

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL QUATT MALVERN PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 TH MAY 2022 AT QUATT VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 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, Caroline Hulland, Siobhan Hunter and Robert Law.

Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance

Sophie Padgett, Guest Speaker

Local Organizations

Stephanie Hinton - Quatt Village Hall Committee

Anne Lee -St. Andrew's Church Quatt

Members of The Public

Five 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 Councillor Mrs J.Yates, member of Quatt Malvern Parish Council, who was on holiday and from South Staffordshire Water and Quatt Cricket Club.

3.MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 27TH May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2021 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. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF QUATT MALVERN PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman expressed the frustration felt by the Parish Council in being unable to proceed with the various projects with which the Council was engaged, such as the proposed pedestrian refuge on the A442 in Quatt Village and the additional VAS sign.

7. GUEST SPEAKER

Sophie Padgett from The Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance spoke of the work of the alliance. Many families were struggling with the increased cost of living and more and more people were having to

resort to using foodbanks. The problem was worse in many rural areas because less choice of shops could lead to higher prices.

Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance was formed by a consortium of organisations who are committed to work together to tackle food poverty in Shropshire. Membership includes public, faith and voluntary organisations including food banks from across the county. The Alliance is currently being co-ordinated by Shrewsbury Food Hub, with a steering group of organisations including Citizens Advice Shropshire, Shropshire Council, NHS, Age UK and the Food Banks.

The Alliance believe that everyone in Shropshire should have access to sufficient good food, be able to afford a healthy diet and have the skills and knowledge to prepare healthy food.

The Aims of the Alliance are to:

- Tackle food poverty and diet related ill health
- Promote a healthy and sustainable diet
- Build community food skills and knowledge
- Increase access to affordable healthy food
- Ensure there is crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry
- Get food poverty (particularly rural) on the local and national policy agenda
- Research and monitor food poverty so we know if we are being effective

The Alliance have developed a Food Poverty Action Plan for Shropshire. The project has been run as a participatory process, seeking evidence and ideas from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. It has been a priority to ensure that the voices of those who have lived experience of food poverty are heard in the process. To develop the action plan they have:

- Mapped levels of food poverty
- Collated the views of people with lived experience of food poverty
- Undertaken surveys (Organisations, Individuals and Schools)
- Visited food banks and food projects across the county
- Invited organisations to workshops to identify solutions
- Researched best practice from other counties to identify which approaches might work best in Shropshire
- Started to build partnerships between organisations to address the issue.

The Chairman thanked Ms Padgett for her informative and interesting presentation.

## 7.REPORT FROM THE LOCAL MEMBER OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

There was no representative of Shropshire Council present at the meeting, owing to the continued illness of Councillor Elliott Lynch..

## 8.REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### a) St. Andrew's Church

Mrs Anne Lee, the churchwarden at St.Andrew's, reported as follows:

"The church is now open daily again having previously been closed during the Covid pandemic and then only open two days a week as things eased. We provided a weekly service jointly with St Mary's Alveley on You Tube when we were unable to meet in church and attracted followers from around the world.

We continue to attract visitors and have many compliments on the beautifully maintained church and churchyard.

We are at the moment in an Interregnum and do not anticipate getting our new Incumbent until Christmas at the earliest as Interviews will not take place until September .

We are however still holding 2 services a month , which I am taking at the present time .

Last Sunday we held a Songs of Praise to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee . This was well attended and a most joyous occasion.

At present we do not have a regular team of Bellringers but can raise a team if necessary .

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we have suffered financially for the last two years . At present we have two major projects that require funding, namely an automatic clock winding system at around £7,500 as the clock needs winding once a week and our kind volunteer does not wish to continue. We do understand that funding from the Parish Council is not available for churches at this time. Our other major project is making the stone wall on the lay by more secure to avoid any land slippage and this will require funds in the region of £25,000. Raising in the region of £33,000 is a major problem as finding this sort of money with only 5 members on our Parochial Church Council and a small congregation income is very limited.

As a church we cannot hire out our building to raise funds but we do our best to hold functions whenever possible . Our annual running costs to keep the church open are in the region of £14,000."

### b) National Trust

There was no representative of the National Trust present at the meeting.

### c) Village Hall Committee

Steph Hinton reported from the Village Hall as follows:

"As the legislation has changed and adapted over this last 12 months we have adapted with it and opened the Hall again to the community. We have remained as an active support network as some parishioners are still anxious being out and about, some have needed help during points of infection and have valued the contact from our team. We have continued to connect with local organisations sharing guidance and support to community groups going forward.

Some of us have attended free CPR training delivered by Alveley Community First Responders, so thank you to them for their time and expertise.

We continue to have great links on social media and with organisations within Shropshire, as well as our website and newsletter. We are also grateful of the parish magazine, and thank Ian Maddock for producing it. This helps us to connect with the continued support from our nearby village neighbours. Thanks to John Hubbard for delivering it in Quatt.

We've been lucky to have financial support from Shropshire Council in reopening; this has helped us in putting on events for smaller groups, as people take time to gain more confidence in being out.

Our regular lets, Quatt Tinplate runner's clockwork Railway Club, Alveley Band, Pilates, Guitar workshops etc have returned, and we continue to promote our accessible building for use by other groups. The hall has been booked for one off events and private bookings, children's parties, christenings and weddings and even a dog breeders group. We have risk assessments and PPE in place still as we want people to feel safe in returning to the hall.

We've started, tentatively, having events again last year, firstly with a Thank you afternoon tea for our supporters, followed by two very successful outdoor events held in the courtyard of the farm shop, Idyll from Pentabus Theatre Company and a Gig from Whalebone, their first out of lockdown. So many thanks to Siobhan and Mark for aiding the community getting back together.

We supported the return of the Bridgnorth walk and marathon with marshalling up at the top of The Clee and supported St Andrews church with a free letting for their fund raising Harvest Supper.

Our first show back at the hall was Jacaranda from Pentabus in October, performed in the round to aid comfort for the audience returning to an indoor performance. It was fabulous to have live events back and the feedback was very positive.

As Christmas approached we felt it was important for families and friends to be together and did not want to put that at risk with events close to Christmas, so we had a raffle to help raise funds that we would normally do at Christmas Skittles. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

And instead of the children's Christmas party, Santa made a visit to all the children in the parish and delivered each a present. Some very surprised and delighted children that evening.

In March we were contacted by the production company for the Film 'Can you hear me', which was being shot locally in Shropshire (actors from Twilight, Downton abbey etc) to use the inside of the hall for a small take. So we had the excitement of the stage setting for WWI and filming

Since opening our doors for our new season, we were, once again, successful with an application to participate in World Book Night 2022 (April 23rd) and received 160 copies of "Gypsy Boy" by Mikey Walsh to share. A big thank you to the Reading Agency. We were able to distribute copies to households throughout the Parish, the Youth Club, D/deaf community, First Responders, food bank & a set of books to the Library for loan to book clubs. Feedback has been very positive, particularly with people who are not regular readers & there is interest in setting up a book club at QVH.

We had the annual Easter walk and toddle, thanks to Dudmaston National Trust for support with chocolate eggs for the Children, everyone who created the activities and made cakes and scones.

We are involved with the 'Library to Lane' project too. This project goes on till July 2022 and there will be opportunities to get involved. It's encouraging people to start to be nature noters, weather watchers, bird call listeners as well as delving a little into the recent and further past to explore changes and how their local patch is shaped by that past.

The workshops will be encouraging people to use a method that best suits them to research, record, collect. Some of our parish residents have already been interviewed about their contact with nature, and we are looking at a photo project as part of this and also connecting with Dudmaston Archive.

Ann Marie Lagram (project organiser) planned an afternoon at the hall on 1<sup>st</sup> May, about Shropshire's three women folklorists- Georgina Jackson, Charlotte Burne and Mary Webb, with music poems, dialect and storyteller Andy Harrop as Compère. We raised money for the Red Cross appeal for Ukraine, with cakes and teas.

Music was back at the hall in April with a mix of Appalachian roots music, step dance and body percussion from American musicians Evie and Keith and it was lovely to welcome back some of the usual crowd and some fresh faces too. A big thank you to Charl and Steve of Whalebone fame, for assisting us with a sound system.

Going forward we are planning our next season of events, so watch this space, and

### **Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Dudmaston Hall in Quatt will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from Sunday, 29 May to Sunday, 5 June (excluding Saturday) with a week of royal fun.

Quatt Village Hall and Dudmaston Hall are collaborating to aid the Quatt Malvern Parish get together for the Platinum Jubilee. As a special one-off, Dudmaston Hall will be open to visitors on Friday, 3 June to bring a picnic to enjoy by the Big Pool and invitations will be going out to every household in the Parish to go along and join in.

Residents will need to contact us to get their free ticket to hand in on the day. This has a lovely historic family feel, from when Lady Labouchere would invite children to The Hall for special events.

There will be family game stations in the grounds with a Queen Elizabeth II trivia trail, with games similar to ones enjoyed by children in the 1950s available for making new family memories, plus you can head into the Hall to find out about the family, and Dudmaston's, connection to the current royal family.

### **Hart of the Wood**

Visit Comer Woods on 25 June for a day of folk art and culture, exploring humanity's relationship with the woods.

Hart of the Wood is a bold new multidisciplinary, multimodal art and film project, led by artist and filmmaker Benjamin Wigley, that celebrates humanity's ingrained relationship with the woods. The project's capacious branches envelope an ambitious range of art forms that include: a long-form avant-garde documentary film, outdoor expanded cinema live event, kinoscope hand-crank celluloid film projection sculptures, and an exhibition of handmade celluloid film prints, paintings, and projections.

Benjamin Wigley has been working with a team of artists on this pioneering project at Dudmaston's Comer Woods. This project was originally conceived to mark the 40th Anniversary since the property came under the care of the National Trust, but the pandemic caused delays and during that time has evolved into an inspiring collection of works that explore ideas around the multitude of ways people can immerse themselves in an idea or story.

So the team creating this event are hoping for **volunteers** to get involved in different ways e.g. stewarding the event or helping to build installations in the woods over the two days before the

Saturday event, to support performers, guide people to keep them on the path, supervise the exhibition.

It looks great fun, so if you like to get involved in any capacity, then message Steph at Quatt Village Hall on 01746 781214 or [stephjhinton@aol.com](mailto:stephjhinton@aol.com)

Our Treasurer is keeping a keen eye on outgoings as prices of utilities are increasing dramatically. Especially as the hall is solely electric power and heating. We are applying for additional funding to support our intending programme of much needed repairs and improvements and have a contractor who is drawing up a schedule of works. Part of the building plans are to install a more efficient heating system. The new windows will be double glazed, on top of the secondary glazing that is in place already.

We would like to thank our trustees who work so hard to keep things going, the Friends of the hall who support with volunteering their time to help. A big thank you to the people who have supported the events we have been able to do, you help to keep the hall a living vibrant building and available to everyone.”

#### d) Quatt Cricket Club

Owing to playing commitments, no representative at the Club could attend the meeting but it was reported that the main project the club was working on at the present time was raising money for a new practice facility. The link below connects to the crowdfunding campaign: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/quattcc>

#### e) Report from South Staffordshire Water concerning the major investment at Hampton Loade water treatment works

No representatives from the Water Company were available to attend the meeting but they submitted the following update:

- As you will probably recall, NMCN was the main South Staffordshire Water contractor for the Hampton Loade upgrade programme. Unfortunately, on 4 October 2021, NMCN went into administration and all work on the Hampton Loade site came to a halt.
- The company then entered into a new procurement process to recruit a new construction partner with sufficient knowledge, expertise and experience to install the innovative new filtration system at Hampton Loade, for which the company secured additional funding through regulator Ofwat’s green recovery initiative in July 2021. We are expecting the public announcement of a new construction partner shortly. I hope you appreciate that I’m unable to share any more information with you until the public announcement has been made.
- Over the past few weeks, work has started again to tidy up the site and complete the construction of temporary site accommodation.
- We will keep you and the Parish Council members informed about further developments at the site, but our aim is still to complete the upgrade programme at Hampton Loade in line with the Drinking Water Inspectorate’s deadline of March 2025.

## 9. OTHER MATTERS

Members of the public spoke of their concerns about the danger to pedestrians posed by vehicles travelling at speed along Wootton Lane and over the brow of the hill near to the Church, where the road was narrow and where there was no pavement.

The Chairman confirmed that this matter had been raised with Shropshire Highways but the Parish Council would purchase some warning signs to erect at this location.

In answer to a question from a resident, Councillor Caroline Hlland said that it was her understanding that the National Trust had a national policy of not allowing windfarm or solar panel developments on their land.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.00pm.