

QUATT MALVERN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: LAWRENCE E CHITTY.

WWW.QUATTPC.ORG.UK

**WILLIAM S. GRIFFITHS
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
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22nd July 2022

Dear Councillor,

You are invited to attend the Meeting of Quatt Malvern Parish Council to be held on **Thursday 28th July 2022** in the Village Hall, Quatt, at 7.30 pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

W.S.Griffiths

William S. Griffiths, Clerk of the Council.

OPEN FORUM 7.30 PM – 7.45 PM where members of the public are invited to speak on matters affecting the Parish.

Agenda

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF ANY MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING.

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Registerable interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the consideration of that item.

3. MINUTES

- i) To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Quatt Malvern Parish Council held on 26th May 2022.
- ii) To receive the minutes of the Quatt Malvern Annual Parish meeting held on 19th May 2022

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and not listed for consideration on this agenda.

g) Financial Progress

To consider the summary of receipts and payments for 28th July 2022 and to approve the bank reconciliation.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

New Applications.

Reference: 22/02762/FUL (validated: 30/06/2022)

Address: Quatt Cricket Club, Cricket Ground, Quatt, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 6QW

Proposal: Erection of a non turf cricket net practice facility

Applicant: Quatt Cricket Club (Mr Howard Sanders , Cricket Ground, Quatt, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 6QW)

View online at: <http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RDFGRATDGPP00>

b) Determined Applications

There are no applications to report.

c) Community Led Plan

Councillor Siobhan Hunter to report

d) Draft Local Plan

There is no further information available on this matter at the present time.

8. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

a) To consider any matters of concern relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish

b) Outstanding matters raised with Shropshire Highways

The Clerk has chased Shropshire Highways for a response to matters raised via Councillor Hurst-Knight and by subsequent communications.

No reply has yet been forthcoming but the Clerk intends to seek a Zoom meeting with an appropriate officer.

c) The BOAT

The Council will be aware that a site visit was recently held with the rights of way co-ordinator for Alveley and Romsley

The valuable information and advice which he provided has been used to make a further request to the Shropshire Rights of Way officer for the BOAT to be downgraded in status.

d). Quiet Lanes Initiative

A parishioner has raised the new regulations which enable highway authorities to designate certain roads a "quiet lane ".The purpose of a quiet lane is to prevent speeding traffic causing danger or spoiling the enjoyment of other road users.

Such a designation is aimed at warning motorists that the road in question is used by other users, such as pedestrians, horses, cyclists etc. and appropriate signs, lower speed limits etc. are erected to show that the road has been so designated.

A quiet lane would normally be a minor rural route with a single carriageway.

The attached document issued by the CPRE gives more details of the scheme and how local authorities can instigate quiet lanes in their area.

The Council may wish to consider whether any lanes in the Parish should be so designated. This designation might also be requested for the BOAT if it is not downgraded.

e) Pedestrian Refuge

A member of the Council has suggested that the Council organize a fund raising event to provide crowd funding towards the cost of the Refuge. However, unless Shropshire Highways can provide a firm commitment that they are willing and able to provide such a facility in the village, raising funds would be premature although it might be an idea to consider at a later stage.

f) Danger to pedestrians at Wootton Lane

The Council will recall that residents have expressed concern about vehicles speeding at Wootton Lane, which is a narrow lane with limited visibility and no footpaths. This problem has been reported to Shropshire Highways.

The Council has procured signs to warn motorists to erect at this location. However, permission is required from the National Trust to erect them on Trust property and this is awaited.

g) Bollards at Wootton Lane

A resident of Quatt House flats has asked if some of the bollards along Wootton Lane, near to Quatt House, can be removed.

The resident in question is physically disabled but he manages to look after the garden at Quatt House, which can only be accessed via an entrance on Wootton Lane.

The resident finds difficulty in walking up the slope from the entrance to the garden up to Quatt House and would like the bollards to be removed to enable him to park his car on the verge near to the entrance to the garden.

It is understood that the bollards were installed by Shropshire Highways at the request of the Parish Council to prevent parking on Wootton Lane.

In considering this request, the Parish Council might wish to consider the following points:

01 The land forming the verge is believed to belong to Shropshire Council and as land owner and highways authority, their consent to remove the bollards or allow parking would have to be obtained.

02 It is difficult to see how the parking area created could be reserved for the use of one resident only, other vehicles could park there and prevent that resident using the space.

03 It might be difficult to resist requests from other residents to be allowed to have parking spaces provided at this location.

04 Wootton Lane is a dangerous stretch of road with limited visibility and no pedestrian walkway. Allowing car parking on the verge might add to the danger at this location, which has been the subject of a number of complaints from residents.

05 It has been suggested that an alternative solution to the difficulty experienced by the resident in question would be if he could park on the drive to the old vicarage whilst tending the garden.

Does the Parish Council wish to support the request made by the resident?

9. REPORT FROM THE LOCAL MEMBER OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Kirsty-Hurst-Knight has been invited to attend the meeting, to report on the work of the Unitary Council, in place of Councillor Elliott Lynch who is indisposed.

10. NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

11. PARISH MATTERS

a) Parish Amenities

To consider any matters of concern arising in the Parish.

b) Cost of Living in rural areas.

Following the request of this Council to meet with the Member of Parliament, to discuss the high cost of domestic heating oil in rural areas, the following reply has been received:

“Thank you for your email regarding the price of domestic heating oil. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you, it has been a busy few weeks.

I am not aware of any current plans to regulate or cap the price of domestic heating oil. I would, however, encourage all customers who rely on heating oil to shop around to find the most cost-effective supply available locally.

In the UK we do have a reduced VAT rate of 5 per cent on domestic heating fuel, and we also pay a reduced rate of 5 per cent when certain energy-saving products are installed in our homes. I have called, as chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee in our report last year into Energy Efficiency in Existing Homes, for VAT to be removed from energy efficiency measures.

But in the meantime, qualifying people (including those receiving disability-related benefits and the over-60s) who are receiving a grant for the installation of heating appliances (including certain radiators, boilers, heaters, and fire cassettes), for the installation,

maintenance or repair of a central heating system, or for a renewable source heating system, can pay a reduced rate of VAT.

I have supported calls on the Treasury to remove VAT on domestic heating, to take advantage of the greater opportunities to review VAT now that we have left the European Union. Any such decision would require careful consideration and would be announced at a future Budget.

Additionally, there are open markets for the supply of heating oil and LPG in the UK, as the Government believes this provides the best long-term guarantee of competitive prices. These markets are subject to UK competition law to ensure they operate efficiently for the consumer.

However these measures are currently dwarfed by the surge in energy prices caused by a combination of global factors, principal among which are the shift towards gas for electricity generation by China and other Asian economies, the pick-up in activity as the world recovers from the Covid crisis, and most recently the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

One final point: the Government is also currently providing a package of support, including targeted funding of £950 million for the Home Upgrade Grant available through local authorities since 1st April, for consumers in fuel poverty off the gas grid to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

These are very challenging and dark days for us all. I have copied in Jane from my office to arrange a suitable time to meet.

With best wishes
Philip

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP

It is understood that the Shropshire Association of Local councils has met with Mr Dunne to discuss cost of living issues.

There is also a new government initiative to reduce vehicle fuel excise duty in areas of rural sparsity. However, it is unknown how this will affect Shropshire.

12. AMENDMENTS TO REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Clerk will report at the meeting.

13. REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

- a) SALC
- b) Local Joint Committee
- c) Cider House /Wootton
- d) Village Hall Committee.
- e) Bridgnorth Local Plan Review Steering Committee

14.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Quatt Malvern Parish Council will be held on on Thursday 15th September 2022 in Quatt Village Hall at 7.30 pm