



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

Audlem Parish Council

Statement Regarding Functioning of the Parish Council

Please be advised that the recent resignation of 5 councillors from Audlem Parish Council has left the Council with only 3 serving councillors. The notice of these vacancies has been advertised since 31st October 2024.

The Council has 12 councillor seats and prior to the recent resignations it had only 8 of those seats filled. To operate normally and in line with the relevant legislation, the Council requires one third (4) of its Councillors to hold a meeting where a corporate decision can be made that is legally binding, including the ability to co-opt members onto the Parish Council.

Without the required minimum of 4 councillors, the current 3 councillors are extremely limited in matters that it can tend to. However, they have been putting much effort into making sure that some of the basic operating essentials are still undertaken and preparing items ahead of the Council returning to its full functionality.

A temporary Clerk has been appointed on a part-time basis and is undertaking some limited functions in line with routine delegated authority. This will include responding to routine correspondence and, continuing to progress decisions previously made by the Parish Council.

The Temporary Clerk and remaining 3 councillors will be looking to amongst other things; prepare an initial draft budget for 2025/26 and preparing draft policies for adoption where they need reviewing and ensuring that the finances are monitored effectively. The Clerk and remaining councillors have been and will continue to be in touch with the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to find as many ways as possible that are in line with appropriate legislation so that the Parish Council might do as much as it can within the limitations of insufficient councillors

The current notice of vacancies entitles members of the electorate (registered in Audlem) to call for an election, subject to at least 10 members of the electorate submitting a request to the Returning Officer at Cheshire East Council.

The closing date for requests to be submitted is 20th November 2024.

Should an election be 'called' then the process of asking for nominations and setting a polling date will begin. The timetable is set by Cheshire East in line with appropriate legislation.