

QUATT MALVERN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: LAWRENCE E CHITTY.

WWW.QUATTPC.ORG.UK

**WILLIAM S. GRIFFITHS
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21st January 2022

Dear Councillor,

You are invited to attend the Meeting of Quatt Malvern Parish Council to be held on Thursday **27th January 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 and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the consideration of that item.

3. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of Quatt Malvern Parish Council held on 25th November 2021.

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.

8. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL FINANCE CONSULTATION

To consider the message received from Councillor Gwilym Butler from the Unitary Council:

"As the cabinet lead for finance, I wanted to let you know that a consultation on the Council's budget plans for next year is now live.

This follows the Council receiving the detail of our budget settlement from Government just before Christmas. While we had been expecting to receive a three-year budget settlement, we have however been given only one year's funding.

As such our budget proposals can focus with certainty only on the shorter term, while this Government's settlement does nothing to solve our longer-term budget issues which leaves us facing a £60 million budget deficit by 2027.

Next year, the Council's day-to-day revenue budget proposals will balance, but only because the Government funding assumes that we raise council tax by 3.99 per cent (of which 2 per cent is ring fenced for Adult Social Care). The Government assumed increase would see an extra £1.11 a week added to the Council's average Band D council tax bill. This is reluctantly what we propose to do, while we must also raise charges, reduce spending and divert almost £12 million of funds to balance the budget.

However from 2023 to 2027, we face an annual budget deficit of almost £60 million.

As I'm sure you're aware, this longer-term financial position is made worse because of how the funding arrangements work against us. Shropshire is one of England's biggest and most sparsely populated areas and current Government funding formulas do nothing to address our rural nature, which makes running many Council services cost much more.

We face pressures due to ever increasing demand for social care from our ageing population, inflation running at over 5% and extra costs pressures such as higher national insurance costs to help fund NHS social care, but no funding from this will come anywhere near local government for at least three years.

Despite this the Council must continue to spend the money it has on priorities to promote a healthy population, make Shropshire a place that is healthy, safe, great for business and living for all

The Council has secured funding for these one-off capital schemes from a range of different sources. This capital funding however cannot by law be used to meet the day-to-day revenue costs of running services.

The £271 million capital investment programme to 2027 includes:-

- An extra £59 million to boost our drive to improve our roads, tackle potholes and problems caused by years of underfunding in the county's roads. This is on top of an extra £48 million invested in our roads this year.
- £28 million to help fund the council's proportion of Shrewsbury North West Relief Road's costs, most of which is being met by funding from the Government and Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.
- An extra £16 million to support the council's 'Swimming in Shrewsbury' programme, and put in a new swimming pool in Whitchurch.
- An extra £11.7 million to expand schools capacity.
- £11m for Oswestry Innovation Park.
- £4.5 million to improve the centre of Bridgnorth, including a possible multi-storey car park.
- £3.2 million to fund the rollout of the council's optional mixed recycling purple top bin

As part of the budget process, we want to hear views from the people of Shropshire around our overall approach to the council's budget for the next year. Our [consultation on our budget proposals](#) is now open until 16 February. Please let us know your thoughts on the plans by completing our online form. This will be to help inform the Council's final budget proposals which will go to the Full Council meeting on 24 February. In the meantime, we will continue to lobby Government to address the very long and deep-rooted problems of our structural deficit and the extra costs of providing services in a county like Shropshire and I will be back in touch again to share thoughts on how you could help support our Fair Funding for Shropshire campaign.

Cllr Gwilym Butler, Cabinet Lead, Finance"

9. PLANNING MATTERS

a) There are no new applications to consider.

b) Determined Applications

There are no applications to report.

c) Community Led Plan

Councillor Robert Law to report

d) Draft Local Plan

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

10. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

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

b) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Shropshire

The following message has been received from SALC:

"As you might already be aware, City Science in partnership with Civic Engineers have recently been commissioned by Shropshire Council to produce Shropshire's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). When complete by Summer 2022, this will include a prioritised action plan of investment in cycling and walking infrastructure. The LCWIP will cover all of Shropshire with a specific focus on the following key communities:

- Shrewsbury
- Bridgnorth
- Church Stretton
- Ludlow
- Market Drayton
- Oswestry
- Whitchurch

As part of the initial Baseline and evidence gathering process (Stage 2), City Science are seeking the views of parish and town councils to capture key opportunities and constraints of the current walking and cycling network. The outcome of this process will inform the identification of potential upgraded or new routes as part of Stages 3 and 4.

City Science are requesting the completion of the following survey to provide input to shape this stage of the process by **the end of January**

2022: <https://forms.office.com/r/kBp2CFrRGe>

Specific route suggestions that you may have can also be logged on a community-based mapping tool called Widen My Path available here -

<https://www.widenmypath.com/suggest/#9/52.6850/-2.7466>”

c). SURVEY OF RIGHTS OF WAY

At the last meeting, the Clerk undertook to obtain more information about the national initiative to preserve rights of way.

The rights of way officer at Shropshire Council has supplied the following information :

“I would just like to firstly clarify that even if a route is not used but is recorded on the Definitive Map of public rights of way then it cannot be lost. Lack of use or overgrowth does not remove a route. This has to be undertaken by way of a formal legal order.

What I think you are referring to is the proposed historic cut off date. If this is the case I have provided further information below. Both the British Horse Society and the Ramblers have been proactive in putting in claims for these potential routes.

The [Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000](#) introduced a provision for a cut-off date of 1 January 2026 for the recording of historic rights of way.

The cut-off date would have the effect of extinguishing certain routes not recorded on the Definitive Map by the deadline. The intention of the legislation is to prevent any claim being successfully made for the addition of a way to the Definitive Map after 1 January 2026 if the claim is solely based on documentary evidence that the rights existed before 1949.

The provision for the 2026 cut-off date has not yet been implemented. In 2008 Natural England initiated a review of the legislation and associated process, and The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced that it would defer a decision on whether to implement the ‘cut-off’ provisions until that review was complete.

Subsequently, a package of measures was drawn up to simplify, speed up and reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with rights of way procedures. These were included within the [Deregulation Act 2015](#).

Within those sections are a multitude of changes in procedure and process which intend to act as a package of legislative reforms. The actual processes through which the content of the Act will be delivered will be set out in regulations. These regulations are also likely to specify certain exceptions to extinguishment at the cut-off date to prevent some routes being lost unintentionally.

Defra is currently drafting the regulations and we do not have the details of what they will contain. There is no timetable available for when these regulations will be published. Therefore, there is currently no date for the implementation of the 2026 cut-off date, the requirements of the Deregulation Act and the effect they may have on the cut-off date provisions, or whether the cut-off date may be extended.”

10. REPORT FROM THE LOCAL MEMBER OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Elliott Lynch has been invited to attend the meeting and report on the work of the Unitary Council.

11. NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

12. PARISH MATTERS

a) Parish Amenities

i) To consider any matters of concern arising in the Parish.

ii) Tennis Courts at the Dower House

The Clerk, the Chairman and a representative of the National Trust inspected the tennis courts and found them to be in good condition except for the need to remove moss and pine needles from the surface. The National Trust has agreed that they could offer them to the Cricket Club on an annual licence for a nominal fee.

iii) Church Clock

At the last meeting, the Council agreed in principle to pay for the cost of upgrading the Church Clock to electric operation.

It has long been stated and is still present in some guidance to local councils, that a parish council has the power to financially support public clocks including church clocks.

However, on seeking confirmation of this power from the ALC, the Clerk was advised that there was no legal power. Members of the Council will recall that there has been recent legal advice to the effect that parish councils cannot pay towards the maintenance of land and buildings belonging to the Church.

Councillor Robert Law has suggested that the Parish Council asks the Church if they would consider transferring ownership of the clock to the Council and granting a lease or a licence for it to be located on the Church premises. The ALC has said that this arrangement would be legally compliant.

Does the Council wish to pursue this suggestion?

iv) Website

The Clerk is reviewing the content of the Parish Council website. The website can be viewed at Quattpc.org.uk. Comments from councillors and members of the public are welcomed.

13.. AMENDMENTS TO REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Clerk will report at the meeting.

14. 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

15. CORRESPONDENCE

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a) The next meeting of Quatt Malvern Parish Council will be held on Thursday 31st March 2022 in Quatt Village Hall at 7.30pm.

b) To determine a date and time for the Annual Parish Meeting.