

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL QUATT MALVERN PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH April
2025 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

Cllr Robert Law.

Guest Speaker

Allan Wilson, Shropshire Nature Recovery Strategy.

Shropshire Council

Cllr. Colin Taylor.

National Trust

Marcus Halliwell

Local Organizations

Stephanie Hinton - Quatt Village Hall Committee.

Members of The Public

Three 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 ,South Staffordshire Water
Cllrs J Yates and S. Hunter (QMPC) and Mrs Anne Lee, St.Andrew's Church .

3.MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2024 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 SPEAKER

The Chairman welcomed the guest speaker, Mr Allen Wilson, who informed the meeting
on the work of the Nature Recovery Strategy, a Government backed initiative to work
towards restoring the depleted natural environment in England on a County by County
basis. Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin were one area identified for a local strategy.

This work was closely involved with the National Trust Sandscape project and to similar
projects to restore the natural environment in other countries.

Mr Wilson explained that many open spaces could be improved by planting trees and wild flowers which in turn encouraged the return of bird and insect life. Orphaned hedgehogs and other threatened species could be reintroduced to reclaimed areas and freshwater habitats could be created.

Mr Wilson also explained that new housing developments had to have a 10% biodiversity uplift and he gave examples of where improvements to open spaces or waste land had been improved in the ways contained in the strategy. Even small areas of land could be improved in this way.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Wilson for his interesting and thought provoking presentation

7. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Colin Taylor, the local member for Shropshire Council, spoke of the continuing financial difficulties faced by the Unitary Council, caused by cut backs in central government funding. As a result the Council was only able to carry out a minimal service in many areas of its work.

He also spoke of the initiative in Worcestershire where road accident rates had been significantly reduced by reconfiguring the roads and these measures had received the support of the Police.

Councillor Taylor acknowledged the problems with rights of way in the area and confirmed that the appropriate officers were trying their best to address them.

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

Councillor Lawrence Chitty reported that there had been no further progress in obtaining the hoped for pedestrian crossing over the A442 at Quatt.

Other highways issues were also causing concern in the Parish , such as the poor standard of reinstatement to the road surface adjoining the Ford at Wootton Lane.

9. NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Marcus Halliwell reported that the Trust had enjoyed a good year with 95,000 visitors, a figure only slightly less than the 100,000 visitors attending prior to the Covid Pandemic.

Comer Woods were proving a big attraction, despite the damage caused by Storm Doragh, for which recovery work was still being carried out.

A mystery play based at Dudmaston Hall was to be shown on television.

The Sandscape project, to restore natural heathland, was making good progress.

10. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

a) St. Andrew's Church Quatt

Mrs Ann Lee was unable to attend the meeting but she had kindly prepared the following report which was read out to the meeting:

"Our beautiful church is open on a daily basis and we hold 2 services a month plus a United Service when there is a 5th Sunday in the month .
Our Automated clock winding system has now been installed , sadly due to a delay through no fault of our own at an increased cost of £10,500.
Last year our Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by an architect from the Hereford Diocese and we are awaiting his report .
Our lightening conductor was replaced at a cost of £800.
The churchyard is beautifully maintained and we recently lost one of our volunteers but I am glad to report that a new volunteer is about to start . We have many positive comments in our visitors book, not only on the beauty and monuments within the church building but for the well maintained churchyard also.
We have a very small Parochial Church Council but we do our best to raise funds throughout the year .We have hired the village hall for two celebratory meals - at Harvest and at Christmas . These are hard work but well attended . This year we will be holding a Fete at the end of June. We are hoping to replace the road- side sign and notice board by the entrance door. Beautiful photographic cards have been done by Mathew and are available in the entrance porch
Our heating, despite being replaced within the last few years is somewhat inadequate during the winter months as it is only in the nave . The chancel has no heating at all. As we have no kitchen we would very much like to install a water supply and sink unit to allow us to wash up after refreshments in the small area at the back of the church when funds allow .
On May 8th we will hold a service to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and light the Peace Lantern. This will be preceded by Bellringing at 6.30pm
Although we do not have a regular team of Bellringers , Roy Page from St Mary's is our Tower Captain and is able to provide a team whenever necessary
Our Insurance costs have increased greatly this year and our total annual running costs are just short of £11,000."

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, meet people in a similar position and to seek help if needed. There had also been an event concerning womens' safety.

There was also musical events and Pentabus had performed at the Hall recently.

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

11. LOCAL MATTERS

The Parish Council asked those attending the meeting for their views on the following matters:

a) Communication with local residents – agreed that the Council ask residents if they wished to be placed on an email contact list to be kept informed of the activities of the Council.

b) The public Telephone box in Quatt village - agreed to raise no objection to the closure of the box as a public telephone as no calls had been made for at least 12 months.

12. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

It was noted that the Clerk was preparing an application for Quatt Malvern Parish to enter the competition.

13. 80TH CELEBRATION OF VE (VICTORY IN EUROPE) DAY.

It was noted that preparations to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 were progressing. There was to be a celebratory event at the Village Hall and some local history information had been obtained from local historian Mr Clive Gwilt.

Refreshments would be provided by Quatt Farm Shop.

14. OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING

There were no other matters raised.

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

Signed

date