it was fitted at Homecroft, Manor Road 3 houses up from the Pound. We are very near and at any day now, it will be moved from Homecroft, Manor Road and fitted in its permanent position on the wall at the Pound. And LASTLY, I would like to thank all of you for your support though out this past year and hope this next year will be just as good for you and the village. BUT One final point and also for your information, we the CVA will be celebrating 50 years serving the village.

Janet Holden  
Chair

## 5. **Treasurers Report – For year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

On 31<sup>st</sup> December our total assets were **£4538.56**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Business account | <b>£3684.00</b> |
| Current Account  | <b>£328.88</b>  |
| Cash in hand     | <b>£451.43</b>  |

### **Community Lunch**

The CVA's first event held in 2025 was the community lunch. This was held at The Crown and was attended by 28 villagers. The cost to each diner was **£22** which covered the meal and a tip. The raffle held raised **£39.42** for CVA funds.

### **The AGM**

It was decided to make the AGM more of a social event by including Wine & Cheese after the meeting. The evening was enjoyed by 37 villagers and new ideas for fund raising events were suggested. The cost of the evening was **£132.85**.

### **Village Clean-up**

As always, the village clean-up was well attended and the weather was kind. Refreshments and thank-you flowers came to **£50.20** and we received **£32.65** in donations. The overall cost to CVA was **£17.55**

### **Village Planting**

A new tub was purchased for Manor Road for **£30** and despite the extremely dry weather the village remained colourful throughout the year. The total cost of plants for the village and the school came to **£456.50**.

### **Open Gardens**

The main event of the year was Open Gardens, held in late June. It was attended by 243 visitors each paying **£10**, numbers were slightly down on last year. This year refreshments included bacon butties and cakes at the hall raised **£397.98** Cream teas were provided by the church and along the BBQ together raised **£124.58**. Ice creams brought in a further **£169.22**.

We received **£611** in donations. **£300** of which was from Gwilliams. We must thank other local businesses, Matt Eichler, D Gardner and G J Plants for their support.

Our overall expenses for the day were **£1365.18** but the final sum raised for the CVA was **£2871.40**.

### **Potato Competition**

This year we ran a potato growing competition, two varieties were grown, earlies and lates. **£85.62** was invested in the black plastic reuseable bags and the potatoes. **£51** was raised which didn't cover the investment but we now have the bags in stock to run the competition again in 2026.

### **Carols Round the Christmas Tree**

A total of **£138** was raised for the RNLI during the Carols round the Christmas tree. The cost of the evening, Burtle Silver Band and refreshments came to **£165.49**. A further **£25** was raised for RNLI during our Advent Walk around the village. This money was collected in buckets and didn't go through our accounts.

### **Donations**

Throughout the year the CVA has made donations to Children's Hospice South West, **£194.92**, South West Ambulance **£50** and also **£25** to ChloeMarie (the piano bike girl) following the theft of her belongings.

### **Sundries**

Public liability has remained the same at **£123.20** for the year.

The bank now charges for every transaction, except for transferring between accounts, these charges have come to **£65.81**.

Our business account earned **£36.53** interest.

Web costs have dropped from **£103.15** in 2024 to **£58.80**. Printing costs were very similar to last year at **£155.29** compared with **£150.74**.

In December CVA purchased a defibrillator and cabinet at a cost of **£1862.90**. It is currently situated in its temporary site at 42 Manor Road awaiting permanent installation in the Pound. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in raising the funds for this and for the support of the Parish Council for covering the cost of the electricity.

Thanks to Stephen St Clair for independently reviewing these accounts. Also thank you to everyone who has given time, effort and financial support to our village.

This concludes my report for 2025.

Margaret Strickland

CVA 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 Steven Wheeler that the constitution stay as it is as no amendments required. 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 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February).

Andrew Thompson, Dave Parkes, David Strickland, Margaret Strickland, Janet Holden, Kay Lang, Linda Middleton, Margaret Wood and Ian Bradford.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Andrew Thompson addressed the meeting to outline the latest WhatsApp group for those who wish to put their names forward to assist in the running of CVA functions but do not want to serve on the committee.

## **9. There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm**