

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the Parish Council held at Halmer End Stute, on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Chairman: Mr N Hayes (NH)

Councillors: Mr D Jervis (DJ), Mr P Cole (PC), Mr K Chell (KC), Mr A Howell (AH), Mrs M Toft (MT), Mr I Rowley (IR), Mr T Cork (TC), Mr N Ginnis (NG), Mr C Griffiths (CG), Mrs S Williams (SW), Mr C Cooper (CC)

Clerk – Mrs Withington

Mr Warriner from STBH

Parish Council Meeting

1.	To receive apologies – Cllr Machin, Mr R Garlick, Mr P Maddock	
2.	<p>To consider approving and signing the Full Council meeting minutes on 18 December 2025</p> <p>The minutes were considered for accuracy. RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate version. The minutes were signed by the Chair at the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda To note dispensation granted for Parish Councillor Ian Rowley, Chris Cooper, Michelle Toft and Stephen Johnson (Audley Allotment Tenants)</p> <p>Dispensation letter to be provided by SW for allotments. DJ - payment schedule and a personal interest in item 26.3.</p>	Next agenda
4.	Public Participation: None	
5.	<p>Police, Borough, County Council and MP update (if available)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police update – circulated and noted as attached. • County Councillor Machin Update – this was circulated and noted as attached. Other issues were also updated in addition regarding the recent gritting issues and grit bins. <p>Hall Street/Church Street Parking issues around Theatre performances – Cllr Machin</p> <p>A brief discussion took place, and it was agreed that a separate meeting will be held to discuss this matter along with the other issues raised, when more time was available. It was agreed on this occasion to arrange a one off informal meeting with Cllr Machin to discuss all County related matters in more detail. Clerk to arrange a suitable evening meeting.</p> <p>It was also noted that a regular presence at the Parish Council would be appreciated as well to ensure other county related matters were picked up.</p> <p>Church Street/Nantwich Road safety railings damaged by the team. Clerk to send the report to Cllr Machin for a follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough Councillor Update – none. <p>As the Marion Platts Way issues remain unresolved and the historic problems with flooding and excessive mud in places continue after the Borough Council's £15k funding to address some of the issues, it was agreed to send a further letter to NBC asking for further action following repeated residents' concerns and also their expectations of further work. It was agreed that this will be a joint letter with Sir Thomas Boughey High School and will include photos of the issues plus suggestions to resolve the problems. It was noted that the historically the Parish Council have been asking for appropriate action since 2012 for this path and the issues. More recently in 2020 onwards when there have been several requests made to address the muddy conditions and bring it up to the same</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>standard as other recognised greenways in the Borough. Currently school children are walking on roads rather than lines to avoid turning up at school with their footwear poor state. RESOLVED to send a joint letter to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP Update – none. 	<p>Clerk STBH</p>															
6.	<p>To receive a report back from Sir Thomas Boughey Academy students (Standing item) Mr Warriner stated that 5 pupils attended the Minnie Pit Memorial Service to provide a reading and light candles. A number of pupils will be helping at Leddys Field later in January. Also the school will be assisting to plant the cherry trees at the Minnie Pit site and also bulbs, at a date to be agreed. TC and IR to attend a school assembly to provide a presentation on social responsibility. TC to supply dates to Mr Warriner.</p> <p>To consider the bus shelter painting project (TC) Mr Warriner stated that the art teacher and 9 pupils will work on the artwork for the bus shelter on Friday and Monday afternoons. Clerk to supply the materials and obtain measurements with the contractor. TC to liaise with the artist.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC Clerk</p>															
7.	<p>Draft Budget for 2026/27 – see Appendix A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note any further comments on the draft Budget for 2026/27 - No further comments received. 2. To set the precept for next year – proposed to be 0% increase (Band D) £86.70 per Band D property (equivalent to approx 24p per day or £1.67 per week) It was agreed to provide a breakdown of Council Tax Bands and the precept applicable which will be put on the website and Facebook page. RESOLVED that, following consultation and several months of discussing the budget, to approve the budget for 26/27 and to approve the precept request as above and submit to the Borough Council in line with their deadlines. 3. To consider and agree the arrangements for the of bus subsidy from April 2026 (currently £32166 approx, 4% increase est next year £33452) <p>Total Passengers (2025)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="165 1218 1241 1406"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service Schedule</th> <th>Service Number</th> <th>Total Passengers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday to Friday (evening bus x 1)</td> <td>1ARPC</td> <td>4,234</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1A</td> <td>5,680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday (includes Bank Holidays)</td> <td>1C</td> <td>7,762</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual Combined Total</td> <td></td> <td>17,676</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The bus use stats were noted in relation to tickets purchased in the Parish or to the Parish. RESOLVED to request consideration for no increase, in line with the precept for next year. The Chair and Vice Chair were given delegated authority to approve the outcome and the ceiling was agreed in accordance with the suggested increase.</p>	Service Schedule	Service Number	Total Passengers	Monday to Friday (evening bus x 1)	1ARPC	4,234	Saturday	1A	5,680	Sunday (includes Bank Holidays)	1C	7,762	Annual Combined Total		17,676	<p>Clerk Clerk</p> <p>Clerk NH DJ</p>
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8.	<p>Local Plan update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NBC Local Plan – latest update is here https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-examination/2 <p>Noted that there was no update as yet other than the inspector has asked the Borough Council for some additional information. The modified plan would see the removal of 2 out of 3 housing sites but that the large employment site (AB2) remains which will see approx 80 hectares of prime farmland removed from Green Belt. The Chair highlighted the Parish Council's repeated concerns that have been raised plus the alternative sites at Chatterley Valley. Also the residents' concerns repeatedly raised about the current road safety issues, ongoing accidents (2 since the temporary signs installed) and ongoing near misses, which residents are subjected each day at the A500 slip road, due to the traffic backing up to the Audley bridge on the approach to the M6. The risk of further accidents is expected to increase to the detriment of the local residents and road users.</p>																

	<p>It was noted that the decision to include the AB2 scheme rests with Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Officers and Borough Councillors, if the Inspector decides to leave the scheme the Borough Council's Local Plan. As already demonstrated in the representations made, there is no justification for leaving this site in the Local Plan due to the obvious traffic chaos and road safety issues that endures already. The employment site far exceeds the employment need required by the Borough Council and Cheshire East Council also do not support the scheme.</p> <p>Discussion took place around the approach that can be taken. The Clerk was asked to seek advice on the matter.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>Planning – To consider any planning applications received, including:- FYI ONLY <u>Development of up to 220,000m2 GIA of storage and distribution units (B8), general industrial units (B2) and industrial units (E(g)(iii)); training and education (F1(a)) and occupier support services accommodation; service yards and parking areas; new main vehicular access off the A500 and emergency access off Barthomley Road; lorry parking and ancillary driver amenity facilities; with associated landscaping, earthworks, drainage and attenuation features and other associated works (outline, all matters reserved except for the principal means of vehicular access to the Site)</u> Land South East Adjacent Junction 16 M6 At Cheshire Boundary Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 25/00346/OUT – Ongoing - Noted no further update as yet.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Application for the approval of an Arboricultural Site Monitoring Schedule as required by condition 10 of application 25/00194/FUL</u> Wilbraham House Residential Home Church Street Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref. No: 25/00194/CN10 – Noted. 2. <u>Application for the approval of a Construction Management Plan (CMP) as required by condition 5 of application 25/00194/FUL</u> Wilbraham House Residential Home Church Street Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref. No: 25/00194/CN05 (to note impact on Butchers arms carpark and suggested closure 2/3 days for tall crane within method statement) (Conservation area/Delegated Authority/Vill Env) <p>There was a lengthy discussion about the nursing home, which is recognised as providing important care services for the village. It was noted that in order to close the adjacent public car park (which is leased by the Parish Council) there are implications to consider along with a reasonable period of notice required each time it is closed. The Parish Council has difficulty when closing it for general maintenance as this busy car park supports the village, church, health centre and local businesses. Therefore, it was RESOLVED to object to the CMP, which relies on the closure of the public car park to supply the materials to the building, due to health and safety. The Parish Council also had concerns about any potential damage which could be caused to the surface as it is only intended for light goods vehicles. Therefore, it is not agreed that the car park can be used as access for the building works/materials. It was noted there are alternative access arrangements and these should be pursued to facilitate the proposed work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <u>Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension and External Access Ramp</u> 64 Queen Street Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8HB Ref. No: 25/00924/FUL (Delegated/Village env) RESOLVED to approve. 4. <u>Partial removal of existing garage and replace with new garage. Resiting of garage due to position of gas main.</u> Garage Rye Hills Bignall End Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LP Ref. No: 25/00804/FUL (Greenbelt/Delegated) RESOLVED to approve. 	Clerk

10.	<p>To consider Grant applications (£1400 remaining (T2)/£300 per application, constituted parish groups Audley Pensioners Hall - grant towards asbestos removal - Appendix B RESOLVED to approve £400 in view of the unexpected issue, which was considered a new project, and as there was sufficient funds remaining in the budget to allow for this at this late stage in the year.</p>	
11.	<p>Footpaths (Budget £1,133.00/£533 remaining) 1. To recruit volunteers to work with Staffs County Council and NS Ramblers (note tools available) It was note that the tools purchased are with the Staffs County Council officer. However volunteers are needed. All to consider assisting and promoting. TC asked if we could obtain a date for the next working party organised by SCC, so all can then consider availability and promote. AH requested that his details are provided.</p>	<p>Clerk AH ALL</p>
12.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas/Car park/Assets inc : 1. Flagpole monthly inspection (TC) – standing item and confirmation regarding the policy TC confirmed the pole was in good order following inspection. It was agreed to purchase the spare Union and St Georges flag in line with the policy. Discussion took place regarding the positive feedback received and it was agreed to look at the site by the Pensioners Hall, as previously considered as a further site. Site to be looked at and the various considerations required. 2. To note Play Area and Car Park Monthly Inspection for January (Appendix C to follow) and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – replacement bin liners (Albert St and Alsager Road – cost £140 plus collection/installation) RESOLVED to agree the purchase the bin liners as above. The inspection reports were noted and the actions approved. It was also noted that delegated authority had been given to approve the tree work at Rileys Field – as per inspection at a cost of £350 net. It was agreed to carry out the work to the loose posts at Halmer End High Street car park at a cost of £100 labour. Noted that a further zip wire seat was to be obtained due to damage to the seat again, thought to be by a dog biting it. Signs to be erected to inform people. The Clerk was asked to chase up plans for trees planting scheme at Bignall End Road and Bridge Close. 3. To note delegated authority used to remove 3 trees/large branches in Leddys Field – cost to be notified - £550 net – work now completed. This was agreed. 4. Leddys Field Support Group update – IR The regular newsletter has been issued with updates on the work parties. A meeting will be held with the Newt Conservation officer at 10.30am 6th Feb. 5. To note the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust presentation regarding Craddocks Moss/Beaver project on 19 Feb at 6pm – exact details to be confirmed ahead of the meeting and open to the public – noted. 6. To receive an update on the Sakura Cherry trees to be planted by Sycamore gap tree and to agree costs associated with the planting and collection Note that we have received 4 which have been earmarked for the Minnie Pit memorial site at Bateswood as previously agreed. Event to be publicised but to control numbers to request people make contact if they wish to attend. Delegated authority agreed to purchase signs if necessary and other aspects for the planting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Clerk</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13.	<p>Dogs in Queen Street (Cara) play area - to consider a request to allocate a section of Queen Street for dogs only and improve signage (note patrols now in place by dog warden) The site is still leased to Cara at the current time, but the Parish Council is assisting with the day to day management. It was noted that there are now weekly visits from the dog</p>	

	<p>warden following earlier complaints made. Following a request, discussion took place as to whether or not it would be feasible to section part of the play area off for dogs to run around off lead. The majority of the site has play equipment on it which is not possible due to the layout and cost to fence all areas off. The only area available is a small area next to the older people's bungalows, properties and gardens. This may be a noise concern if there is a concentration of barking dogs plus there could be insurance issues if there are any injuries, excessive dog fouling etc. The NBC dog warden did not consider this to be advisable and that they do not provide such a facility in the Borough. As there are at least 2 local business in the Parish which provide well managed, safe and secure sites for groups of dogs to be let off at a small cost plus a further one the other side of Knowlbank, it was not considered to be feasible.</p> <p>RESOLVED to provide additional signs to make sure that people are aware there is a Dog Control Order PPSO in place which requests that dogs are on leads in play areas and sports pitches.</p> <p>The zip wire seat has been damaged again by what looks like a dog bites potentially from someone allowing their dog to bite the seat. This will be replaced.</p> <p>To consider installing a new sign for the Play area entrance and others as required Cost of a new sign £545 for the overall play area (Large A0 sign with legs and clips) RESOLVED to approve.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14.	<p>Parish Seats and Bus shelters (£5.1k budget/£500 remaining)*</p> <p>1. To approve the revised quote for timber at Margarets Garden seat repair £128 timber (wood price increase due to change of supplier was £80) plus £150 labour RESOLVED to approve. Clerk to ask Mr Heler to reinstall a new bollard at Margarets Garden.</p> <p>2. Refurb of a seat on Westfield Avenue and painting of 6 others in Audley – Updated quote to be provided (wood price increase due to change of supplier was £153 now £252) (865 – now 964) RESOLVED to approve.</p> <p>3. To note an update on the replacement bus shelter at Ravens Lane The Clerk noted that a site meeting had not been possible with the Highways officer at the present time, however it was not possible to move the shelter any further back as cars park behind it so it would be reinstalled on a like for like basis to comply with planning and the licence to dig etc. This was approved and noted that damage may occur in the future which could not be avoided.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
15.	<p>Audley and Halmer End Allotments</p> <p>To consider a request from a Halmer End Allotment tenant (half plot) to take on the other half of tenancy due to the other half tenant not renewing (note already on waiting list for full plot) RESOLVED to allow plot to transfer.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
16.	<p>Car parks :</p> <p>1. Car Park Audley Methodist Church (budget £85k/£78k remaining) – update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note site to be under management from 22nd January • To note the SCC Legal costs £3.9k – To note that the church solicitor has requested a further cost (£1k) due to further drafting required since the spring. A breakdown has been requested. RESOLVED that this be approved as the site needed to complete. • Car park to be closed w/c 26 Jan for one day (potentially Tuesday 27th Jan TBC) to allow for trial pits for drainage assessment and planning application to be submitted and party wall discussions. <p>As the car park completes on 22nd Jan – the work will be continuing. Banners to go up next week. This was approved</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>2. Bignall End Road lease progression (£50k budget 26/27 financial year) –update – nothing further received at this stage other than earlier update on licence.</p> <p>3. Adj to Butchers Arms – update on parking bumpers and car park closure for marking to be rearranged and lamp post column repair – Repair to be carried out on 28 Jan 2026. Bumper has been purchased and is to be installed as a trial. RESOLVED to install a new post in front of the column – DJ has one available to use. This work to be done at the same time as the lamp post repair by Eon.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>Audley Bowling Club (Budget £1k for 25/26/£300 remaining) (accrual from 24/25 to cover legal fees £2.5k)</p> <p>1. Signing of Lease of the Bowling Club – to note in progress with tenants</p> <p>2. Next annual Inspection to be undertaken in Spring 2026 – to be agreed</p>	
18.	<p>Highways issues (Budget £1400/£700 remaining):</p> <p>1. To consider a quote to weed and sweep the pavements along Church Street/Nantwich Road (noted that this has been reported to NBC and request rejected) and by Old Road to school – £185 RESOLVED to approve.</p> <p>2. Miles Green (Heathcote Road/Station Road junction) – standing item – County Cllr update on DHP</p> <p>3. Bignall Hill and nearby drains – flooding (Standing item) – to monitor future downpours</p> <p>4. A500 from National Highways – to note 2 accidents since temp signs were installed (Nov and December) plus reported near misses, update awaited from National Highways</p> <p>An update was provided by National Highways to state that new signs will be in place at the end of March. A public update has been requested and will be provided over the next few days and issued.</p> <p>5. Parish owned Grit bins - to note additional refill due to weather and further requests for problem areas</p> <p>RESOLVED to purchase a further two bins at Heathcote Road/Co-operative Lane and Chester Road – as both sites are on the gritting route, it was noted that Highways will not supply these, and if they do it will be springtime.</p> <p>Clerk to report that there are the remnants of the fallen tree in the road at Bignall End Road which is sticking out into the road.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
19.	<p>Standing item – CCTV /Police</p> <p>1. To note any requests for footage from Police– January – None.</p>	
20.	<p>UK GDPR (standing item)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data breaches/Subject Access requests/Information Security – reminder of responsibilities – noted. <p>Audit of all GDPR policies by DPO to meet Assertion 10 –Appendix D Retention and Disposal Policy and appendix – updated to reflect Data Protection Act 2018 Information Security Policy (IT) updated (includes password protection) Information and Data Protection Policy updated Acceptable use reviewed (* new councillors to sign) ICO guidance on use of own devices and emails</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve the updated policies. Clerk to obtain signatures from the two new councillors.</p>	Clerk
21.	<p>Communications and PR messages (Standing Item)</p> <p>To agree PR messages for the next month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council tax bands – breakdown • Bus subsidy and use stats • Before and after pictures of clean up of weeds, work party and local footpaths • Grit bins • SWT attending the next meeting to talk about the project 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church car park information re closure etc 											
22.	Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received not listed for next agenda – No other issues.											
23.	Clerks Update – Appendix E – this was noted as circulated.											
24.	<p>Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda – (note Highways/ROW issues to be reported outside of the meeting))</p> <p>DJ – Meeting venue change to the Audley Pensioners Hall as more people tend to interact at Audley, with little attendance shown elsewhere. It was also noted that the venues are unable to book out Thursdays, due to the commitment every 8 weeks.</p> <p>KC – Marions Platts Way there is a metal fence where motorbikes can access the walkway, to be included in the letter. This has also been reported to the police.</p> <p>PC – Noted that there seems to be ashes spread on the Millenium Green site, to report to Paul Sargent.</p>	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>										
25.	<p>Finance:</p> <p>DJ left</p> <p>1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers including noting payments made by delegated authority – Appendix F RESOLVED to approve.</p> <p>DJ returned.</p> <p>2. To note the budget update and bank reconciliation statement – Appendix F1 RESOLVED to note.</p> <p>A budget report had been circulated and was explained. As the car park work would not be completed this financial year, the spend is less than forecast on the report as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Budget</td> <td>£282k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Receipts</td> <td>£244k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual spend</td> <td>£148k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forecast spend remaining</td> <td>£192k <i>which includes *2 x new car parks and bus subsidy</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total est spend for year</td> <td>£340k total including all spend forecast</td> </tr> </table> <p>Adjusted Forecast spend £71k based on estimated spend for rest of year due to timing of spend in relation to the projects*</p> <p>Total for year expected* £263k (not £340k)</p> <p>Reserves-</p> <p>Currently in bank £251k less £71k forecast spend leaves £180k to be c/f (which includes 2 x new car parks and funds for £13k for 1 x bi election if called) – total free uncommitted reserves of £32k. It was noted that would be considered low although there is contingency within budgets, therefore future commitments would need to be adjusted or planned over future financial years to ensure the free reserves remain between three and 12 months of net revenue expenditure</p> <p>3. To approve the SLCC renewal £316 - RESOLVED to approve.</p>	Budget	£282k	Receipts	£244k	Actual spend	£148k	Forecast spend remaining	£192k <i>which includes *2 x new car parks and bus subsidy</i>	Total est spend for year	£340k total including all spend forecast	
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26.	<p>TO RESOLVE UNDER THE 1960 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT) TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE MEETING TO BE DISCUSSED</p> <p>1. To consider the internal review conducted by Staffs County Council and any further actions – Appendix G</p> <p>This was approved as circulated. Discussion took place regarding the provisions in the complaints policy which address ongoing matters. Legal advice to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>2. To consider quotes for Halmer End play area rotator replacement surface to be reinstalled – Appendix H</p>	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>										

<p>A number of quotes were obtained and circulated. RESOLVED to approve the quote from Horicon for the grass mats, as circulated.</p> <p>3. To consider the quotes and appointment for the Grass cutting Annual Maintenance contract from April 2026 - Appendix I</p> <p>A number of quotes were obtained and circulated. RESOLVED to approve the quote from Grounds Maintenance Solutions Ltd following suitable references, RAMS etc. Meeting with the contractor to take place with Clerk and Chair.</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve an extra cut outside of the contract in March as soon as weather allows. A further quote to be obtained for Leddys Field.</p>	<p>Clerk Chair</p> <p>Next agenda</p>
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Meeting closed at 21.13pm

County Councillor Report – January 2026

Audley Parish Council

Cllr Rhys Machin – County Councillor for Audley & Chesterton

1. Introduction

I am pleased to provide the following update on Staffordshire County Council matters relevant to Audley and the surrounding division. This report is provided for information only and reflects completed works, current activity, and ongoing matters being progressed with the appropriate County Council teams.

2. Completed Highway Works in Audley

Since my previous update, a number of highway safety and road marking works have been completed across Audley following issues raised locally and through officer engagement.

Church Street (from the junction of Vernon Avenue to the junction with the B5600 New Road):

- Full remarking of double yellow lines
- Reinstatement of centre white lining
- Refreshing of give-way triangle markings

(Approx. 910m of yellow lining and 430m of white lining completed)

Bus stop and lining improvements on Church Street:

- Outside The Beauty Lounge
- Outside No. 86
- Outside No. 83
- Outside Nos. 27/29

Junction safety and lining works off Church Street:

- Wilbrahams Walk – centre line and give-way markings
- Dean Hollow – give-way markings and ‘No Entry’ signage
- Hall Street – centre line and give-way markings
- Hougher Wall Road – centre line, give-way markings and give-way triangle
- Chester Road – centre line, give-way markings and give-way triangle
- Vernon Avenue – centre line and give-way markings

Signage repairs:

- Chester Road (junction with Church Street) – off-line give-way sign repaired and realigned

3. Highways, Winter Service and Grit Bins

Over the Christmas and New Year period, and during recent spells of cold and icy weather, the County Council experienced increased demand across the highway network. This has affected response times in some cases, and I am aware that a number of locally raised issues are still awaiting officer responses.

I have not yet received direct confirmation regarding the installation of new grit bins or specific refill timescales. In the meantime, I have been actively directing residents to Staffordshire County Council’s ‘Report It’ portal so that grit bin and winter maintenance issues are logged correctly and formally.

Since becoming County Councillor, and particularly during the recent period of severe weather, the number of reports submitted has increased. This reflects improved engagement and awareness, as many residents were previously unaware of the Report It system or how it should be used.

4. Flooding and Drainage

Flooding and drainage concerns raised within the division, including around the Bignall Hill area, have been logged and are known to Staffordshire County Council Highways. At present, there are no further updates available. I will provide an update to the Parish Council as soon as additional information is received.

5. A500 – National Highways

There have been no further updates received since my previous report regarding the A500. The document previously submitted outlining potential solutions remains the most up-to-date position at this time.

During recent icy conditions, I notified Staffordshire County Council Highways of a further collision on the A500. Any update from National Highways is still awaited.

6. Audley Theatre – Hall Street / Church Street Parking

Concerns have been raised regarding parking pressures on Hall Street and Church Street during theatre performance evenings. I have engaged with local residents, Audley Parish Council, and the Practice Manager at Audley Health Centre to explore potential options and constraints.

Due to the complexity of the issue, including land ownership, enforcement responsibilities, and operational limitations, and in light of the size of the Parish Council agenda, it is likely that this matter would be better explored through a separate meeting rather than in detail at the Parish Council meeting.

7. DHP and Ongoing Highways Matters

I have an upcoming DHP/ Highways meeting scheduled, at which I already have a number of local matters to raise. If the Parish Clerk or Parish Councillors wish to flag any additional items for consideration, I would be grateful if these could be sent to me separately so they can be reviewed and included where appropriate.

8. Community Engagement

I continue to receive positive messages, comments, and emails from residents regarding increased engagement and responsiveness, particularly in relation to highways issues and helping residents navigate the appropriate reporting processes. I intend to maintain this level of engagement and will continue working proactively on behalf of residents across Audley.

9. Closing

I remain available for follow-up discussions outside of the meeting where appropriate and will continue to provide updates to the Parish Council as further information becomes available.

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL – POLICE REPORT

15/01/2026 – 1900Hrs Halmer End Stute.

Data 19/12/2025 to 15/01/2026 (Since last meeting)

Total incidents reported on the Audley area – 136 (Previous month was 140) although 103 of the 136 were M6 motorway of A500 traffic related. So, only 33 incidents reported to Police on streets of Audley which is decrease from the 42 reported last month.

ASB Community – 1
Off Road E Bikes in Apedale Country Park

ASB Personal – 0

ASB Environmental – 0

Burglary Dwelling – 1

Burglary Business / Commercial Property – 0

Last month there were 0 recorded Commercial Burglaries.

Street Robbery – 0

Vehicle Crime – 0

Criminal Damage – 1

Community Issues identified since last meeting – E bikes seem to be declining now, with only 1 complaint in the last month. Police continue to seize illegal ones.

Tickets continue to be sent out in relation to parking on zig zag lines on Church Street. This carries a penalty of 3 points and £100 fine.

Incidents of Note –

Rogue Traders – No further report since last meeting

Suspicious incident – No further reports of Hare Coursing. Nothing else reported in Parish.

Traffic Matters – Pleased to say that there seems to be a decline in incidents at the A500 /Alsager Road junction. Police will continue to monitor and liaise with Highways.1 RTC reported since new year at this location – Highways are aware and planning works to reduce number of incidents.

Appendix A - Approved Budget 2026/27

ARPC APPROVED BUDGET 2026/27		
CENTRAL ADMIN/OFFICE COSTS	Budget £	Notes
Staff Costs inc HMRC employer costs	38,000.00	Includes contingency
Staff Pension (emplr and staff contributions)	9,000.00	
Other office expenses (Clerk reimbursed)	515.00	
Office Administration costs	1,500.00	Office admin costs (eg Zoom (for online meetings), room hire costs, office equipment (including PAT testing), equip contingency, office mobile phone, postage, training staff and cllrs)
Chairs Allowance	1,400.00	
Comms/Website /Email Office 365	1,000.00	
Stationery	400.00	
Staff Costs Mileage	250.00	
Standard office expenses	1,140.00	
Insurance	4,000.00	
Audit	840.00	
Subscriptions Scribe etc	1,500.00	
Professional Fees Locum		Assumed none but may be reserves
Bank Charges	50.00	
Elections	10,000.00	Unknown cost (last time was £2.5k for one ward for general election year (note By election would be more)
SUB TOTAL	69,595.00	
ALLOTMENTS	Budget	
SUB TOTAL	1,600.00	
AUDLEY BOWLING CLUB BUILDING	Budget	
SUB TOTAL	2,000.00	
BUS SUBSIDY CONTRACT	Budget	
SUB TOTAL	33,000.00	
CAR PARKS	Budget	
Car parks maintenance	3,000.00	
Audley Car park inc fees £85k	0.00	£85k to be c/fwd from 25/26 (less spend already)
Inspection inc Church Car park	900.00	
Car Park Bignall End Rd Play area	0.00	£50k to be c/fwd from 25/26
SUB TOTAL	3,900.00	
COMMUNITY ACTIVITY	Budget	
Grants Programme	4,000.00	

	Signed	Dated
Donations/Remembrance Day	5,000.00	
S137 Activities		
AMGT Maintenance - Tree survey/work phase 1	5,000.00	This may be c/fwd from 25/26 - awaiting MGT - remove if not required
AMGT donation	2,000.00	
SUB TOTAL	16,000.00	
COUNCIL ASSETS	Budget	
Bus Shelters, Seats and Noticeboards	4,120.00	
Leddys Field Maintenance	3,000.00	
Margarets Garden	800.00	
Blue Bell woods	515.00	
Leddys Field Tree work phase 3	6,000.00	
Annual Maintenance Contract other items	500.00	
Podmore cottages Parish owned track	100.00	
ASB issues		Unknown cost
Litter Bin Empty contract 4 bins inc Leddys bi weekly	600.00	
Leddys Field bin empty weekly summer hols only	70.00	
SUB TOTAL	15,705.00	
HIGHWAYS	Budget	
Highways related spend	1,000.00	Verges, pavements siding, other related spend
SIDs maintenance	206.00	
SIDS purchase	0.00	
Miles Green feasibility report	0.00	
SUB TOTAL	1,206.00	
MISC	Budget	
Unadopted Land	1,000.00	
Village Planters	600.00	
General	500.00	
Unallocated spend	0.00	
Land reg of Parish Land	2,000.00	
SUB TOTAL	4,100.00	
NEIGHBOURHOOD/ LOCAL PLAN	Budget	
Neighbourhood Plan	0.00	
Local Plan challenge/AB2	15,000.00	TBC - Secretary of State Call in for Planning App and Hearing for Local Plan/Call in
SWT Wildlife report	0.00	
SUB TOTAL	15,000.00	
PLAYING FIELDS	Budget	
Playing Fields Maintenance	9,270.00	
Playing fields Equipment	20,000.00	Rileys MUGA Fencing 15k TBC Surface Halmer End 5k TBC
Playing Fields ASB	800.00	
Grass Cutting Annual Maintenance	12,360.00	Subject to tender costs

	Signed	Dated
Play inspection reports	1,700.00	
Queen Street Bin empty - Contract	400.00	Extra empties required during school holidays
Queen Street Adhoc	200.00	
Grass cutting AM Queen Street	2,400.00	Subject to Tender costs
NBC and Contract Bin empties	1,500.00	Parish assets - extra bin empties plus new bins
SUB TOTAL	48,630.00	
FOOTPATHS	Budget	
Footpaths	1,133.00	
SUB TOTAL	1,133.00	
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Budget	
CCTV maintenance	2,700.00	
CCTV install	0.00	
Xmas 2026 installation and purchase	10,000.00	
SUB TOTAL	12,700.00	
TOTALS	224,569.00	

Appendix H – Payments and Receipts

Voucher	Name	Description	Amount
418	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	4.25
419	Parish Clerk (RFO)	20 x 1st class stamps allot rent letters	34.00
420	Parish Clerk (RFO)	Postage for lease signed for to SCC	10.25
421	Potteries Building Supplies Ltd	Limestone dust for path to car park	20.00
422	Potteries Waste	Road plainings for car park Alsagers Bank CC potholes school use	48.00
423	Parish Clerk (RFO)	Staff Salary	
425	Parish Clerk (RFO)	Standard office expenses	95.00
426	SCC Pensions	SCC Pension Costs	
427	HMRC	HMRC Tax and NI	
428	Ionos via Parish Clerk	NPlan website Monthly sub	12.00
429	EE	EE Mobile costs Office Phone	32.40
430	EE	EE mobile costs SIM cards Village CCTV	84.00
431	O2	Mobile phone CCTV Halmer End	24.60
432	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly until school holidays 25_26	72.00
433	Audley Wood Lane Comm Assoc	Room Hire Nov	20.00
434	SLCC	SLCC Membership	316.00
435	Amazon EU S.a.r.L. via Parish Clerk reimburse	Tags for Xmas decs storage	18.90
436	Recoded Solutions	Emails and Sharepoint - Office 365 annual subs	92.23
437	Start Traffic Ltd	Grit bin x 2 add Grassy Green Lane and Cross Lane	392.18
438	Audley Parochial Church Council	Electric costs for xmas lights floodlights	45.63
439	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly until school holidays 25_26	72.00
440	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly until school holidays 25_26	72.00
441	Shralebrook Media Duncan Richardson	Banner car park x 2, halmer end play area sign multi play	125.00
442	Steve Hough	AM contract - Play inspections	150.00
443	Steve Hough	ON 357 Play area maintenance Halmer End zipwire surface and Alsager Road Supernova etc new soil	50.00
444	Steve Hough	ON 357 Removal of paint Halmer End and Queen Street	50.00
445	Steve Hough	ON 319 Refit to Rotary hand swing Queen Street	125.00
446	Steve Hough	ON 335 Spraying algae remover on surfaces x 7	150.00
447	Steve Hough	Boyles hall bench tidy up	50.00
448	Broxap	Bin liners x 2 for bins emptied by NBC - Alsager Road and Albert St	159.60
449	Locum Clerk	Locum clerk cover meeting	87.50
450	Stuarts Gardening Services	AM contract Car park inspections	100.00
451	Stuarts Gardening Services	Collection of Sakura cherry trees Stafford and return	65.00
452	Stuarts Gardening Services	Removal of Local Plan banners x 5	65.00
453	Flagpole Express	Flag St Georges and Union spare	0.00
454	STS Contractors UK Limited	Leddys field tree work H&S concerns	660.00
455	Sintons	Church car park lease legal fees landlord	1,214.00
456	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Scissors markers and side cutter - public signs	8.93

Signed	Dated	
457	Parish Clerk (RFO)	Signed for post to Talbots Law - Bignall End Road land registry	3.60
458	STS Contractors UK Limited	Rileys Field tree work by gate	420.00
459	Potteries Waste	Grit for bins refill	180.00
	TOTAL		10,142.75