

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL QUATT MALVERN PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH April
2024 AT QUATT VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Lawrence Chitty, Chairman of Quatt Malvern Parish Council

W.S.Griffiths, Clerk to Quatt Malvern Parish Council

Quatt Malvern Parish Council

Cllrs Ms. Siobhan Hunter, Mrs Caroline Hulland, Mrs Jenny Yates and Robert Law.

Shropshire Council

Cllr. Colin Taylor.

National Trust

Messrs. Ewan Chapman and James Lawrence.

Local Organizations

Stephanie Hinton - Quatt Village Hall Committee, Mrs Ann Lee, St.Andrew's Church Quatt

Members of The Public

Six members of the public attended the meeting

1.WELCOME

Councillor Lawrence Chitty welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from West Mercia Police and from South Staffordshire Water.

3.MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11TH May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

5. POLICE REPORT

There were no representatives from the Police present at the meeting.

6. GUEST SPEAKERS

Ewan Chapman and James Lawrence from the National Trust reported on the latest developments with the Sandscape Project, which was to restore historic heath lands. They explained that the project was to conserve nature and improve public access to it. Much of the land which was originally heath land had been subsequently used for agriculture and other purposes, leading to a loss of plant and animal species which would only live on the heath.

Local areas where the Sandscape Project was being applied included Kinver Edge and the Wyre Forest. Apart from the National trust, co-operation was being sought from other landowners such as

Shropshire Council and the Apley Estates and it was hoped that the regenerated areas of heath could eventually be joined up.

Part of the Project involved restoring historic wetlands and encouraging the return of wildlife such as otters. However, there were no plans to introduce beavers.

The officers from the Trust explained that some native plant species could remain dormant in the ground for many years and would grow again if favourable conditions were reinstated.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their presentation.

7. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Colin Taylor, who represented the Alveley and Claverley Division on Shropshire Council, reported on the work of the Unitary Council. The potholes and general condition of the roads in the County were of concern. Problems with theft in rural areas and speeding motorists were being encountered. The Unitary Council were working with the Police to try and address these issues.

Councillor Taylor spoke of the extremely difficult financial situation in which Shropshire Council found itself and the need to find substantial financial savings of circa £60 million to remain solvent.

One proposal of particular concern was the possible closure of either the public recycling centre at Craven Arms or Bridgnorth.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Taylor for attending the meeting and for his report.

8. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF QUATT MALVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Lawrence Chitty reported that it was a great improvement to have an active and committed local member of Shropshire Council following the long period when there was in effect no representative on that body to represent the Parish.

He also spoke of the efforts which the Parish Council were making to try and secure a pedestrian crossing over the A442 in Quatt Village.

Councillor Chitty also reiterated the concerns expressed by Councillor Taylor concerning the condition of the roads in the Parish and that the Parish Council would continue to press the Highways Authority for improvements.

9. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

a) St. Andrew's Church Quatt

Mrs Ann Lee spoke on behalf of the Church. She said that regular services were still taking place and works to the church building were proposed to automate the Clock and to repair the lightning conductor. She thanked the Parish Council for its financial contribution towards the cost of providing a new mower and replacing the noticeboard.

b) Village Hall Committee

Stephanie Hinton reported from the Quatt Village Hall Committee.

The Hall continued to support a wide range of activities, including regular events on the last Thursday of every month for carers to attend and meet people in a similar position and to seek help if needed.

There was also a death café to discuss bereavement and the wishes of people for when they passed away.

The Hall still benefitted from the regular use by local organizations as well as special events such as wedding receptions.

c) Cricket Club

Councillor Caroline Hulland reported on behalf of the Quatt Cricket Club.

There were 3 men's teams and 1 ladies' team plus a mixed junior team which was attracting children locally and from other areas. The Club supported the Whistle Charity which encouraged children from all backgrounds to participate in Sport.

The bad weather meant that there would be a late start to the season as the pitches were not ready.

Mrs Hulland stressed that the Club welcomed local people to use its clubhouse and a social membership of the Club could be obtained.

Finally, she thanked Quatt Farm Shop for allowing the use of their car park.

d) South Staffordshire Water

South Staffordshire Water were unable to provide a representative in person but the following written report on progress with the works to the Hampton Loade treatment works was received:

" The Hampton Loade project is continuing to progress well. The principal construction work is complete, with the main building housing the new ceramic membrane filtration units erected and kitted out. The main activities in relation to this work are now focused on testing ahead of the new filters being brought into commission and water passing through.

- Residents in the vicinity of the treatment works may see a crane on site. This is being used to install covers on the existing water filtration system. We expect this work to be complete by the end of July.

- Work to tidy up the site, and replace kerbs and tarmac is also under way.

- The biggest impact on local residents in the coming months will be related the construction of the new pipeline between Hampton Loade and Severn Trent's water treatment works at Trimpey. Unfortunately, this will result in road closures and disruption for residents. Our role in relation to this work is to carry out the final connection for this pipeline, in the fields close to the treatment works. I can ask colleagues about a timetable for this if that would be helpful.

- We are still on target to complete the project by 31 March 2025, in line with the target set by the Drinking Water Inspectorate and Ofwat."

10. OTHER MATTERS

In response to concern expressed by residents of Quatt Malvern Parish, it was agreed that the Clerk to the Parish Council would write to the relevant portfolio holder at Shropshire Council and ask that the Bridgnorth public waste recycling facility be kept open. If necessary, other means to reduce the cost of its operation, such as part closure in the week or charging residents from outside the County, should be considered.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

Signed

date