THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL QUATT MALVERN PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 2018 AT QUATT VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30 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 Roger Brown, Caroline Hulland, Danny Purchase and Jenny Yates

Shropshire Council

Cllr Tina Woodward,

Local Organizations

Marcus Halliwell and Alexa Buffey, - National Trust

Stephanie Hinton and Jacky Cooley - Quatt Village Hall Committee

Jim Williamson and Malcolm Williams - Quatt Cricket Club

Alex - Quatt Bell Ringers

Caroline Hulland - Quatt Parochial Church Council

Local Residents

Isabel Faithful, Bill Faithful, Ian Laughlin, Jane Deighton, Sarah Kay Sue Law, Rob Law, Jacky Cooley, Stephanie Hinton,

1.WELCOME

Lawrence Chitty welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Rev. Neil Dunlop, David and Sue Link

and West Mercia Police

3.MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. POLICE REPORT

The Police had been unable to send a representative to the Meeting.

5. GUEST SPEAKER RENEE WALLACE ON COMMUNITY LED PLANS

Renee Wallace from Shropshire Rural Community Council explained how the organization worked to improve life in rural areas.

One way in which this could be achieved was by the Community preparing a Local Plan for the Parish. The Plan would be a document prepared by the Community for the Community and would incorporate input from the local inhabitants usually obtained by a questionnaire or similar. A steering group of volunteers would prepare the Plan but professional help could be obtained where necessary.

The Plan could incorporate proposals for youth provision, facilities for the elderly, highways, heritage matters and many other issues. In addition, the Plan might incorporate a design statement on how new development in the Parish might be built and its appearance. It might also incorporate a housing needs survey to support the need for additional affordable housing.

Although the Plan was not a statutory document, it could be helpful in supporting the community in applying for grant aid or other external funding.

Larger communities could produce a neighbourhood plan which would go on to become part of the Shropshire Development Plan but that would probably not be appropriate for a small parish like Quatt Malvern.

The final plan would be adopted by the Parish Council and it should be reviewed every year with a full review every five years.

Shropshire Council could no longer provide financial assistance for local plans but they could often be completed very cheaply and there were some other opportunities for external funding.

6 PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council reported on the activities of the Council over the last year. The Council were investigating the possibility of installing village gateways at each entrance to Quatt Village, which could act as a traffic calming measure and enhance the identity of the Village.

In addition, the Council had carried out its normal duties of responding to consultations on planning applications, raising highways concerns and other matters.

7 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Tina Woodward confirmed that the Unitary Council had now approved their budget. Unfortunately, overall funding was reduced and difficult decisions would have to be made on the way in which services were run and funded in the next year and beyond.

Councillor Woodward was pleased to report that Shropshire Council Children’s services had been rated as “good” by central government inspectors.

The recent bad weather had caused a lot of potholes to appear on the roads again, although the Unitary Council had obtained £1.86 million from Central Government towards this problem. She was trying to keep up to date with the situation on roads in the Parish and was reporting them to the Highways Department who would prioritize them and repair them as soon as possible.

Councillor Woodward confirmed that if a pothole had a yellow mark around it, the Highways Department were aware of it. She also reported that the National Trust had submitted a design for village gateways at Quatt and Highways approval was awaited.

Finally, Cllr Woodward indicated that there has been positive financial support from Government regarding the future of the two hospital sites, which was welcome news.

8 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

a) Village Hall Committee

Stephanie Hinton reported on a very successful year for the Village Hall, which had won a national award for being the most welcoming village hall. She thanked Jacky the bookings secretary for the large number of live events which had taken place at the Hall and said that a number of fund raising events to support local charities had also taken place, including entering a team for the Bridgnorth Walk.

The Committee were intending to take part in a national banner making initiative to design banners to commemorate the centenary of the vote being granted to women. The Quatt banner design would incorporate the story of a maid from Dudmaston Hall who had gone on to become a prominent member of the Suffragette Movement.

Stephanie also paid tribute to Mr Colin Williamson, a trustee of the Hall for many years, who had died recently.

b) Parochial Church Council

Caroline Hulland reported that St Andrew’s Church was still holding two services a month but it cost £14.500.00 per annum to maintain and that donations were essential to continue.

She said that new members of the congregation were very welcome and that if anyone wished to play the organ, training could be arranged if necessary.

c) Bellringers

Alex reported that it was difficult to maintain a full team of ringers all the time but they worked successfully with other parishes, including Alveley and Morville, to ensure that there were enough ringers to cover weddings and other special events. It was hoped that Quatt ringers would participate in a national event in November to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Quatt was listed in the alphabetical guide to notable bell towers in the country and the bell frames at Quatt were made from historic ships timbers.

Alex said that new ringers, particularly young people, were very welcome.

d) Quatt Cricket Club

Jim Williamson and Malcolm Williams from the Cricket Club reported that new wickets had been installed at the Club with financial help from Sport for England and from the National Trust. The Club was now in the Shropshire Premier Division and there were 3 men’s teams and a thriving junior section with 100 young people registered between the ages of 6 and 15 years.

In response to concerns from local residents, signs had been ordered to direct drivers leaving the ground to turn left on Wootton Lane only. Drivers would also be reminded to drive slowly.

Jim and Malcolm reminded the meeting that whenever a match was being held, the bar was open and all were welcome to attend.

e) National Trust

Marcus Halliwell from the National Trust reported on the improvements and developments which had been carried out at Comer Woods.

The access on to the A442 had been improved and a new car park provided. A further 3.5 km of the Woods had now been opened to walkers and the old barn had been renovated. Toilet facilities would be available very shortly. Further conservation work around the pools would be undertaken.

Biomass heating had been installed at Dudmaston Hall and would be fuelled by woodchip harvested from the woods on the estate.

An artist had been commissioned to prepare exhibitions at the Hall and public feed back on them would be invited. The connection between the Hall and the suffragettes, referred to earlier, would be celebrated.

The Rose Garden was being restored with the help of David Austen Roses.

9. OTHER MATTERS

A number of residents asked when the National Trust were going to restore some of the derelict buildings on the Estate and carry out essential repairs that were required to the tenanted properties.

Marcus Halliwell said that repairs were listed in priority order and would be carried out. The Trust were hoping to use the extra revenue generated by the visitor attractions to improve other buildings on the Estate.

10.REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments during the evening were kindly provided by Stephanie Hinton and Jacky Cooley.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm