Teams Meeting with Chris Edge, CEO of Edge IT Systems Ltd

2pm Friday 30th October

Present: Richard Wilson (Clerk to Berkswell Parish Council), Charlotte Shadbolt (Chair of Berkswell Parish Council), Chris Edge (CEO Edge IT Systems Ltd)

Purpose of meeting was to see a demonstration of Edge accounting software for Parish Councils.

CE gave a brief introduction to the company and the services provided, accounting support and IT support for Parish Councils, bespoke service for local government.

Have 2 data centres to provide resilience to service. High security, strong disaster recovery and constant back-ups, should a problem occur the maximum input lost would be 30 minutes.

The cost of the service is banded based on income (includes all income, not just precept):

Band	Income	5 year	4 Year	1 Year	Monthly
Band 4	Income up to £250K	£565	£627	£940	£73
Band 5	Income up to £500K	£725	£805	£1208	£121

Balsall PC currently pay for a 5 year accounts package in band 4 and the cemetery add on. Berkswell pay £370 per annum for Scribe accounting package. New council will have income in Band 5, saving £210 per annum.

Edge would be able to set up a training database to enable Berkswell PC to start using the program before the end of the financial year alongside scribe currently used within training if required.

Suggests a brand new chart of accounts is set up for the merged council from 1 April 2027 and this can be loaded in advance along with the new budget. Customer and suppliers should also be transferred in advance and headed stationary and email signatures. Access to the new accounts will be provided to users in advance.

There is training available, there are free webinars and bespoke training can be provided at £80 an hour. There is an end of year webinar which any of the clerks would be welcome to attend.

Recommends RW running all reports required for each year off scribe as PDFs. Request if suppliers, customer details, addresses and emails can be exported by Scribe. CSV files are best for forms such as the chart of accounts.

IT System Support

Discussions around export of historic data from Berkswell PC and Balsall PC into a new Microsoft 365 cloud based system took place. Edge can help with this, would just involve them taking over the 3 laptops over the weekend to access the data and upload it. All historic information would then be available in one place and would save the clerks time.

A quote will be provided for this work along with a contract for IT support. Chris Edge will send this over next week.

Would be useful if work could be done in advance re domain name, website, accounts, data etc. Suggest start talking to Edge about this in January.

Edge Accounts Demo

A demonstration was provided of Edge, how it works and what it can do. Should additional reports be required which are not currently available then request these. If they would be considered useful for other councils Edge will build a new report into the system.

Demonstrated Income and Expenditure accounting on Edge and recommended this is used from day 1.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the Edge accounting system currently used by Balsall PC, recommend proceeding with Edge for the newly merged Parish Council.

Whilst income remains under £250K, there would be no additional cost, although the merged council would quickly fall into the next band, an increase of £160 on current prices.

Await pricing for assistance with historic data transfer and IT support.

Charlotte Shadbolt

1/11/2026