

With a heavy heart, I hereby tender my resignation from Audlem Parish Council. My efforts during my tenure have always been aimed at promoting the best interests of the Council, ensuring that the principles of good governance were adhered to. Unfortunately, these efforts have been met with continued criticism and hostility from certain residents in the village who have gone so far as to attack me both verbally and online. Therefore, bringing my integrity into question, which I can no longer allow to happen .

There is only so much harassment and lack of support that any individual can endure before deciding to step away. The current Council members are grappling with issues that stem from the actions of previous Councillors, who when questioned about their actions, chose to resign, leaving the remaining councillors to address the resulting challenges. This has placed an enormous burden on those councillors who have stayed, and it has become increasingly difficult to continue under these circumstances.

I am fully aware that this cohort of residents will likely take to the keyboard once again to comment on my resignation, but I find myself in a no-win situation – criticised whether I stay or go.

I sincerely hope that the residents will rally behind the remaining Councillors who are doing their best to resolve the issues caused by previous Councillors. Failure to support them could result in the disbandment of the Parish Council leaving Cheshire East to pick up the pieces.

With 8 vacant seats on the Council, I encourage those in the village who frequently criticise the Council's efforts and believe they can do a better job, to consider applying for a seat themselves. This is their opportunity to contribute directly and make the changes they wish to see.

Lynette Hopkins