

Chairmans Report May 2024

Henbury Parish Council now consists of seven councillors.
Supported by a clerk who is also the responsible financial officer.

Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham also attends our meetings.
Providing years of experience and access to Cheshire East Council services through the online management system

Direct contact with officers is no longer possible.

We are now working with five councillors which is below the revised requirement.

The required number of meetings are all held in the Church Hall and open to the public.

Transparency Regulations have also made it even more important that we work to specific requirements.

The administration and day to day working is very efficient. It is now digital across all areas including on-line Banking.

The internal audit and all necessary returns have been completed. Awaiting external audit

The meetings and agenda follow a standard format. All councillors confirm any conflicts of interest at each meeting. The statutory returns have also been completed.

The Chairman's report is a requirement from a time when there were no computers or internet.

All relevant or pertinent information is now easily accessed shortly after each meeting.

So I don't propose to go into great detail about all the areas we are dealing with

Though for the purpose of this meeting I would be more than happy to answer any questions. Or respond to specific points you would like to raise.

Henbury Parish Council for many years has been fortunate to have a cross section of very talented and committed councillors who have given countless work to the standard of professional consultants

Saving thousands in fees and bringing the local knowledge that otherwise would not be available.

Making the objections to developments that are opportunistic and not supporting adequate lifestyle services and infrastructure.

It is now more difficult to explain to residents why serious issues and removal of services are now the norm.

The Cheshire East Council financial situation is now making it very difficult to provide a level of service we would expect.

We now have to make maximum use of our precept, focusing on areas that we can deliver using independent contractors.

This means that large reductions will now follow for many years to come.

Our precept is just below the permitted maximum. Though we have received CIL payments that can only be used for infrastructure projects which is subject to advice from the planning department.

As your Parish Council we are committed to provide the best use of funding and the interaction with CEC for services and support when necessary.

I would like to thank your Parish Clerk RFO
Parish Councillors and particularly our
Ward Councillor (Lesley Smetham)

For their time and desire to deliver professional standards and commitment to the residents of Henbury