

Notes of a virtual meeting between Quatt Malvern Parish Council, local residents and Mr Philip Dunne MP held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Present

Philip Dunne M.P

Quatt Malvern Parish Council

Cllr L. Chitty (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs J. Yates

Bill Griffiths (Clerk)

Cllr R.Law

A Local Resident

The Chairman of the Parish Council explained that the meeting had been requested by the Council to discuss the high energy costs which households were experiencing at the present time. In particular, domestic heating oil was very expensive and there was no cap on the price. Many people in rural areas had to rely on this form of heating.

Councillor Chitty said that it was his understanding that HMRC imposed a charge on domestic heating oil in addition to the normal 5% VAT. He queried whether this charge could be removed or reduced to ease the burden on households.

Mr Dunne said that he was unaware of the HMRC levy but would raise the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said that he was sure that when the Government reconvened after the summer recess consideration would be given to removing the 5% VAT on domestic energy.

He went on to outline the current measures which were being undertaken by the government to assist domestic energy users and he stressed that the Government was committed to ending reliance on fossil fuels altogether.

Alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, were being considered and it was the objective to bring all homes up to a high standard of insulation where possible. Domestic heating could be then provided by means of ground heat pumps, solar panels etc. The Government wanted to increase the number of dwellings heated by heat pumps from 35,000 to 600,000 by 2028. There were also studies being undertaken to see whether excess heat produced from industry could be used to heat homes.

In answer to a question from Councillor Chitty, Mr Dunne confirmed that the Government were not opposed to fracking as a means of extracting resources but it was difficult to assess how much of UK resources could be extracted in this way.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dunne for meeting the Council.