

EDINGTON PARISH MEETING 2024/2025

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2025 in the Committee Room, the Village Hall

- APM 24/25 1 PRESENT - Cllr Charlesworth (in the Chair) and 10 members of the public.
- APM 24/25 2 APOLOGIES were received from the Clerk who would be a little late, the Village Agent and the Police.
- APM 24/25 3 IN ATTENDANCE - S Vine (standing in for the Clerk).
- APM 24/25 4 WELCOME - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- APM 24/25 5 MINUTES of the previous Parish Meeting dated 12th May 2022 were approved for signature.
- APM 24/25 6 IN ATTENDANCE - the Parish Council clerk arrived during the third report and took over from S Vine.
- APM 24/25 7 REPORTS were given as follows and will be attached to the minutes as appendices.

After each report there was an opportunity for questions.

- a. Parish Council - Chairman's report - S Charlesworth
- b. Catcott School - Mrs Constanza (Headteacher)
- c. Edington School Room (incorporating the Vale Charity) - Catherine Whittingham
- d. JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - Catherine Andrews
- e. ST George's Church - Rosemary Tilbury
- f. Edington and District History Group - Phil Chaplin
- g. Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground - Mike Kennedy
- h. Parish Council - Accounts. Verbal report given. The Clerk answered one question.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm and was followed by the annual meeting of the Parish Council.

EDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIR REPORT

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of Edington Parish Council since May 2024. Over the past year, we have seen meaningful progress, active community involvement, and continued efforts to care for and improve our village.

We recommissioned the village defibrillator and added a bleed kit—an important addition to our emergency readiness. We plan to organise training sessions for the community in the coming months to ensure everyone feels confident using these life-saving tools.

We officially gifted the solar panels to the village and subscribed to the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), underlining our commitment to sustainability and protecting our rural environment.

In a lasting tribute to our late Chairman, Cllr Brian Tilbury, we have purchased a memorial bench which will be installed at the Holy Well in due course

Our March village cleanup saw groundbreaking attendance, allowing us to cover not only main areas but footpaths as well—thank you to everyone who turned out to help.

The formation of the Edington Willing Helpers has been a tremendous success. This group has become an invaluable part of village life, responding swiftly to issues, repairing damage, and keeping drains and ditches monitored. The increased sense of community has been particularly heartwarming. One resident recently told me they no longer feel alone when issues arise—something that truly embodies the spirit we are working to build. I would like to thank all the residents of Edington for their hard work and involvement in the last year.

The council has reviewed numerous planning applications and continued its footpath monitoring, with thanks to Martin Olive for his ongoing oversight.

Flooding and ditch maintenance remain a pressing concern, and we have made this a priority. Although this is an ongoing challenge, we are committed to sustained efforts and communication, particularly with highways, despite the frustrations this can bring.

We also began analysing data from our speed indicator device, which showed that approximately 250,000 vehicles passed through Edington in a year. Unfortunately, the unit was recently vandalised, but we're pleased to report that the damage is not irreparable and it will soon be back in place.

We have worked hard to refine and optimise the village budget. This has meant a necessary increase in the precept, but it enables us to continue vital maintenance and projects for the good of the whole village.

We continue to support the church with an annual grant, and have now extended grants to Catcott School and, moving forward, the School Room. These contributions help strengthen community life across all age groups.

Following resident feedback, we have relocated our meetings to the Village Hall. We hope this change will encourage better attendance and more active participation.

Looking ahead, we aim to:

- Continue focused work on flooding and drainage
- Host a second village cleanup later this year
- Begin restoration and beautification of the Holy Well
- Install additional dog and waste bins across the village
- Continue to fine tune finances and apply for grants
- Launch a village newsletter to improve communication and transparency
- Improve our website

We invite all residents to share feedback, ideas, or concerns with any of your councillors—we are here to listen and to serve.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Cllrs Vine, Heale, Welch, and Gowing for their tireless work. We are a strong team and I deeply value the role each one of us plays in serving Edington.

Finally, and by no means least, an enormous thank you to our long-suffering Clerk. Your dedication, patience, and hard work underpin everything we do—you support both the council and the village and we are deeply grateful.

Long may this spirit of community, collaboration, and care continue.

CLLR SAMANTHA CHARLESWORTH

Update to Edington Parish Council

As we reflect on the period since September 2024, it has been an exceptionally vibrant and rewarding time at the school. With the arrival of the summer term, there is a palpable sense of energy in every classroom, amplified by the sunshine and the wealth of learning and creative opportunities available to our students.

During the spring term, our core values of Curiosity, Creativity, and Compassion have been prominently demonstrated throughout the school community.

World Book Day, held in early March, was a resounding success. We celebrated the works of Rachel Bright through engaging activities inspired by her beloved books. The children embraced the day with imaginative costumes, bringing to life characters such as witches, dragons, superheroes, princesses, and even a dinosaur! The staff also participated enthusiastically, dressing as their favourite children's book characters. I had the pleasure of embodying Mildred Hubble, while Mrs. Gibbons captured attention with her exceptional portrayal of Miss Trunchbull.

Our School Council once again organised the highly anticipated 'Break the Rules Day' in support of Comic Relief. The most popular "rule to break" was bringing an unhealthy snack, with some particularly creative choices, including a bacon roll! It was a day filled with laughter and enjoyment, while also raising funds for a worthy cause.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jo Horn and the team at Millfield for their invaluable contribution to Science Week. The two-day workshop provided students with the opportunity to explore real-life animal skins and skeletons, as well as interact with fascinating creatures such as Giant African Land Snails, Salamanders, Tortoises, Locusts, and Cockroaches. It was inspiring to witness the children's enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the experience.

Additionally, we were honoured to welcome Paralympian Katrina Hart, who visited as part of our Great Athletes session. The children participated in sponsored fitness circuits, raising money for both the charity and the school.

As the weeks continue to pass in a whirlwind of learning, creativity, and laughter, we look forward to the opportunities and experiences the remainder of the school year will bring.

Mrs. Constanza
Headteacher

HM
2025

EDINGTON SCHOOL ROOM
Church Road, Edington, Somerset, TA7 9JT
Charity No 1098952
(Incorporating the Vale Charity)

Chairman's Report for the 2025 Annual General Meeting

The Edington School rooms have undergone some changes in the last year, following John Rigler's resignation after many years of serving on the committee and overseeing the School rooms to ensure all was running smoothly and efficiently. The gauntlet has been passed to me, and I would like to thank John for the information he has imparted and for ensuring a smooth transition. We still have much to learn, but we have all resumed our new roles and continue to participate in the successful book swap, which takes place monthly.

We were sad to learn of the passing of Geoff Quick, who was in charge of the Historical archiving in the School Rooms. Another invaluable member of the community, who without his commitment would have allowed this history to be lost to future generations. The task has now been handed over to Nadia, who is responsible for the historical archives.

We want to extend our thanks to the following individuals for their kind contributions to the School Room in 2024. It is greatly appreciated, as these gifts will enable us to continue operating and maintaining the building for the future.

We have received gifts from the following in 2024.

- £25.00 from Fiona regarding Geoff's memorial and the hard work he gave in keeping the archive together for future generations to explore.
- A donation of £168.15 was received from Jane Buckingham-Brown.
- A further £100.00 was received from Jane's daughter.

Following a long, cold, albeit dry winter, this has ensured that the school rooms have weathered the months without any further issues to the building.

Thanks to Kim and Julie for their efforts in obtaining a grant from the Polden Post to support the repairs to the damp in the building and the installation of a new bench. I have contacted Jon Stepney to enquire when he will be able to commence the works to the pointing and the internal damp issues.

The Edington Parish Council has now relocated its meetings to the village hall. However, the council continues to donate its booking fee to the school's rooms.

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 introduced a Book Swap Rota (not set in stone), which allows flexibility for other members when they are busy with life but ensures that the event will still take 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.

JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY

The JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity was founded in 1898 by Mrs Luttrell of Edington Manor to benefit the sick poor of Edington. Over the years this has been modified to 'need, hardship and distress' and to be assistance in times of difficulty for the residents of Edington, Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington.

The Charity has no connection to the Mostyn Owen Trust or the estate of the late Adrian Moon.

As in previous years the trustees continue to be proactive by advertising locally, to seek out people and organisations who may benefit under the conditions laid down. We advertise on a regular basis in the Polden Post, and in the village hall PowerPoint presentations at local events, prior to our twice yearly, meetings. We also post notification of the next meeting in all villages in the area of benefit and on the Parish Council and village websites and with the co-operation of Gill Bertolucci, the Carers Champion, we have details in the surgery at Edington. At all times we ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission recommendations regarding safeguarding, and data protection. We have completed our review of GDPR and, since our last report, Trustee Anita Hayne has completed a safeguarding training course. We are currently reviewing our safeguarding policy and have been given useful guidance from Spark Somerset.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need. During the past 12 months we have continued to see the effect of the cost of living crisis in the grant applications. This year grants have assisted with heating oil, furniture and household items and hospital travel costs. We send flowers following bereavements and illness and to help support those going through difficult times, also gifts at Christmas to help lighten burdens at a time that may not be happy for everyone. The Charity will continue to support general grants if funds are available. All grants are in confidence and paid on receipt of invoice or in some circumstances a money grant is awarded.

The Trustees meet twice yearly (spring and autumn) and normally all applications need to 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. We often rely on a third party bringing a case of need to us, 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 24th October 2025

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

Trustees

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

St. George's Wardens report 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.

Fundraising - St. George's church has a small 'Friends Group' who organise events and raised £1,775.45p. during 2024. Events included coffee mornings, providing money for the church and a much needed meeting point in the community. This year we held a gift day with coffee served outside the church. We held our annual cream tea, a harvest lunch and a Christmas card delivery service.

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 - chairperson Margaret Tolchard, organises the rota; they provide beautiful displays throughout the year. Thank you to all on the group.

Newcomers - All receive a welcome letter from the church community, welcoming them to the village, informing them of spokes, (church leaflet).

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.

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.

Carol Service December 16th 26 attended.

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

There was one wedding, one baptism and three funeral's at St. George's during 2024.

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.

In 2024 despite the generosity of the community in Edington, fund raising events, legacies and generous donations made by some of our parishioners on a monthly/annual standing order. The Parish Council have previously and continue to give us a generous grant of £500 towards the cost of churchyard maintenance we did not raise enough to cover all the payments that the church had to make. Excess payments over receipts was £1,222.86. All the church expenses are met from service offerings, fees from weddings and funerals. This year we needed to have the trees pollard at a cost of £1700.

We also need to maintain the church building and at the moment rain comes in through the rope holes in the roof, making the inside of the west wall damp, We have been told by the architect that we just need bigger cowles on the rope to stop this happening. However, this is not as simple as it sounds as the church roof is so high, we would need scaffolding to get up there, which is expensive. We also lost a tile on the roof in the very high wind which needed scaffolding to replace costing us £500 to replace one tile.

*Big Safeguarding Project
under way.*

Rosemary Tilbury (churchwarden)

R Tilbury

7/5/25

APM
2025

Subject: RE: Annual Parish Meeting
From: "Phil Chaplin" <phil@chaplinp.plus.com>
Date: 30/04/2025, 15:24
To: "'Edington Parish Council'" <edingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com>

Hi Julia

EDHG

Regretfully, the EDHG is still moribund.

Having lost both Geoff Quick (archivist) and John Rigler (publications and more) recently, we effectively have no committee left.

John arranged for Nadia Wilson to take over monitoring the archive; and the finances are being managed within the ESR committee.

We did run a couple of talks/displays, thanks to Patsy Atkins, but there is nobody prepared/able to put together a full programme of events currently – which is what we would need to rebuild awareness and interest.

The website is still functional, but has not been updated for some time (as nothing has changed!)

Regards

Phil

From: Edington Parish Council
Sent: 23 April 2025 13:55
To: Phil Chaplin <phil@chaplinp.plus.com>
Subject: Fwd: Annual Parish Meeting

Hello Phil

Any chance of a report from the History Group for Catcott and Edington Parish Meetings?

Our Annual Parish Meeting in Edington is due to take place on Thursday 8th May.

As usual you are cordially invited to submit a report on behalf of the body/group you represent.us.com

It would be greatly appreciated if you would let me have a copy of your written report prior to the meeting. If for any reason you are unable to attend or send a deputy we will be able to give your report to the meeting.

Reports are not minuted in detail but the written reports are attached to the minutes as appendices.

I attach a copy of the agenda together with a copy of last year's APM minutes with attached reports and we look forward to seeing you at this year's meeting.

Kind regards

Julia Marshall

--

Julia Marshall
Clerk to Edington Parish Council



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground - Please find below a formal update regarding the cricket bat willow trees planted on the Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground (BTMG) in February 2023. This report outlines the current progress of the plantation, projected outcomes, and key next steps. I would be happy to address any questions or provide further clarification if needed.

Edington Willow Plantation – Parish Council Update - May 2025

Summary of Progress

The cricket bat willow plantation on the Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground (BTMG), established in February 2023, continues to show encouraging development. Now entering its third growing season, the majority of trees are thriving, with healthy growth and strong structural form. This supports the long-term viability of the site as a sustainable source of high-quality willow for cricket bat production.

Site Condition and Observations

A 3-metre-wide access pathway is proposed to be created and maintained on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between the cultivator and Edington Parish. This is intended to provide essential maintenance access and also serve as a quiet, natural space for public enjoyment.

As the cultivator, I will continue to manage all tree-related maintenance and pruning activities throughout the life of the plantation.

Projected Value

Cricket bat willow trees typically reach maturity between 15–18 years. Based on current market valuations:

Estimated value per mature tree: £580–£650

Total projected value of the plantation: £58,000–£65,000

Edington Parish profit share (50%): £29,000–£32,500

The todd bed trees are expected to be ready for harvest in 2030, with the main plantation trees forecast for harvest between 2038 and 2042.

Next Steps

Replant failed trees in winter 2025

Undertake undergrowth clearance in the todd bed area

Establish the proposed central pathway

Continue routine site monitoring and biannual growth reviews

Conclusion

The plantation continues to progress well and remains on track to deliver both environmental and financial value to Edington Parish. While anticipated government grants were withdrawn at short notice, we remain committed to the project and will actively pursue alternative funding opportunities to support ongoing maintenance.

Please note that I must stress that burning of waste on or near the site needs to be avoided, as this could jeopardise future eligibility for funding and grants.

We are optimistic about the continued development of the plantation and look forward to it becoming a lasting community asset for future generations.

Mike Kennedy
World Class Willow
Unit 9 Suprema Business Estate
Edington
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA79LF

Edington - Accounts Summary

Edlington – Accounts Summary									
			£	£	£	£	£	Council	Variance
								£	
Ring Fenced Balances at 1st April 2024									
Environment			98.77						
Ring fenced at 30/06/24			330.00						
OIL			0.00						
Highways			1,274.18						
Total Ring Fenced			1,702.95						
Bank Balances at 1st April 2024									
Current Account				0.00					
Reserve Account b/f				8,504.20					
Net Funds Available							8,504.20		
Receipts									
Input VAT repaid by HMRC			837.50		199.38				
Precept			7,500.00			10,000.00			
OIL			0.00		0.00				
CPC Defibrillator			0.00		332.25				
Nat West Interest			155.50		173.43				
Environment/booklets			158.50		85.50				
Jubilee grant			0.00		0.00				
Balance required from Climate Fund			0.00		0.00				
					0.00				
						790.56			
							19,294.76		
Payments									
Staff Costs:									
Clerk's Salary			3,989.76		4,980.75				4,500
Administration:									
Telephone			114.00		114.00				120
Broadband			92.04		92.04				97
Postage			18.24		25.60				17
Office Equipment & software			40.00		0.00				42
Ink & office sundries			0.00		5.24				175
Stationery & Printing			59.65		58.73				60
Website			266.18		298.38				105
Office Accommodation			120.00		120.00				126
Subscriptions			184.77		230.34				203
Data Protection			40.00		52.00				53
					996.33				1,000
Other:									
Monthly Meeting Room Hire			225.00		262.00				236
Mileage Allowance			149.76		91.30				159
Insurance			432.96		241.00				489
Fees - audit			20.00		20.00				22
Environment			578.72		927.42				813
Training & Courses			0.00		113.00				300
Election expenses			0.00		0.00				200
Bus Shelter			0.00		0.00				126
Brian's Bench			0.00		0.00				0.00

Edlington – Nat West Current & Reserve Accounts cashflow 2024-2025

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	TOTAL	Precept	Difference
B/F	8,504.20												8,504.20		
Bank Balances at 30/04/24															
Salary	332.48	332.48	332.48	713.82	388.70	388.70	388.70	493.07	405.08	405.08	405.08	405.08	4,990.75	4,500.00	-490.75 Salary
Telephone	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	114.00	120.00	6.00 Telephone
Broadband	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	7.67	92.04	97.00	4.96 Broadband
P&P	0.90	0.30	4.10	1.90	1.80	1.80	0.95	7.25	2.70	2.85	0.95	1.90	25.60	17.00	-8.60 P&P
Software/office equipment													0.00	42.00	42.00 Software/office equipment
Stationery & Printing	4.90	9.10	4.50	2.25		3.75	6.13	5.75	5.35	7.00	2.50	7.50	58.73	60.00	1.27 Stationery & Printing
Office sundries & ink									5.24				5.24	176.00	170.76 Office sundries & ink
Website									298.38				298.38	105.00	-193.38 Website
Office accommodation	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	120.00	126.00	6.00 Office accommodation
Subscriptions				40.00	115.34			75.00					230.34	203.00	-27.34 Subscriptions
Data Protection												52.00	52.00	53.00	1.00 Data Protection
Audit fees		20.00											20.00	22.00	2.00 Audit fees
													0.00		0.00
													0.00		0.00
													0.00		0.00
Nidon Land			3.74										3.74	500.00	496.26 Nidon Land
Room hire				220.00					42.00				262.00	236.00	-26.00 Room hire
Mileage and parking	12.80	29.01	8.53	12.80		12.80	7.68	7.68					91.30	159.00	67.70 Mileage and parking
Insurance	19.98	241.00											241.00	489.00	248.00 Insurance
Environment		311.28		131.56						162.50	240.50	61.60	927.42	813.00	-114.42 Environment
Training/courses							35.00	78.00					113.00	300.00	187.00 Training/courses
Election													0.00	200.00	200.00 Election
Defibrillator	206.95											417.74	624.69	225.00	-399.69 Defibrillator
													0.00		0.00
Highways													0.00	1,155.00	1,155.00 Highways
Bus Shelter													0.00	126.00	126.00 Bus Shelter
Neighbourhood Watch													0.00	0.00	0.00 Neighbourhood Watch
Holy Well & Bench		400.00									413.59	47.90	861.49	525.00	-336.49 Holy Well & Bench
													0.00		0.00
Contingencies													0.00	100.00	100.00 Contingencies
Sundry			19.99										19.99	53.00	33.01 Sundry
Special events													0.00	184.00	184.00 Special events
Poppy Wreath and Xmas tree							25.00		65.00				90.00	28.00	-62.00 Poppy Wreath and Xmas tree
													0.00		0.00
Village Hall Grant			500.00										500.00	500.00	0.00 Village Hall Grant
Churchyard Grant			500.00										500.00	500.00	0.00 Churchyard Grant
S137 grants													0.00		S137 grants
VAT input tax	40.50	63.85	4.47	27.01		0.70	0.42	0.42	59.68	0.00	109.61	80.37	387.03		VAT input tax
													0.00		
Transfers to funds													0.00		Transfers to funds
													0.00		
SUB TOTAL													-2,124.54		SUB TOTAL
VAT refund													199.38		VAT refund
Precept	10,000.00												10,000.00		Precept
													0.00		
Jubilee Grant													0.00		Jubilee Grant
Nat West interest	10.89	21.54	18.76	20.62	17.09	17.03	15.91	13.81	14.56	12.97	10.25		173.43		Nat West interest
CIL income													0.00		CIL income
Defibrillator – CFC share			123.35									208.90	332.25		Defibrillator – CFC share
Nidon Land													0.00		Nidon Land
Environment	9.00			76.50									85.50		Environment
TOTAL	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	8,666.02		TOTAL

[illegible]