

Halsall Parish Council (HPC)

Annual report May 2025

This has been a good year for HPC. Following local elections in May last year all previous Councillors who put themselves forward were reinstated, and one was subsequently coopted back.

HPC now has three employees, the parish Clerk, assistant Parish Clerk and a cleaner and all are doing well. Costs are shared with the Memorial Trust. The Parish Clerk is also the responsible financial officer and keeps the bank accounts and books in good order.

During the year, Councillors Ridley and Schofield resigned, and Councillors Adams and Barker were coopted. Councillor Timon recently resigned, and the vacancy has been advertised.

HPC has taken over responsibility for the Parish magazine. Costs are shared with St Cuthbert's church. The magazine is distributed to all households in the villages in Halsall and Shirdley Hill. Costs for producing the magazine have gone up, but we are hoping to reduce costs by engaging more advertisers and we are now using a less expensive printer.

St Aidan's Hall continues to be well used by regular and ad hoc groups. The fortnightly lunch club is welcomed by local residents. The hall is well maintained and supported by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. The carpet was replaced by a safer wooden floor and the kitchen has been improved. The car park now has clearly demarcated parking spaces and benefits from beautiful hanging baskets during the summer.

HPC has supported local events and activities such as the 80th anniversary of D Day last year and the VE day fete and service this year, as well as all those organised by the Memorial Trust.

Shirdley Hill Green won the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition in the public garden category. HPC pays a contractor to mow the grass and cut the hedges on the Green.

HPC has provided small grants to support local community groups such as the Bees and Butterflies Brigade, Halsall Proud and Tidy, Shirdley Hill Community Association and Friends of the Green.

HPC has supported local groups concerned with problem parking and speeding and has made concerted efforts to obtain more data about accidents and other traffic related issues in the local area.

HPC has no responsibility for roads, but has supported local efforts to report flooding, get potholes repaired, and roads improved.

The annual external audit was very thorough and indicates that HPC is financially sound and complying with recent guidance and standards for Parish Councils.

Mary Lyons (Chair)

Halsall Parish Council