

Using the annual precept (in 2003 £22585) the Parish Council aims to maintain and improve both the local environment and quality of life for residents, whilst promoting and supporting Audlem's business community.

During 2003 donations were made to many local organisations to help them provide recreational and educational facilities or events for the benefit of adults, children and visitors. Amongst donations made were £250 each to Audlem Saints FC, St James's School, Audlem Carnival Committee and Festival Committees, 5A Company, 1st Audlem Cubs and Audlem Youth Club; a total of £1,500 to Audlem Tree House; £300 to the CAB Rural Advice Service; £1000 each to ADAS and ASET; and £3,500 to the Public Hall.

The following is a brief summary of the accounts for 2003/04:

<u>Income</u>	
Precept	22,585
Rents	540
Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council	
- contribution towards additional street cleaning	1,000
Other income	<u>1,930</u>
 Total	 <u>£26,055</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>	
Salaries	2,641
Administration (audit, insurance, printing etc.)	1,678
Donations to local organisations	8,925
Projects (lighting, drainage at Longhill Moss)	7,458
Precept to Audlem Burial Committee	2,817
Village cleaning & repairs	2,404
Other	<u>1,390</u>
 Total	 <u>£27,313</u>

(A sum of £8,661 was brought forward from 2002/03.)

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2003/04



Chairman's Report

Overall, 2003 was a successful year for the Council with a number of projects completed, and within the budgets set when calculating the precept. There was only one major project left uncompleted and the problem of vandalism continues into 2004/2005.

Projects completed are as follows: -

Black Water Moss

After the severe problem of flooding within the Moss, the drainage problems were eventually overcome and the water levels are now under control. This successful conclusion was due to the efforts of the Commons & Greens Committee - Richard Furber, Paul Huntbach, Norman Huntbach.

Access to the Pasture on the Moss

The track off Long Hill Lane, to the land at the rear of the Moss, has been completed. This will allow the Parish Council to draw rent from both the pasture and the new access track, and a contract has been agreed with a local farmer for the use of both.

Audlem Demonstration Project

The 'On-Coming Traffic' signs on Stafford Street are being observed and are achieving a degree of success. However

gridlocks, which invariably involve heavy goods vehicles in transit through the village, still occur on a regular basis. Monitoring cameras have been installed by the Cheshire Highways Department to provide comparative (“before & after”) information.

The flashing 30mph signs have made a significant difference to the speed of cars on entering the village, however the speed of commercial vehicles, in particular white vans, goes on at a reckless rate.

Picnic Benches

Three benches have been purchased and installed at three individual sites around the village. These sites were considered to be convenient to both local people and visitors.

Canal Sign

A “Welcome to Audlem” sign, cast in aluminium has been obtained, painted and erected on three oak posts on the visitors’ mooring bank opposite the canal shop.

Expenditure throughout the year was in the main contained within all the budgets set and all the members of the council are to be congratulated for all their efforts.

Items on the agenda during the coming year offer some challenges and some will bring permanent changes to the Council and how it conducts its business. During 2004 we will be continuing with efforts to tackle vandalism and to provide a skate park for our youngsters. We must also identify an alternative site for the recycling bins removed from the car park, and work with Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council to get the community composting project of the ground. The Parish

Council will also be joining national initiatives by applying for Quality Parish Council status and promoting production of a Parish Plan.

**Mike Hill
Chairman**

The Parish Council meets in St James's School on the first Monday of every month at 7.30 pm. There is an opportunity for residents to raise topics of interest or matters of concern before the meeting starts, and everyone is welcome to stay and listen to the rest of the meeting. Dates for meetings for the remainder of 2004 are: July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, December 6th.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mike Hill	01270 811843
Richard Furber	01270 811598
Bob Bennion	01270 811324
Frances Mary Christie	01270 811340
Bill Consterdine	01270 811647
Kate Down	01270 811160
Norman Huntbach	01270 812768
Paul Huntbach	01270 812170
Ken Jones	01270 811532
Andrew Smith	01270 811969
Irene Stockton	01270 811828
Geoff Stretch	01270 811011

Parish Clerk is:

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