



# AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

2025- 2026 Report

# YOUR COUNCIL

Contact details for all Council members, and the Clerk, can be found on the Parish Council website

**Parish Clerk:**

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**Councillors / Email address**

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**Ward Councillor Rachel Bailey**

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# COMMITTEES

The Parish Council has a Finance Committee, a Personnel Committee, and a Policy Committee.

Committees meet regularly and provide information and recommendations to full Council.

## Councillors' Roles

### Committees

#### Finance Committee

Tim Brooksbank (Chair) [cllr.tim.brooksbank@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.tim.brooksbank@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Carl Dovey [cllr.carl.dovey@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carl.dovey@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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#### Personnel Committee

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#### Policy Committee

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Ryan Jones [cllr.ryan.jones@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ryan.jones@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# REPRESENTATIVES

The Parish Council has representatives on various village groups. Councillors provide valuable feedback to Council on the activities, future plans and needs of local groups. If you would like a Parish Councillor to represent a group within the village, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## Village Group Representatives

ADAPT: Cllr Cavill [cldr.charles.cavill@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.charles.cavill@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

ADAS: Cllr Dovey [cldr.carl.dovey@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.carl.dovey@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Audlem Public Hall and Annexe: Cllr Baker [cldr.phillip.baker@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.phillip.baker@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Audlem Tourism & Traders: Cllr Cornwall [cldr.simon.cornwall@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.simon.cornwall@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Burial Board: Cllr Cavill [cldr.charles.cavill@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.charles.cavill@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

ChALC: Cllrs Jones and Lambourne [cldr.ryan.jones@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.ryan.jones@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk) [cldr.david.lambourne@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.david.lambourne@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Canal and River Trust: Cllr Lambourne [cldr.david.lambourne@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.david.lambourne@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Medical Practice Patient Participation Group: Cllr Cavill [cldr.charles.cavill@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.charles.cavill@audlemparishcouncil.gov.uk)



# A YEAR OF CHANGE

- The last year has seen huge changes within the Parish Council. Following elections held in December 2024, nine new councillors made up the Parish Council.
- During the 2025-26 year, Cllr Will Pearson left, and the Parish Council welcomed Cllr Simon Cornwall onto the team.
- All of the Councillors bring experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to the Council, and have not been daunted by some of the difficult issues facing the Parish Council.

- In February, the Parish Council said goodbye to its Lengthsman, Mick Dolan, who had been looking after the village since December 2022.
- Our new Lengthsman, Luke Barber, started in March and has been enjoying getting stuck into his new role. Due to a nationwide lack of funds, Parish Councils are having to take on more tasks that were traditionally the responsibility of local authorities. The Parish Council has increased the hours for the Lengthsman in order to ensure that these tasks can be completed, and thanks Luke for his adaptability and enthusiasm.



- After operating without a clerk, then having to pay for a locum clerk to step in, the Parish Council recruited a new Clerk who started in February

# So what has the Parish Council been up to this year?



## HIGHWAYS

The Council is aware that Highways issues are causing real problems in the village. Councillors have met with Highways officers from Cheshire East to talk about:

- Parking issues in the village
- Potholes
- Drainage
- HGV traffic
- The increase in traffic caused by the closure of Baddington Bridge
- Using TraCE to report highways issues

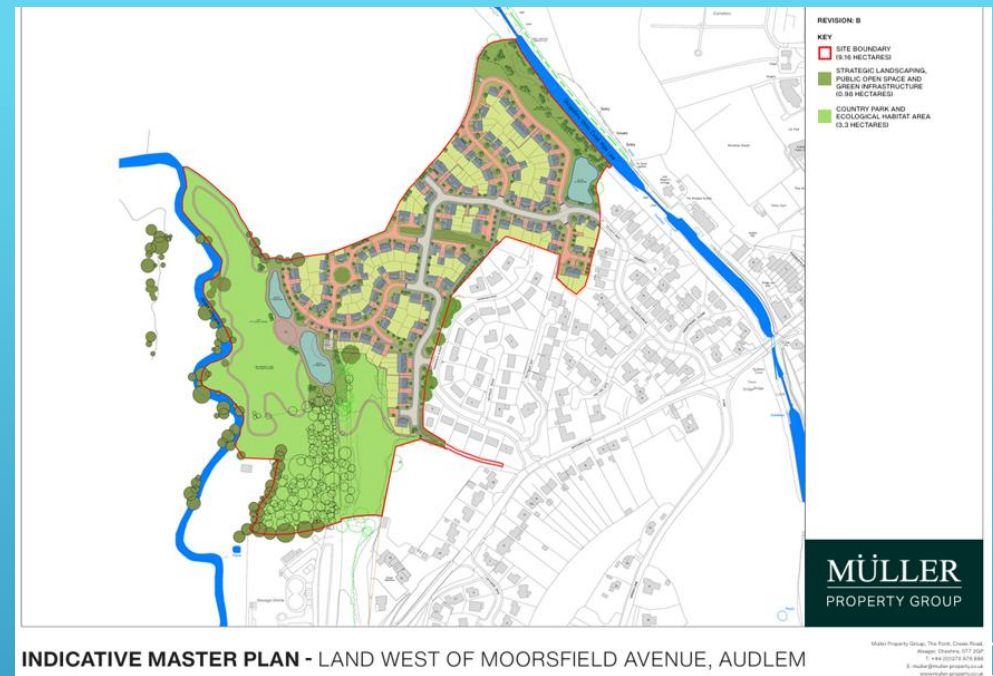
- The Parish Council has created extensive guides to help residents report highways issues to Cheshire East.

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

One of the first challenges facing the newly formed Parish Council was the submission of a full planning application for 127 houses in the village.

The Parish Council:

- Worked closely with residents and action group
- Called a public meeting
- Submitted a comprehensive and robust planning response including a full programme of potential mitigation works.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Parish Council has been keen to create and build relationships with local community groups, charities and residents. The Clerk has reached out to as many people as possible and hopes to arrange regular meetings so that ideas can be shared, and feedback can be given to the Parish Council.



# PROJECTS 2025 AND 2026

The Monument in the village will be removed in June and taken to a specialist repair company, then re installed in September.



The CCTV system in Cheshire Street car park has been updated and modernised by the Parish Council.



The public toilets have been repaired twice after being vandalised and will be benefiting from a full programme of repair works, including a new coat of paint, better lighting and new locks.



# TURNPIKE FIELD

One of the greatest challenges facing the Parish Council has been the upkeep and management of Turnpike Field. The Parish Council still owes £221,709.49 to the UK debt office. The amount paid each year is £10,464 but the reduction in the loan is only £3687, making the annual interest in £6,777.

The Parish Council is also embroiled in ongoing legal negotiations regarding the legal status of Turnpike Field, the validity of the declaration into Fields in Trust, and the restrictions imposed on any future use of the field. The legal fees associated with this have also added to the annual cost of the field.



Plans for the future of the field include:

Nature-themed play areas, sensory gardens, and pond-dipping workshops.

A bike track to reduce anti-social behaviour, sports tournaments and environmental art projects.

Fitness programs (e.g., yoga), community gardening and cultural events.

Gentle exercise, social events and intergenerational mentoring programs.



# The Parish Council has ambitious plans for 2025-26!

## Maintain

Continuing to drive forward the requirements of Residents in the parish including:

Maintaining and improving the village to help create a local area that residents are proud of.

Completing a full review of all Council assets and creating a maintenance programme.

## Growth

Exploring ways to improve Turnpike Field to enable it to be used a space for everyone in the

Work with other bodies, such as the Canal and Rivers Trust, to facilitate improvements in the parish.

Responding in a comprehensive and robust way to planning applications, and identifying potential S106 and S171 improvements in the area

## Focus on the future

Creating an Action Plan for the parish which includes steps towards:

Exploring ways to increase biodiversity in the local area

Upcoming, exciting projects for Turnpike Field

Creating a dementia friendly village

## Dedication to excellence

Working toward achieving the Bronze under the Local Council Award Scheme and the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

Enabling the Clerk to study for and achieve the CiLCA Qualification.

Completing a full audit of the last 5 years of accounts and overseeing an end to the police investigation into missing funds.