



Chairman's Annual Report – April 2026

It has been a year of meaningful progress, community spirit and renewed identity for Alvanley and I am pleased to present this report outlining the work undertaken by the Parish Council during 2025-26.

Honouring Our Heritage

One of the most significant additions to the village this year has been the installation of the **life-size metal outdoor World War I and World War II memorial soldiers** purchased to commemorate VJ Day in August and stood proudly as a reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. Their presence has already become a valued focal point for reflection within the community. The parish can re-use the silhouettes as a fitting tribute for Remembrance Day.

Environment and Village Improvements

In March, volunteers and councillors came together for a successful **snowdrop planting initiative**, adding seasonal beauty and biodiversity to our shared spaces.

We also completed extensive **footpath clearance works on the B5393 from junction of Manley Road to Towers Lane** improving safety and accessibility for walkers, families and visitors.

A **commemorative bench** was purchased in honour of the many residents that served our village, who are no longer with us.

Strengthening Governance

This year saw the introduction of several **new policies and procedures**, ensuring that the council continues to operate with openness, transparency, accountability and efficiency. These updates strengthen our ability to serve our community effectively and meet modern governance standards.

Digital Progress

A **new holding website** has been developed and is now live, providing residents with up-to-date information while work continues on a fully interactive, long-term site. This is an important step towards improving communication and accessibility for all our residents.

Council Membership

During the year, three members resigned and we were delighted to welcome **three new councillors** to the Parish Council all of whom have settled in well and attended some of the many training courses on offer to assist them to prepare for their roles within the community.

Their enthusiasm, skills and commitment have already made a positive impact, and we look forward to the contributions they continue to bring.

Community Thanks

Our grateful thanks go to: -

- **The White Lion Public House** for once again providing the beautiful floral displays in our 3 large square planters.
- **The resident** who plants bulbs and plants to keep the bespoke metal village sign (situated on the triangular grass verge top of Primrose Lane) and surrounding area looking lovely and colourful.
- **The family** that donated literally thousands of snowdrop bulbs and spent their weekend helping the volunteer's plants them up on the verge at 'cricket club corner'
- **The local farmer** who stores the council's assets and can also be relied upon to assist with other requests
- **Local businesses** that show support by mending broken Fingerpost sign and another that has created a bespoke wooden plinth for our Peace Lamp.
- To the residents coming together on Sunday morning to help with the annual **Litter Pick** and donning very brightly coloured hi-vi wear.

we thank you all most sincerely.

A new identity for Alvanley

Residents were invited to enter a competition to get creative and design a **village crest/logo**. The members were very pleased to receive numerous entries. This colourful emblem now gives the Parish Council a clear and distinctive identity, reflecting both our heritage and our aspirations for the future.

How we represent you further afield

Members of the Parish Council attend: -

- **Sandstone Ward Committee meetings** – a group of local councils that come together to provide information, shared experiences and ultimately work towards the benefit of our collective communities.
- **CW&C Connections** – Locality meetings. These are organized by the local authority to enable members to talk directly to officers and let them know what issues we face and what we would like to see in our respective communities.
- **CW&C Town and Parish Council Conference** – an opportunity to listen to and ask questions from the Chief Executive and Leaders of the Borough Council.
- **Cheshire Association of Local Councils** – the Parish Council is a member of this organisation and by being so, has access to the knowledge and expertise of the National Association of Local Councils which is an overarching body that represents over 10,000 Town and Parish Councils in England.
- **Cheshire Constabulary** – Local Policing Unit meetings. Arranged to enable attendees to receive progress reports in relation to neighbourhood policing and the desire to commit to the government's policy guarantee and balancing the books.

Ongoing Representation

Throughout the year, the Parish Council has continued to **represent the interests of the community**, engaging with residents, responding to concerns and working with partner organisations (as already mentioned) to ensure Alvanley's voice is heard at every level.

New Parish Clerk

In February we appointed a new Clerk Mrs Trudy Ryall-Harvey who, in a short space of time, has put her wealth of knowledge and experience to very good use by assisting the members in all areas of our sector. We are fortunate to have a clerk that can match our ambitions to start on the journey to obtain 'Quality Status' and other important new obligations and opportunities heading our way.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our volunteers, local partners and every resident who has contributed to village life over the past year. Your support and involvement are what makes Alvanley such a strong and connected community. I look forward to another year of progress together.

Jeanette Hughes
Chairman
15th April 2026