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Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Cheshire Constabulary HQ
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Winsford
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23rd November 2023

Dear Mr Dwyer,

Ref. Police investigation into missing Parish Council funds

It is now some seventeen months since the current Audlem Parish Council took over from the outgoing chairman in June 2022. Upon eventually gaining access to the parish bank account, it revealed that the once healthy balance of approximately £163,000 had vanished, at which point the police were called in to investigate the cause of the loss.

The Parish Council were given strict instructions not to discuss this matter in public whilst the police investigation took place, for fear of jeopardizing any possible case.

However, the silence over the ensuing months leads me to query, in the strongest possible terms, the effectiveness of the police investigation. Surely it is not beyond the resources of Cheshire Constabulary to allocate a forensic accountant to follow up the paper or electronic trail of the missing funds which are the property of the 2000 plus parishioners in our parish. I have read in the press of much smaller cases of fraud which have been expeditiously dealt with and I am therefore at a loss as to why the taxpayers of Audlem and district are relegated to the back of the queue in this matter.

In the run up to the next election it would be of some significance to local voters to get this matter resolved. I am taking the liberty of copying our MP into this correspondence with a specific request that he passes our concerns onto the Home Secretary. It is time to draw a line under this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Morgan

Copies to Edward Timpson and Audlem Parish Council

