



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/2018**

During 2017/2018 sadly Bill Consterdine stepped down as a Councillor for the second time after so many years' service to the community that we have lost count. We wish him well in his second retirement. However, we have been delighted to welcome several newcomers to the Parish Council as Tim Lawton, Suzie Warren and Lynette Hopkins were co-opted as Councillors.

Our Clerk, Kirstin Dixon resigned after five years in the post to do a post-graduate course and was succeeded by Sandie McBennett, who had to leave for family reasons. We thank them for their contribution to the work of the Council. Bee Lopez Bloor became Clerk in April and is proving to be a great support to Councillors.

Long serving past Councillors were recognised through the street names on the Anwyl development when Councillors' recommendations for (Charles) Marshall Drive, (Derek) McKelvey Way, and also Rope Walk, were accepted by Cheshire East Council.

Despite ongoing disappointment at the outcome of objections to planning permission, the Parish Council has been party to the refusal of the Moorsfield/Tollgate and Woore Road/Mount Pleasant application and (after quite a fight) been successful in getting a right turn lane into the new Anwyl development when coming from Nantwich. Councillors will be working with Cheshire East on the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan once their requirements for Audlem are fully known.

The Parish Council gave a second £10,000 donation to the new Annexe, which is doing well after its grand opening in November. The Council has also supported the Music and Arts Festival, Carnival and ADAS. The well-attended Village meeting in April 2017 had a rural theme, focusing on the countryside and wildlife surrounding Audlem and ways of accessing it.

This coming financial year promises to be particularly exciting as, with the full support of residents, the Parish Council will purchase the Green Lane field. This will protect this special area from development and ensure it is kept for community use. If Planning Permission can be obtained and the necessary funding found it is hoped that additional parking spaces can be provided to provide some relief to the parking problems in the village. The ongoing saga of the take-over of the Playing field complex remains unresolved due to staff issues in Fields in Trust and a number of legal issues but we are hopeful that the transfer will soon be completed.

After 4 years in the role this is my last report as Chair of Audlem Parish Council and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and, in particular my Vice-Chairman, Geoff Seddon for his hard work throughout this time. At the May AGM Geoff was elected Chairman with David Higham as Vice Chairman and I wish them every success in their roles.