

When we moved to Hadnall in March 2023, I had no intention of joining the Parish Council so quickly let alone becoming chair! I thought my spare time would be spent walking the dog in the beautiful Shropshire countryside or enjoying a lovely dinner by the river. However, after signing up to our fantastic village magazine, I read something along the lines of ‘the volunteer work in this village cannot continue to be done by the same people of a certain generation, if the young people and families who have moved here want to preserve the village, they must get involved’, and it hit a nerve, it’s absolutely true. We moved to this village because we loved the ‘feel’, the community, the beauty of it and in an age of ever-increasing cuts and talk of devolution, it is up to us to protect our communities, to keep the grass mowed, to keep areas tidy and free of litter, to not let our animals make a mess, to work with those most vulnerable and to stand up for what is right.

We love living in Hadnall and I am proud to work amongst a fantastic group of local volunteers and councillors who take time to make this North Shropshire village so special. So, thank you, to my fellow councillors, to everyone who volunteers and makes a difference and to all the unsung heroes. Thank you for making Hadnall such a wonderful place to live.

In August the council received the sad news that Neil Duxbury had passed away, this came as an enormous shock to all and the knowledge, fairness and commitment that Neil brought to the parish council remains sadly missed.

The first half of the year saw our chair being occupied by Sarah Parker who did a marvellous job in leading the initial meetings around (at the time) a draft proposal that was received from Cameron Homes relating to the land to the South of Wedgefields. Sarah worked so hard in gathering information, local knowledge, understanding planning and co-ordinating individuals in order to present a summary to the parish council and decide next steps and we thank her for all of her hard work.

Since becoming chair in November, my main focus has been on planning and the issues around sewerage and drainage that have been affecting parishioners. We have held multiple meetings with Severn Trent Water, Shropshire Council and Helen Morgan MP in a strive to promote the needs of the village and highlight problems and inadequacies in the infrastructure around the village. We have engaged with a range of individuals within these organisations which has resulted in an acknowledgement from Severn Trent Water that the current infrastructure in Hadnall is not meeting capacity during peak rain fall, an acknowledgement from Shropshire Council that this was not known at the time of allocating housing needs to Hadnall in the local plan and a letter of objection from Helen Morgan MP to any further development in Hadnall until the infrastructure requirements are met. Further, a Grampian condition has been lodged by Severn Trent Water on this development. This rarely used tool means that if planning is granted, nobody will be able to move into the homes until the infrastructure can take the extra homes. This is extremely positive work supported by many local experts who have been able to help us understand documents, maps and technical jargon.

I am also pleased to report that our violet streetlights have been resolved! I’d started to grow quite fond of them and it did amuse me when I find out that Hadnall has its own Reddit thread with people who were very curious about them.

It has been a frustration to all that the revision of Hadnall’s CLP (Community Led Plan) and the play equipment for older children have not progressed as we would have hoped. However, we are hopeful that once we are clear on current building and planning circumstances in the village

we will be able to move forward on this. If anyone would like to help with the shaping of our CLP we would love to hear from you, we hope that this document will provide a vision for the future of Hadnall that will help to shape planning policy and influence decisions in our area and the more input we can get from you the better!

We do face challenges in the future, the recent withdrawal of the local plan for Shropshire Council is disappointing and will see planning officers having less control over where building takes place and fewer grounds for objection. I would remind all that you have a voice on planning matters and if you do object to a planning application it is so important that you use that voice, you can still write to the planning officers but if ever anyone needs any help with computer access we would be happy to assist. As you are no doubt aware, Hadnall has recently been moved into the Tern division encompassing Astley, Upton Magna and Withington parishes, along with parts of Pimhill and Uffington. We also say goodbye to our Unitary Councillor, Simon Jones. Simon has been a great support to the Parish Council over the years and I thank him for all of his work. We take this opportunity to welcome our newly elected unitary Councillor, Brendon Mallon, I look forward to meeting Brendon and I am hopeful for an excellent relationship moving forward.

We welcomed several new councillors recently and it is great to have Steve Downing and Ian Jackson on board and we look forward to Henry Crow joining us soon. Along with pressing and important larger matters, the parish council are responsible for several different roles to keep the village clean, tidy and safe. This includes; asset inspections, playground equipment management, risk assessments, ground maintenance schedules, vehicle speeding signage, tree surveys, and much more! If you feel you can bring any expertise to the council, we would love to hear from you, you can give as little or as much of your time as a councillor and it really is a vital and rewarding volunteering role with lots of opportunities for training and personal development.

We will be losing some councillors this term and I thank all Councillors for the time and commitment they have shown to their community during their term. This is a volunteer role, we all work full time jobs and have families, truth be told it can get tough sometimes! However, I feel we have been a wonderful team, we have laughed along the way, made some friends and I would say the rewards for our community far outweigh the bad bits...!

I cannot close this report without giving my enormous thanks to our Clerk, Alison Utting. Alison keeps all of the councillors on track, making sure we have fulfilled what we say we will fulfil. She has a talent for taking minutes that I have never quite witnessed before and her knowledge around local government, legislation and what we can and cannot do is quite astonishing. Alison is a real support to me personally and has helped me to very quickly learn the ropes. Thank you, Alison.

The parish council meets at the Village Hall every two months, our meeting dates for the remainder of 2025/2026 will be posted on our website www.hadnallcouncil.co.uk, on our Facebook page 'Hadnall Parish Council' and on the notice boards at the Village Hall and on the corner of Astley Lane following the AGM. You can contact the Parish Council at any time by e-mailing clerk@hadnallparishcouncil.gov.uk or calling 01691 622093.

Wishing you the very best for the next year,

Laura