

## Chairs Report 2023 – 24

Another year has passed by and often it's not until you take the time to stop and reflect, that you truly appreciate how much has been done for the benefit of us all, by a wide range of volunteers and organisations that makeup the community we all enjoy living in.

To those that have, and continue to, give up their time running and managing our village hall, producing our local parish magazine, mowing our churchyard, running our various clubs, looking out for neighbours with kindness, fundraising tirelessly for charity etc, we are all grateful for the work you do. **You know who you are!**

Likewise, we should be grateful for the work of our local parish councillors who have continued to give up so much of their own time and energies over the last year for the benefit of all. We were sad to see Barry Bell retire from his role last year but delighted to welcome a new member, Laura Tarburton, to the council. Laura is already having a positive impact and, interestingly, we have a number of people enquiring and expressing an interest in joining the council. That can only bode well for the future.

It has been another interesting year with us continuing to work through some difficult times. I say with a degree of pride that members of the current council have continued to stand firm and resolute, continuing to provide high levels and quality of services with a keen eye on costs and value for money.

### Facilities

One of the key roles of a Parish Council is to make decisions for the wider benefit of the parish and take some responsibility for the well-being of our local community. It is the authority closest to the ground and invariably the first place people go with concerns or ideas.

The work of the Parish Council falls into three main categories.

- Representing the local community
- Delivering services to meet local needs
- Striving to improve quality of life in the parish

Of course, we don't always get everything right and understandably not everyone is always pleased with decisions made. That is democracy, once described by Churchill as "..... the worst form of government, except for all the others."

In terms of facilities and services, your PC over the last 12 months have worked alongside other groups to improve facilities on the village green, added a routine maintenance and cleaning regime to our two bus shelters, added additional pathways on well-walked routes. In addition, we have added further speed control measures in areas of concern, including engaging with our local Neighbourhood Policing Team to carry out spot checks and additional enforcement in those areas.

We have continued to work with our chosen contractors to provide high levels of grounds maintenance across the Parish.

## Finance

Through diligent financial management and planning, Councillors have continued to ensure that we provide good value for money in delivering the wide range of services we offer. Did you know that the precept amount collected by Shropshire council on behalf of the Hadnall PC remains at one of the lowest in the county? <sup>i</sup>

Council tax year 2024/2025*			
	Band A	Band D	Band G
Astley	£1,434.83	£2,152.24	£3,587.07
Upton Magna	£1,432.88	£2,149.31	£3,582.19
Hadnall	£1,434.98	£2,152.46	£3,587.44
Baschurch	£1,437.47	£2,156.20	£3,593.67
Myddle	£1,439.22	£2,158.82	£3,598.04
Grinshill	£1,452.22	£2,178.32	£3,630.54
Cockshutt	£1,450.58	£2,175.87	£3,626.45
Shawbury	£1,451.26	£2,176.89	£3,628.15
Clive	£1,455.89	£2,183.83	£3,639.72
Ryton X1 Towns	£1,453.78	£2,180.66	£3,634.44

\*<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/5b5jbdwp/publication-of-shropshire-council-2024-25-council-tax-amounts.pdf>

Over the last 12 months, we have sought out and achieved significant savings, particularly in relation to utility bills and grounds maintenance.

Your council have been diligent in investing ‘earmarked’ reserves in a high interest Public Sector Deposit Fund and through careful and prudent financial planning have, over a small number of years, built up and maintained a sensible level of ‘general’ reserves, as required by financial regulations governing local councils.

## Future

Much as we were this time last year, we still await the adoption of Shropshire Council’s (SC’s) delayed Local Plan, which has been developed over the last 8 years. The Local Plan ‘identifies SC’s vision and framework for the future development of Shropshire up to 2038; It assesses the needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the local economy, community facilities and infrastructure; and seeks to safeguard the environment, enable adaptation to climate change and helps to secure high-quality and accessible design’. As many of you know, what the plan means for Hadnall is a change from ‘Countryside’ to ‘Hub’ status with the building of approx. 52 houses in the village, 40 on SC’s preferred site to the South of Wedgefields and another 12 built within a tightly defined village development boundary. Recent planning application approvals appear to have set a precedent in starting on that course to provide this additional housing.

Whilst we have achieved so much over the last 12 months, one area of concern is progress with the development of a new Community Led Plan to update and replace the last one published in September 2017. This needs to be a priority over the coming 12 months.

The second area of concern is the provision of facilities for older children which for a number of reasons we have yet to deliver on. This will undoubtedly also be a priority over the next 12 months as we firm up plans for the provision of that.

### Finally

Many thanks to Simon Jones, our local councillor, for his continued support and advice.

My final words are a huge thankyou to our Clerk, Alison Utting. Alison has been with us since 2020 and in that time has continued to provide support and sound advice to us all. There have been some difficult times over the last few years, and we have absolute admiration for Alison's fortitude and strength of character in dealing with all the issues thrown at her and us. We hope Alison remains with us for years to come.

Just a fraction of the work Alison does is maintaining our website and our social media presence. So if you want to keep up to date with Parish matters check out our Parish Council Website<sup>ii</sup> and our Facebook Page (Hadnall Parish Council) <sup>iii</sup> which is the only social media page on which we currently post and respond.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and successful 2024/25!

John Harrison

Chair Hadnall Parish Council

**Hadnall  
Parish  
Council**

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<sup>i</sup> <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/5b5jbdwp/publication-of-shropshire-council-2024-25-council-tax-amounts.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.hadnallcouncil.co.uk/>

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094555162996&locale=hi\\_IN&paipv=0&eav=AfZ6S4BdQ5LQtalpi9hgZKuQXTbjiX7kRsNDE2JGI6Y9jmwTnmwVHYVJSCONEDZbaYc](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094555162996&locale=hi_IN&paipv=0&eav=AfZ6S4BdQ5LQtalpi9hgZKuQXTbjiX7kRsNDE2JGI6Y9jmwTnmwVHYVJSCONEDZbaYc)