

EDINGTON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2026 in the Committee Room, The Village Hall at 6.30pm

A representative from Wessex Water had been invited to attend, answer questions and talk to the meeting. Unfortunately he was unable to do so. He had however provided written responses to questions already put to him in writing. The Clerk had made copies of this, including the graph and table, and gave copies to attendees. Mr Fletcher outlined the response and a few additional questions from the floor were answered.

- APM 2026 - 1 Present Cllr Charlesworth (chair), SCllr Munt and 22 members of the public.
- APM 2026 - 2 Apologies - none received other than noted in the minutes.
- APM 2026 - 3 In Attendance - the Clerk to Edington Parish Council.
- APM 2026 - 4 Minutes of the last Parish Meeting were approved and signed.
- APM 2026 - 5 Parish Council report - Cllr Charlesworth (Chair)
- APM 2026 - 6 Parish Council accounts - Clerk presented the accounts and explained the major differences from last year. There were no questions.
- APM 2026 - 7 Village Agent - written report provided and Clerk reported on Village Agent Daniel Bell's report to the Catcott APM.
- APM 2026 - 8 Police - report from Tom Russell - Neighbourhood Policing Team - read to the meeting.
- APM 2026 - 9 Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground (BTMG) - Written report from World Class Willows
- APM 2026 - 10 Catcott School - written report from the Office Manager
- APM 2026 - 11 JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - provided and read by Catherine Andrews
- APM 2026 - 12 The Village Hall - report provided and read by Sam Charlesworth
- APM 2026 - 13 Edington and District History Group (EDHG) - written report provided by Phil Chaplin. Mrs Atkins then gave a verbal update.
- APM 2026 - 14 Edington School Room - report from Catherine Whittingham.
- APM 2026 - 15 Somerset Council - SCllr Munt reported
- APM 2026 - 16 Edington Future Group - report provided by Brian Bradshaw
- APM 2026 - 17 St George's Church - report to be added to the file when received.

(The report from St George's Church has been received and is included herewith.)

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.20pm

Chairman Date

I understand the main concern is the performance of the Edington Broadmead Lane Sewage Pumping Station (SPS), especially in light of further housing developments.

Our planning team review each proposed development on an individual basis as and when they come forward to assess impacts on the existing network and where necessary, plan and implement reinforcement work to accommodate said flows. Upon grant of planning permission, developers have a right under the Water Industry Act, to connect to the public foul sewer network. Connections are made on a size for size basis, Developers fund the cost of connecting to the nearest 'size for size' sewer and Wessex Water will manage the sewer network to accommodate foul flows from granted development.

I've included below a graph showing throughout 2025 how often the pump was running (Black line) compared to the nearest river level (Clyse Hole, River Brue – Blue line) as an indication of the effect of rain and rising groundwater table:

As you can see there is a clear impact on the pumping station during the winter, however during the drier months there is plenty of capacity for pumping (red arrow) as the system is dealing with mostly waste, not rain/surface water and ground water. Depending on the size of future development and the results of modelling, it's likely there shouldn't be much upgrading required to deal with dry weather flow. The permit from the EA states that the pumping station must be passing forward flow of 14l/s (litres-per-second) during wet conditions, which it achieves.

To reduce overflow spill counts however, we will have to address the impact of wet weather on the system. When the pumping station is running continuously and in incoming flow is exceeding what it can pump out, the overflow will then automatically discharge.

Just so you are aware we have conducted regular maintenance in the ditch this winter when replacing the screen (copa sack), however if anyone in the village finds the ditch is in a poor state due to the overflow please let us know and we can conduct a clean-up.

Storm overflow operation

Please find attached a spreadsheet with the spill data for Storm Overflow at Broadmead Lane SPS, since Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) was installed.

Overflows are designed to operate to protect properties from flooding during periods of heavy rainfall under a permit from the Environment Agency. During these events, significant dilution from rainwater usually means that there is little impact on the overall ecological status of the receiving water body. This is the case for the receiving waterbody of the SPS overflow, in which storm overflows are not causing the Reason for Not Achieving Good (RNAG) status according to the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer.

As shown on our Storm Overflow Improvement Dashboard, improvements to this overflow are currently due by 2040. DEFRA's Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan outlines a target of 10 or less spills per year (during wet conditions) for all overflows by 2050, except in certain circumstances in which the spills are expected to be fewer and the improvements made sooner. The order in which Storm Overflows are improved is agreed with the regulators in line with the plan prioritising discharges near environmentally sensitive areas and designated bathing waters, and overflows that spill most frequently.

This area also suffers from a high level of groundwater infiltration, as previously mentioned.

To tackle the impact of this, we conducted over 600m of sewer sealing work last year, with further CCTV investigations taking place this winter to identify future improvements. Whilst separate from the future Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan improvements, sealing works will help reduce spills from the overflow also.

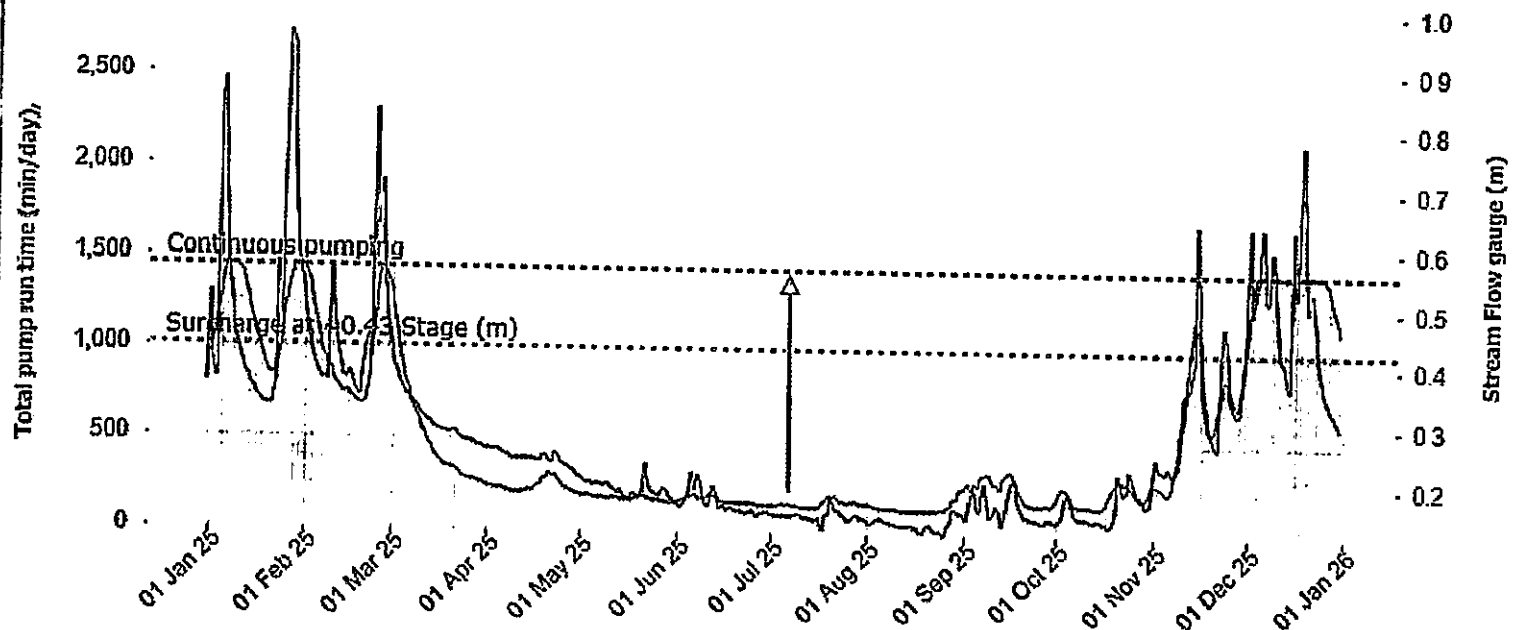
Dividend payments to shareholders

The water industry regulator Ofwat sets the rate of return to investors for the equity they have invested in the business. In 2024/25 dividend payments totalled to £66.5 million, representing an approximate 5% return, which is similar to the interest paid on a high-street savings account.

Our dividend policy ensures that dividend payments do not impact the financial viability of the company or levels of investment. Furthermore, our 2025 – 2030 business plan set out that dividends for the period will be retained within the business, and no dividend will be paid out to our shareholder.

I hope this helps, let me know if you have any further questions and when you have a date for a future meeting.

Unique Id	Site Name	Year	Total Duration (hours)	Spill Count (12/24hr)	% EDM operational
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2020	1,736.1	97	99.9%
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2021	1,119.0	62	100.0%
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2022	715.5	36	99.9%
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2023	1,901.0	89	99.8%
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2024	1,933.5	99	100.0%
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2025	991.0	49	100.0%
14585B	EDINGTON BROADMEAD LANE SPS	2026 (Jan-Apr)		959.4	42



EDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRS REPORT MAY 2026

I started the process of writing this report by reading last years report, checking what I had written about our previous year and what we had in that year and wanted to achieve in that time and what was coming up, holding myself accountable to my words is important to me in my service to you all as Chair. I have always had this underlying fear about saying we will do things and bureaucracy slowing down our progress or other things getting in the way of progress and how to make sure that doesn't happen. I can confidently say now, we have achieved in part or full what we wanted to, in small steps or large ones in every item we planned too and some that we hadn't!

Over the past year we have successfully added a second village clean up day in September, which was highly attended and confirmed that holding two a year has helped keep the village a cleaner environment for all. Our annual March clean up was also held with fantastic numbers turning out to support our parish. We moved to the Village Hall for this and strategically this worked wonderfully. It helped us identify the first site for an additional waste bin which will be on Holywell Road south where we have found many people pulling in and emptying rubbish from their cars or dump items like vapes and alcohol bottles. We have also, thanks to improved communication with residents, identified the need for a dog waste bin to be at the bus stop and at which time we will also be upgrading the current waste bin there as it has no lid. These will be installed in the coming months. We aim to use days like this to continue to identify and target areas of need in Edington.

The local group of willing helpers have been wonderful this year, they continue to help with clearing fallen trees, sharing information, keeping ditches clear and supporting one another in a way that I hope carries on well into the future.

We have continued to maintain parish land as always and have seen the installation of a little owl box in a local orchard – sadly this has no little owls moving in yet, but we are in hope! Over the last year we have also continued to support the School Room, Church and Catcott School with grants.

The "It takes a village" newsletter was officially launched, with hopes to improve the reach of our local communications. Plans for at least four editions a year to keep everyone abreast of what we are up to, what you can get involved in (like our garden challenge which is happening for a second year running!) clean ups, the emergency plan (which is in progress) and the things we can and can't do as a Parish Council. We value resident's involvement and very importantly your input.

One item I am particularly personally proud and excited about is the rejuvenation of our tired looking Holy Well, which in the next few weeks will be closed off to public access for the start of an ongoing restoration project. This will begin with a full clean and then

reconstruction of the well itself. With landscaping plans now strongly forming, it will become home to the Brian Tilbury bench and a space for locals to enjoy lunch, read a book, or simply rest while out walking. We hope it will become an area of history and beauty that the village can be proud of. I have personally learnt so much about this monument in the last year while planning this project and its historical value, it most certainly is an asset to our community.

Another asset to the community that deserves mention is the formation of the new Edington Future Group, whilst this is not a Parish Council initiative we do look forward to supporting each other in times ahead.

Looking into next year I know we probably all see many things that are causing concern, recent events do loom over us. All I can say on this now is that your Parish Council will continue to work hard and support the village as best as we can. Our biggest immediate priority moving into the next year is the formation of a neighbourhood plan, helping to shape the future development, appearance and care of our much-loved village going into the years ahead. Please watch out for communication from us on this as your feedback as residents is crucial, I know the EFG are keen to support this narrative too.

I feel I am going on so I will finish up, but a moment must be taken to say thank you. Gratitude to those who continue to support us, like our footpaths officer Martin, The Andrews who run our garden challenge, all the locals who come to meetings and clean ups be it to traipse through ditches or make sandwiches to feed volunteers – you all matter. We saw Julie Welch resign this year, her work on the council was invaluable. This led to Cllr Andrew Fletcher joining our fold and we welcome him warmly and the already fantastic work he is carrying out for the Parish. As always, I wholeheartedly thank all our Cllrs and our wonderful clerk for their hard work, local dedication and support to me as Chair (I can be insufferable at times, I am sure!) Thank you for having me as your Chair again for the last 12 months.

CLLR SAMANTHA CHARLESWORTH

Income Summary 2020-2020									
Ring Fenced Balances at 1st April 20			£	£	£	£	Council Precept	Difference	
	Nidon Land		1,136.77				£		
	Holy Well		2,036.77						
	CIL		0.00						
	Highways		2,415.11						
	Total Ring Fenced		5,588.65	0.00					
Bank Balances at 1st April 2024				0.00					
	Current Account			0.00					
	Reserve Account b/f			8,666.02					
	Net Funds Available				8,666.02				
Receipts									
	Input VAT repaid by HMRC	199.38		387.03					
	Precept	10,000.00			17,100.00				
	CIL	0.00		0.00					
	CPC Defibrillator	332.25		201.48					
	Nat West Interest	173.43		224.74					
	Environment/booklets	85.50		0.00					
	Holy Well	0.00		900.00					
		0.00		0.00					
				0.00					
					1,713.25				
Payments									
	Staff Costs:					27,479.27			
	Administration:								
	Clerk's Salary	4,990.75		5,016.96					
			0.00						
	Office, phone and Broadband	326.04	312.00						
	Postage	25.60	19.95						
	Office Equipment & software	0.00	0.00						
	Ink & office sundries	5.24	26.45						
	Stationery & Printing	58.73	89.65						
	Website	298.38	215.00						
		120.00	0.00						
	Subscriptions	230.34	285.78						
	Data Protection	52.00	52.00						
				1,000.83					
	Other:								
	Monthly Meeting Room Hire	262.00	132.00						
	Mileage Allowance	91.30	0.00						
	Insurance	241.00	241.00						
	Fees - audit	20.00	20.00						
	Environment	927.42	473.72						
	Training & Courses	113.00	0.00						
	Election expenses	0.00	0.00						
	Bus Shelter	0.00	0.00						
			0.00						
	Nidon Land (£98.77 ring fenced)	3.75	3.92						
	Defibrillator	624.69	243.54						
	Neighbourhood Watch	0.00	0.00						
	Holy Well (£330.00 ring fenced) & bench	861.49	0.00						
	Poppy Wreath & Xmas tree	90.00	150.08						
	Special Events	0.00	0.00						
	Contingency	0.00	43.95						
	Sundry	19.99	58.00						
	Highways	0	0						
				1,366.21					
	Holy Well & bench	0.00	0.00	0.00					
	St George's Churchyard grant	500.00	500.00						
	Village Hall	500.00	250.00						
S137	None	0.00	0.00						
				750.00					

Explanation of variances – pro forma						
Name of smaller authority:	Edington Parish Council					
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):	Somerset					
Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all plus highlighted boxes						
Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be filled in by you (relevant to the explanation of the variance)						
-variances of more than 10% between budgets or budget outcomes of less than £200; -variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of size; % variation year on year; various authorities both income and/or expenditure exceeding £5,000,000						
	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Loses this year	Gains this year
Difference						
1 Balances Brought Forward						
	8,504	8,666				
2 Precept or Rates and Levies						
	10,000	17,100	7,100	71.00%	0	1
3 Total Other Receipts	791	1,713	922	116.56%	0	1
4 Staff Costs	4,391	5,017	29	0.52%	0	0
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
6 All Other Payments						
	5,638	3,195	-2,443	43.33%	1	0
7 Balance Carried Forward	8,666	19,267				
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	8,666	19,267				
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments	10,852	10,852	0	0.00%	0	0
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable						
Variances of £200 or less are tolerable						
BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)						

Thrive - previously the Community Council for Somerset

Report for Edington Parish Council
May 2026

1. Purpose of the Report

This report provides an overview of the work and services provided by Thrive.

2. Thrive – Overview

We are a countywide charity that supports communities across Somerset to thrive.

3. Community Buildings and Spaces

3.1 Importance of Community Buildings

Community buildings such as village halls, community centres, church halls, and other shared spaces

are central to rural life. They provide venues for meetings, social activity, service delivery, and

community events, helping to maintain strong local connections, reduce social isolation, and support

community wellbeing.

3.2 Support for Community Buildings (including Membership)

Thrive provides independent advice and practical support to those responsible for managing

community buildings, including parish councils, trustees, and volunteer committees. This support is

designed to help ensure that local buildings are safe, wellmanaged, legally compliant, financially

sustainable, and fit for ongoing community use.

Support available includes:

- Advice on governance, roles and responsibilities, and legal compliance
- Guidance on funding opportunities, income generation, and longterm sustainability
- Support with maintenance planning and asset management
- Access to information, guidance, and best practice tailored to communityrun buildings

Much of this support is delivered through Thrive's Community Buildings and Spaces

Membership

scheme. Membership is available to village halls, community centres, church halls, and other

communityrun facilities across Somerset and provides a range of practical benefits to support

volunteers and trustees in their roles.

Key membership benefits include:

- Access to a comprehensive online Members Area, containing over 100 specialist guidance

notes covering topics such as governance, health and safety, safeguarding, funding, insurance,

hiring policies, and building management

- Regular updates on legislation, funding opportunities, events, and training relevant to community buildings

- Access to exclusive discounts from trusted suppliers, including services such as staging,

booking systems, and building related equipment

- The reassurance of having access to friendly, independent advice, supporting both day to day

management queries and more complex issues

Membership is available at an annual cost starting from £20 plus VAT and offers a cost effective way

for community building committees to reduce risk, improve confidence, and strengthen the long term

sustainability of local community assets.

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/community-buildings-and-places/>

3.3 Greener Community Buildings and Decarb Somerset Resources

Thrive previously delivered the Decarb Somerset programme, which supported voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise buildings across Somerset to improve energy efficiency and

reduce carbon emissions. While the Decarb Somerset project has now ended, the guidance, tools, and

learning developed through the programme remain available via the Thrive website.

These resources continue to help community organisations and parish councils to:

- Understand energy use and running costs
- Identify practical energy efficiency improvements
- Explore options for reducing carbon emissions
- Build confidence when considering future retrofit or decarbonisation projects

Although direct project support is no longer available, these materials remain a valuable reference for

communities seeking to reduce costs and contribute to local and national climate objectives. For more

information click here <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/decarb-somerset/>

4. Rural Affordable Housing

4.1 The Rural Housing Challenge

The availability of affordable housing is a significant challenge for many rural communities. High

property prices and limited housing supply can prevent local people, including younger households,

families, and key workers, from remaining in their villages. This can have long term impacts on

community sustainability, local services, and the rural economy.

4.2 Rural Housing Enabler Service

Thrive delivers an independent Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) service to support rural communities

in addressing local affordable housing needs. Rural Housing Enablers work collaboratively with

parish councils, residents, and partner organisations to ensure that housing proposals are community led and based on clearly evidenced local need.

Typical responsibilities of the Rural Housing Enabler include:

- Raising awareness of the impact that a lack of affordable housing can have on rural communities, including effects on population balance, services, and community cohesion
 - Supporting communities to undertake Housing Needs Surveys to identify local housing need
 - Providing opportunities for communities to discuss and consider how that need could be met, including site identification and scheme viability
 - Brokering relationships between key stakeholders, including parish councils, local authorities, housing associations, planning and development officers, and landowners, while providing impartial and independent advice
 - Unlocking barriers as they arise, including planning, land, funding, or delivery challenges, to help schemes progress from early discussion through to construction and completion
 - Monitoring and evaluating rural housing delivery and sharing learning, best practice, and examples to inform and inspire other rural communities
- Throughout the process, the Rural Housing Enabler role helps ensure that communities remain central to decisionmaking and that support is tailored to local circumstances and priorities.

4.3 Evidence of Local Housing Need

Where appropriate, Thrive can support the delivery of Housing Needs Surveys. These surveys provide robust evidence of demand for affordable housing and can support planning decisions, funding bids, and informed consideration by parish councils.

For more information click here

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/community-buildings-and-places/>

5. Supporting the Edington Community: Village Agent and Community Activity Overview

Our Village Agent service supports anyone living in Somerset who is facing a worrying or tough time.

This could be because of a number of reasons; health, finances, housing or feelings of loneliness and

isolation. We have a team of over 60 Village Agents who use their local expertise to advocate for

people and their communities.

Residents in and around Edington village continue to benefit from a range of practical and communitybased support provided through Thrive's Village Agent service - the local Village Agent

for Edington is Daniel Bell.

Over the last 6 months we have supported 48 residents in the TA7 9 area. This support has focused on

helping residents access financial and practical assistance, enabling them to remain

independent and access activities that ensure they are well supported within their community.

5.1 Community Groups and Preventing Isolation

A strong partnership between Thrive and the Villages Together project has transformed Bitham Walk

Hall from an unused space to a vibrant community hub supporting residents from Bitham and the surrounding area. In addition to individual support, a number of residents from the wider TA7 area

regularly attend community activities at Bitham throughout the week. These groups provide:

- Guidance and informal advice
- Opportunities to develop confidence and practical skills
- Social connection to help prevent isolation
- Ongoing support through the Veterans Hub

These community-led activities play an important role in early support and prevention, particularly for

people who may not yet need formal services but benefit from social connection and local guidance.

To watch a video and find out more about this community hub, please visit -

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/thrive-and-villages-together-working-in-partnership-to-create-a-community-hub-at-bitham-wall-hall-the-hub/>

6. Welcome to All

Thrive lead Welcome to All, which is a strong partnership of voluntary, community, faith, local council, and social enterprise organisations. Together, we have created and run a network of six

welcoming community hubs across the county. It addresses the growing need for practical, compassionate support rooted in lived experience and delivered through trusted community

organisations. Our vision is to make Somerset a beacon of inclusivity and equity.

For more information on this programme and the hubs closest to your area please click on this link

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/welcome-to-all/>

7. Somerset Diverse Communities

Thrive supports people from ethnically diverse and marginalised backgrounds. We work closely with

local communities, building trust and listening to lived experiences. Our goal is to work with communities, not for them – creating space for people to lead and be heard. We run events, forums

and outreach activities. We connect with faith groups and communities, support their work and run the

Somerset Interfaith and Belief network. We support schools to promote inclusion and the celebration

of diversity within the school community. We provide support and training for statutory organisations and the VCFSE sector on cultural competency, inclusive practise and community engagement. For more information go to <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/diverse-and-displaced-communities/>

8. Impact Across Somerset

Thrive has supported numerous parishes and communities across Somerset to strengthen community buildings and address local housing challenges and support to individuals through our Village Agent programme.

This contributes to longterm resilience, helping communities remain active, inclusive, and sustainable in line with our strategy

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Strategy-Documents-Nov-2024-Final-1-compressed.pdf>

Click here for our Impact report for 2025 https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Thrive-Impact-Report_Low-Res.pdf

We also advocate for the communities we serve in Somerset and as part of this work carry out research to create briefing papers to inform decision makers about key issues. In 2025 our Cold

Homes Tough Choices paper was published <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/THRIVE-Cold-Homes-Tough-Choices-October-2025.pdf>

9. Further Information

For further information or discussion, parish councils can contact Thrive:

- Website: www.thrivesomerset.org.uk
- Email: info@thrivesomerset.org.uk
- Telephone: 01823 331222

Edington Parish Meeting Update - Police - RE:
Catcott Parish Council - FW: Contact your
Neighbourhood Policing Team - NPT-QAGJ6

3 emails

POLICE
~~Catcott~~
Parish Council

< clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk >

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

Sat, 09 May 2026 13:01:57 +0100

To "Catcott Parish Clerk"<clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Hello,

This is Tom from Bridgwater police station.

Please accept my apologies, I will not be able to make the meeting. I have researched the last three months, and Edington has not received any significant crime to mention. Edington remains a safe and decent place to live. Long may it last. I aim to patrol Edington at least once per week, demand allowing.

If any Edington residents or Parish council have any issues to report, please use 999 or 101. If it's a local issue which doesn't require reporting, please feel free to let me know. I will endeavour to support and solve any issues you may have.

Thank you,
Tom

From: Catcott Parish Clerk <clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 May 2026 10:54

To: Thomas Russell <~~Thomas.Russell@avonandsomerset.police.uk~~>

Subject: Re: Catcott Parish Council - FW: Contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team - NPT-QAGJ6

CAUTION: This message is from an External Sender. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.
If you are suspicious of it, please report it using the 'Report Message' button in Outlook.

Hello Tom

Is there a chance you could produce a similar report for Edington? I am clerk to Edington Parish Council as well!

You can send to this email address or clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thanks

Julia Marshall

BTMG NIDON LAND

The cricket bat willow plantation on the Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground (BTMG), established in February 2023, continues to progress positively. Now entering another growing season, the majority of the trees are establishing strongly, with healthy development, improved structure, and encouraging overall growth across the site.

The plantation is continuing to mature well and remains on course to become a sustainable and valuable long-term asset for both the local environment and the cricket bat willow industry.

Site Condition and Observations -

- The proposed 3-metre-wide access pathway has now been agreed in principle and will be maintained on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between the cultivator and Edington Parish. The pathway will provide essential maintenance access while also creating a quiet and natural area for public enjoyment.
- As cultivator, I will continue to oversee all tree-related maintenance, pruning, monitoring, and long-term management throughout the life of the plantation. I would also be pleased to involve and guide any interested parish members who may wish to learn more about willow cultivation and assist in certain aspects of the project.
- The todd bed area continues to require periodic undergrowth management, and this will remain an ongoing focus to ensure the young trees continue to establish successfully.
- The todd bed trees are currently projected to be ready for harvest around 2030, with the main plantation trees forecast to reach maturity between 2038 and 2042.

Next Steps -

- Replant any failed trees during winter 2026
- Continue undergrowth clearance and seasonal maintenance works
- Maintain routine site inspections and biannual growth reviews
- Continue discussions with parish members regarding future development opportunities and wider boundary maintenance across the site
- Explore future grant and funding opportunities to assist with long-term maintenance and environmental improvements

Conclusion -

The plantation continues to develop well and remains firmly on track to deliver both environmental and financial value to Edington Parish over the coming years. Despite previous government grant opportunities being withdrawn at short notice, I remain committed to exploring alternative funding avenues that may support the long-term upkeep and enhancement of the site.

I remain extremely optimistic about the future of the plantation and look forward to seeing it continue to mature into a lasting and valuable community asset for future generations.

All the best,

Mike

Mike Kennedy

World Class Willow

Unit 9 Suprema Business Estate

This half term has been short but extremely busy, with pupils across the school enjoying a wide range of learning opportunities and enrichment activities.

We marked Earth Day with a variety of activities designed to encourage children to think about sustainability and caring for the environment. The event generated great enthusiasm amongst the pupils.

The school community also came together for a successful charity fundraising day in memory of a former pupil. The event was very well supported by families and pupils, helping to raise money for a meaningful cause while also reinforcing the values of kindness and community spirit.

Our Year 6 pupils will this week be completing their SATs assessments and we would like to recognise both the children and staff team for their dedication and hard work throughout the week and the build up to it. We are incredibly proud of the resilience and positive attitudes shown by all pupils.

Educational visits have continued to provide valuable experiences for our children, with Year 1 and Year 2 set to enjoy a trip to Lyme Regis to build on their history project learning about Mary Anning.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Baldwin-Wheat to the school this term in her role as SENDCo and look forward to the expertise and support she will bring to the school community.

Looking ahead, we are planning a programme of improvements to sections of the school fencing in order to further enhance the safety and security of the school site for pupils, staff and visitors. These works will help ensure that the school environment remains secure, well maintained and fit for purpose for the future.

We also have further staffing changes on the horizon. Following a great deal of reflection after a period of leave, Mrs Constanza has made the decision not to return to her role as Head Teacher at Catcott. We would like to thank her for her commitment and contribution to the school and wish her all the very best for the future. The process to recruit a new Head Teacher will begin shortly and we will keep the community updated as this progresses.

I hope this is suitable?

Emma Shepherd

Office Manager

Catcott Primary School

01278 722527

At Catcott Primary School, we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. If you have a concern, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Hyland or Miss Lintern. Alternatively, you can telephone Children's Social Care on: 0300 123 2224. The information in this message should be regarded as confidential and is intended for the addressee only. If you have received this message in error, please permanently delete it and inform the sender.

J A F Luttrell Memorial Charity report for Edington Parish Council AGM 2026

The J A F Luttrell Memorial Charity gives grants to those in 'need, hardship and distress' and is of assistance to those residents in difficulty in Edington, Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington. The Trustees meet twice yearly (spring and autumn) and applications should 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. At all times we ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission recommendations regarding safeguarding, and data protection.

Our Safeguarding policy has been reviewed by Spark Somerset (support for charities and community groups in Somerset through advice, training, funding guidance and volunteer support). We are also exploring a route for basic DBS for all trustees via an umbrella organisation. Trustees, Rosemary Tucker and Catherine Andrews met with the Village Agent, Daniel Bell, to discuss what we may be able to do for each other. It was agreed that we would provide his details to any applicants where his support could be to their advantage and he would in turn give our details to anyone in our area of benefice who he identified as being eligible to apply for a grant.

Following the notices of the sale of the estate of the late Adrian Moon it was apparent there was some confusion between the J A F Luttrell Memorial Charity and The Mostyn Owen Trust. A statement has been publicised stating there is no connection.

Since the last AGM the Charity has distributed 31 planters most of which were post bereavement, a few post illness or surgery and a Christmas gift where a hamper was not appropriate & 3 Christmas hampers were given. Grants were awarded to enable a student to attend summer camp, the purchase of a self-propelled wheelchair for a student going to university (the NHS waiting list was so long they were unable to wait) and 2 separate grants for heating and one for counselling support.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need, 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. Applications can be sent to JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com or by contacting a Trustee as detailed in our local advertising.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Friday 23th October 2026

Trustees: Dr Simon Hayne, Catherine Andrews,
Rosemary Tucker, Anita Hayne, Rev Andrew Stevens

Report to Edington and Catcott Parish Council Annual General Meeting
by Catherine Andrews, Edington Parish Council representative. May 2025

THE VILLAGE HALL, EDINGTON – CHAIRS REPORT MAY 2026

The Village Hall continues to play an important role at the heart of our community, providing a welcoming space for residents, local groups, meetings, celebrations, and events throughout the year.

We are pleased that the hall remains well used by a variety of regular clubs, community activities, and private hirers. It is encouraging to see people of all ages continuing to make use of the facility, helping to keep the hall active and valued within the village. This past year saw Edington Parish Council move their meetings to our committee room and hold some larger meetings in our main hall, as well as successfully hosting their long standing village clean up too.

Over recent months, the committee and volunteers have continued working hard to maintain and improve the building and surrounding areas. Having fully striped and resurfaced our much loved floor already this year, routine maintenance and smaller improvement projects have been carried out to ensure the hall remains safe, comfortable, and fit for purpose for everyone who uses it. We have more larger projects in the pipeline to rejuvenate our now aging facility.

Like many community spaces, the hall continues to face challenges from increasing running and maintenance costs. Despite this, we remain committed to keeping the hall affordable and accessible for local residents and community groups wherever possible having ensured some local initiatives have been able to access our use when they need too in order to assist larger projects.

The committee would like to thank all volunteers, regular users, supporters and the Parish Council for their continued encouragement and support. The goodwill and involvement of the local community remain essential to the ongoing success of the Village Hall.

Looking ahead we have plans to continue improving the facilities, encouraging wider community use, and supporting events and activities that bring residents together and strengthen community spirit within the village.

Sam Charlesworth

Chair to The Village Hall, Edington

Read: RE: Edington and District History Group

4 emails

clerk <clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Parish Clerk <clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Tue, 12 May 2026 15:25:47 +0100

To "phil"<phil@chaplinp.plus.com>

Your message

To: "Parish Clerk"<clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Edington and District History Group

Sent: Mon, 11 May 2026 19:51:18 +0100

was read on Tue, 12 May 2026 15:25:46 +0100

phil@chaplinp.plus.com <phil@chaplinp.plus.com>

Mon, 11 May 2026 19:51:22 +0100

To "Parish Clerk"<clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Hi Julia

I can give you the brief report I supplied for the ESR AGM:

My thanks to Nadia for continuing the archivist's duties. That was always the 'must do' activity, even if we were unable (as we have been) to give full attention to the EDHG's other activities.

As long as the archive is maintained, there is a solid base to (re)build on for when we can get enthusiasm going again.

Patsy Atkins offered to revive some monthly meetings. The first, on March 23rd, was attended by 10 people. We await to see if the next 2 which are planned for Apr and May bring out any more bodies, and whether any of them are prepared to help run more meetings and/or other activities.

To re-cap, our aims and activities have encompassed:

- To maintain an archive of local materials, which can be made accessible for researchers etc;
- To publish and sell publications – there is still a stock of most of the previously prepared booklets, mostly centred on local churches and their records;
- To run talks and other events and visits.

The publication on Chilton Polden Church is still 90% ready. John Rigler has been working with Chris Lush, but Chris' health has slowed things down. I am also due to take some 'better' photos to go in the booklet, but the weather throughout the winter pushed this down the priorities.

I am the sole member of the pre-Covid Steering Group still 'standing'. At some point we need to revive this Group in order to refresh and move forward with expanding what EDHG does.

Hope that is useful

Regards

①

EDINGTON SCHOOL ROOM

Church Road, Edington, Somerset, TA7 9JT

Charity No 1098952
(Incorporating the Vale Charity)

Chairman's Report for the 2026 Annual General Meeting

The last year has flown by since our last meeting. The school rooms are in fair order, however, I am aware that this IS the year that ongoing maintenance and repairs must be addressed to prevent further decay, such as damp issues and redecorations.

The School Room social media is slowly moving in a direction. We have put up a poster in the village store regarding booking the School Rooms for small events. There is now a Facebook page in relation to events being held at the School Rooms. Martin advises that some new bookings and/or interest have come forward this year, which is positive since Covid affected social gatherings. We will discuss the improvements to be made to the school room to ensure that it is a desirable place to visit and hire, and we will discuss these in our meeting following the AGM.

The History Group has returned thanks to Patsy. The first meeting was held in March 2026 and had a successful turnout. Others are booked for the coming month, which we look forward to.

Martin Olive has also taken around further people interested in hiring the rooms, which is positive news.

Nadia has been looking after the historical archives for the past year, and we need to arrange a meeting to discuss any further storage requirements or help that is required.

I am unaware of any contributions that we may well have received this year, but I hope to get up to speed with further information in our meeting to follow.

We have experienced another wet and long winter. The school rooms have suffered further damp issues, which unfortunately were not resolved last year. Therefore, quotes are being carried out for the works from reliable contractors. The pointing will be carried out by me over the summer months. Would Kim confirm the amount of money obtained from the Polden Post towards the damp issues last year?

The neighbour, Adrian, kindly cuts the lawn at the front of the building. There is a lot of moss in the lawn that needs to be treated, which Alex Whittingham has volunteered to take care of in the coming months. It may be for a while that the lawn will be out of bounds while it recovers.

The regular Book Swaps and Coffee Mornings continue to be a popular monthly event, allowing villagers to gather and acquire new reading material. The committee has, over the years, put together a Book Swap Rota (not set in stone) that allows flexibility for other members when they are busy, while ensuring the event still takes place on the agreed-upon dates.

Our Winter Warmer in late January was again a success, with a full house enjoying the various soups on offer. Thank you to all who organised and to those who participated. This is an essential event of the year, marking the end of a long winter.

We have now located both the leases for the land belonging to the school rooms and will discuss the continued rent allowance for these in our meeting, as well as whether and when it will be necessary to increase any rents. Both parcels of land are being maintained adequately.

ESR

(2)

The financial position of the school rooms remains healthy, and with the benefit of the grant, we will be able to utilise the existing funds more effectively.

This has been our second year with a new committee, and I am pleased that everyone works diligently to ensure the smooth operation of the building. Now, more established, we will be able to move forward in securing the future success of The Edington School Rooms and become an integral part of the village.

Thank you to all the committee members for their continued support.

Catherine Whittingham,
Chairman, ESR,
14th April 2026



Cllr Harry Munt < harry.munt@somerset.gov.uk >

Tue, 12 May 2026 19:06:23 +0100

To "Catcott Parish Clerk" < clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk >

Hi Julia, below is the annual report

Over the past year, the Council's financial position has improved significantly, with the funding gap reduced from £101 million to £25 million. This has been supported by £30 million in Government funding, alongside a Council Tax increase - still keeping Somerset below neighbouring counties rates. Around two-thirds of Council Tax continues to fund adult and children's social care, where demand remains high, but the Council has maintained a balanced budget each year since its formation in 2023.

- Highways remain a major focus following an exceptionally wet winter. Over 16,000 road defects have been reported since January, with thousands of potholes already repaired and additional repair teams deployed. A further £5 million investment will improve long-term road maintenance, and Somerset continues to be rated among the best in the South West for road condition.
- Following severe weather earlier this year, the Council and partners responded rapidly to flooding risks. Looking ahead, a £4 million Somerset Rivers Authority programme will support flood prevention work, including natural flood management and community grants, while keeping the drainage levy unchanged.
- Investment in transport and connectivity is progressing, including £730,000 for the Strawberry Line active travel route and consultation on improving rural "green lanes" for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders. In addition, over £24 million in Government funding has been secured to improve bus services, particularly for rural communities.
- Finally, key developments in housing, planning and services include new zero-carbon council homes in Minehead, approving the refurbishment of Yeovil's octagon theatre, plans for additional special educational needs school places, and continued improvements in adult social care through the "My Life, My Future" programme. Recycling services are also expanding, particularly for flats, ensuring more households can access comprehensive recycling collections.

EDINGTON FUTURE GROUP AND LAND SALE UPDATE

Thank you to all who attended the Edington Village Hall meeting on 18th April. Approximately 80 residents were there, demonstrating just how much we all care about our wonderful village. For those who could not attend, here is a quick overview of what was covered by Brian Bradshaw (EFG Chair):

- A brief overview of the **Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-32**. Undoubtedly, Edington will be under pressure in future years to provide land for housing development; it has only contributed 1 new home compared to an average 36 required from a typical Tier 3 rated village between 2015 and 2032. Almost certainly some will need to come from greenfield sites. Consultation was due to commence on the new **Somerset Local Plan 2029 – 2045** in April. Whilst we do not know what the requirements on us of that will be, there was a strong feeling amongst the 18th April attendees that the village must be proactive in preparing for them.
- The **Edington Future Group** has been set up in order to provide that proactive focus. It is not there to block all and any planning applications. Edington needs a sensible number of new houses, in the right places, to provide opportunities for youngsters to buy and remain in the Poldens. If nothing is done, the village will lose its soul. Already, Catcott School has suffered a large reduction in the number of pupils; a worrying key sign. Edington Parish Council is urgently assessing whether it will create an official **Neighbourhood Plan**, with statutory relevance, that will be adopted within the new Somerset Local Plan; if it goes ahead, the EFG will play a key role in ensuring it reflects the views and needs of Edington villagers.
- Maps/plans of the current Edington development boundary and the 26 Mostyn Owen Trust lots were shown. 25 lots will be auctioned on 5th May. At the meeting several villagers confirmed they would be bidding. Since the 18th, the EFG has been working hard to establish who else wishes to bid. At least 15 lots will have residents bidding. Many have more than one resident prepared to bid – they are talking to each other to establish how they will conduct the bidding – as a syndicate to establish tenancies in common, or single purchase without risking competing with each other. Local farmers are very keen to purchase as well – where appropriate, alongside other residents.
- The possibility of creating a fighting fund was discussed, primarily to afford the services of legal and planning expertise when needed. Also, a separate investment fund for future land purchase, either for controlled potential development, or perhaps for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The names of the EFG members is given below. We have created a dedicated email address: edingtonfuturegroup@gmail.com for all queries and we invite anyone we are not aware of who is planning to bid on 5th May to let us know, so we can put you in touch with others where appropriate.

A suggested template for an Edington multiple resident lot purchase has been designed – assuming tenancy in common. Please contact us via the email address if you would like a copy ahead of 5th May.

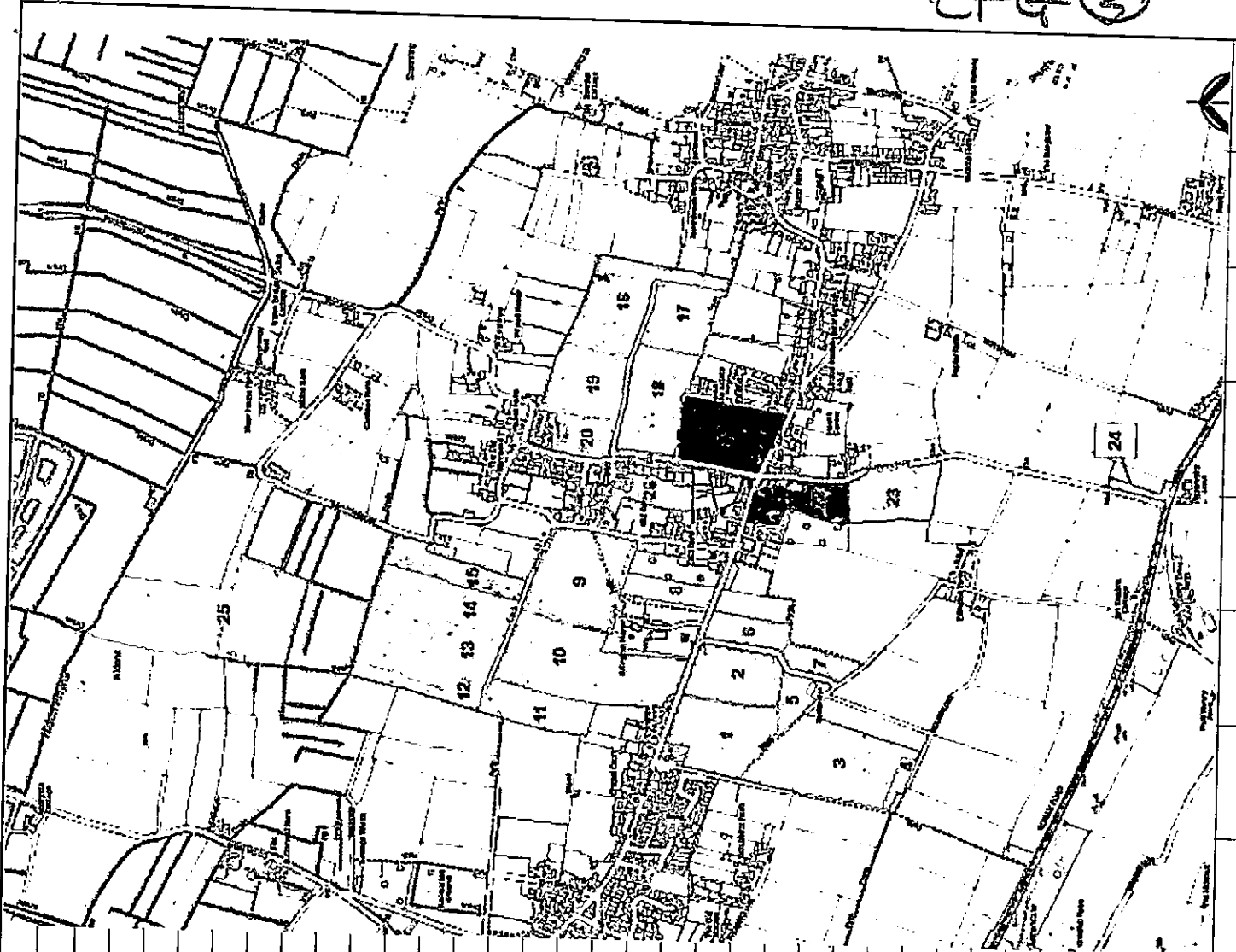
Next Steps

- An EFG communications WhatsApp group will soon be created. If you wish to be kept up to date with future news concerning planning/development and the imminent land sales please **send your name and mobile phone number to edingtonfuturegroup@gmail.com** – include your email address if you wish. We will not be issuing more regular flyers.
- As soon as possible after 5th May we will update you with our understanding of the ownership position of as many lots as possible – without naming individual names.
- We will communicate information about the sale details for lot 26 and the individual Mostyn Owen cottages (primarily in and around The Walls) as soon as we know them.
- We have begun the process of identifying a suitable bank account as the first step towards creation of the above mentioned funds.
- We are actively investigating the legal land tenure position and any possible covenants pertaining to lot 26.
- EFG meets again on 8th May to pull together post 5th May plans.

Once again, do please send your contact details to edingtonfuturegroup@gmail.com -it would be great to ensure we are getting the views of as many villagers as possible in the coming weeks, months and years – this is a long-term project with much shorter-term impetus!

EFG members

Brian Bradshaw (Chairman)
Martin Olive (Deputy Chairman and Secretary)
Simon Michell (Treasurer)
Lucy Marsh
Lucy Shepherd



MOSTYN OWEN LOT PURCHASERS				11-May-26
LOT	PURCHASER STATUS	WHERE PURCHASED	GUIDE PRICE (£K)	SALE PRICE (£K)
1	Local farmer	Auction	100 to 140	235
2	Developer	Auction	75 to 90	110
3	Local farmer	Auction	85 to 115	135
4	Edington villager	Proxy	8 to 12	42
5	Villager	Auction	35 to 45	91
6	Unknown	Online	35 to 40	72
7	Unknown	Online	25 to 30	52
8	Edington villager	Auction	40 to 60	110
9	Edington villager	Auction	120 to 140	154
10	Edington villager	Auction	160 to 180	194
11	Local farmer	Auction	45 to 55	75
12	Local farmer	Auction	25 to 30	55
13	Local farmer	Auction	70 to 90	150
14	Local farmer	Auction	55 to 70	116
15	Local farmer	Auction	40 to 50	82
16	Local farmer	Auction	80 to 100	79
17	Local farmer	Auction	55 to 65	72
18	Local farmer	Auction	90 to 100	161
19	Local farmer	Auction	60 to 75	110
20	Local farmer	Auction	50 to 60	106
21	Unknown	Online	100 to 130	210
22	Poldens villager	Auction	60 to 80	150
23	Poldens villager	Online	60 to 80	116
24	Unknown	Online	15 to 20	44
25	Local farmer	Auction	140 to 170	238
26	For auction 11th June	For auction 11th June		
	Total			2959
Lotting map reproduced from Auction media provided by Cooper & Tanner				

St. George's Wardens/Fabric Report for APCM 2026 reviewing 2025

Accessibility plan: there is reasonable access along the path and into the church. There is also wheel chair access to the altar. No plan to improve at the present, as it is adequate.

Health and Safety – a risk assessment is carried out each time there is an event and are discussed at the friends meeting.

Overview:

Fundraising - St. George's church has a small 'Friends Group' who organise events and raised £1,775.45p. during 2025. Events included coffee mornings, providing money for the church and a much needed meeting point in the community. This year we held a special gift day with tea and coffee and cakes and a plants sale at the church. We held our annual cream tea, a harvest lunch and a Christmas card delivery service.

Fair trade - at the moment we are buying fair-trade goods at the supermarket.

Churchyard – we are part of 'Caring for Gods Acre' scheme. The grass is left to grow allowing wild life to blossom. Many different insects and butterflies now visit the churchyard and wild orchids are seen in the summer. Paths are cut to enable graves to be attended.

Flower group – chair person Margaret Tolchard, organises the rota; they provide beautiful displays throughout the year. Thank you to all on the group.

Outreach:

Macmillan's Cancer Research – Coffee afternoon and raffle which raised £260 .

Stamps are collected for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Food bank - There is a box at the back of the church for donations, organised by Anita Hayne from St. Edwards, Chilton Polden..

Services in 2024:

St. Georges' has one regular holy communion service each month and one informal service with Polden Praise Music Group every other month. We also host a monthly mid-week communion service led by retired Revd. Andrew Stevens. Thank you to all those who help make our services possible.

Carol Service December 18th, 26 attended.

Nativity on Christmas Eve – attended by approximately 60 adults and 15 children. Thank you to Jemma for organising this event.

There were no weddings, no baptisms and two funeral's and one memorial at St. George's during 2025.

The church is open between 10am and 4pm, later in the summer. There is a visitor's book and welcome leaflet about the church. There is also a booklet on the history of the church and record of graves which was updated in 2020 by the Edington and District History Group and is on sale at £4.00. We continue to manage the churchyard as in 'Caring for God's Acre' leaving the grass uncut to attract wildlife such as wild orchids, butterflies and other insects. During the spring we are blessed with snowdrops, hundreds of daffodils and primroses.

Fabric

The structure of the church is satisfactory. There has been rain coming in the holes of the bell ropes making the paint fall off on the inside wall. The architect suggested larger cowels on the ropes. I have asked three builders, so far, who all said it would be very expensive to get the scaffold up to the height of the bells on the roof and have never come back to me. I am hoping to get it done this year by a builder who has said yes and that it would not cost so much. When it has been done we also need to wait for the inside wall to dry out and have it repainted. The fire extinguisher and PAT testing have been carried out this year and certificates filed. The log book and Inventory are up to date.