

ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015

As part of my Annual Report I am required to record the names and contact details of members of Albrighton Parish Council. These are accordingly listed as follows:

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|---|---|
| David A. Beechey (South Ward) | 34 Station Road, Albrighton WV7 3QG |
| Phil Griffin (North Ward) | 4 Cedar Drive Albrighton WV7 3DF |
| Sally Hall (South Ward) | 63 Ashgrove Albrighton WV7 3QX |
| Phil Harrison (South Ward) | 23 Grange Park Albrighton WV7 3EN |
| Christine Hassall (North Ward) | 17 Long Croft Albrighton WV7 3DN |
| Peter Illes (North Ward) Co-opted | 13 Mayfield Road Albrighton WV7 3JF |
| Sandra Kirkland (South Ward) | 20 Charles Avenue Albrighton WV7 3LF |
| Mandy Medlyn (South Ward) Co-opted | 30 Church Road Albrighton WV7 3LJ |
| Malcolm G. Pate (South Ward) | Peel Cottage Holyhead Road Albrighton WV7 3BT |
| Susan J. Pate (South Ward) | Peel Cottage Holyhead Road Albrighton WV7 3BT |
| Sylvia M. Pledger (South Ward) | 1 Newhouse Lane Albrighton WV7 3QS |
| Kelly Pledger (North Ward) | 10 Ashgrove Albrighton WV7 3QU |
| Adrian Robinson (South Ward) Co-opted | 31 Brooklands Road Albrighton WV7 3DW |
| Chris Roseby (South Ward) Co-opted | 28 Abney Avenue Albrighton WV7 3JZ |
| Michael Ward Clerk to Council | 82b High Street Albrighton WV7 3JA |

I was elected Chairman in May 2014 and Cllr Phil Harrison Vice Chairman, both for a term of twelve months.

The Council's accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2015 will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on 14 May 2015.

Much of the Council's business is routine and changes little from year to year. We are responsible for the maintenance of the village greens, Patshull Green (the pond area in Cross Road), the provision of Christmas lights, the provision of allotments, contributing to the maintenance of St Mary's Church burial ground, maintenance costs for 40 street lights, maintenance of the war memorial, the Clockmills football field, the provision of financial support for the summer play-leadership scheme, a grant to Donington Nature Reserve and the provision of the Albrighton Flyer.

Part of the Parish Council's work is to comment and make recommendations on all planning applications. We are pleased that the work on the first phase of the new housing development on Kingswood Road will be starting in May 2015.

This year Albrighton Parish Council formed committees to undertake the work involved in the allocation of grants, personnel issues, financial matters and parish transport. These committees all have a Chairman and are conducted in the same manner as meetings of the full council. The meetings of the committees are attended and minuted by the Parish Clerk.

Working parties have also been formed to address other issues including, for example, Crime Prevention and the provision of Christmas lights. All parish councillors are affiliated to a local group (such as the Allotments Committee and the Crime Prevention Panel) and attend their meetings. The councillors' report back to the full council following attendance at such meetings.

We were sorry to lose Mr Alex Joynson from the Council, who resigned his position in 2014. He has been replaced and we are pleased to welcome Cllr Chris Roseby. In February 2015 Cllr Suzanne Jarvis resigned her position on the Council and we are pleased to welcome Mr Peter Woodman who was elected to the Council on 7th May. Mr Woodman will take his place on the Parish Council after the meeting on 21st May.

The Council works closely with a number of other organizations within the Albrighton area including the Albrighton and District Civic Society with whom we now have a joint committee. The Civic Society have done a lot of work in attempting to retain the ramp at Albrighton Railway Station and a Station Ramp Committee was formed in 2014 comprising of representatives from the Society and the parish councils of Albrighton, Donington with Boscobel, Boningale, and Tong. The meetings are normally chaired by the local Member of Parliament, Mark Pritchard and in his absence Cllr Malcom Pate. Any developments with regard to the ramp will be reported at the annual parish meeting.

The Council leases the Clockmills football pitch from Severn Trent Water which is then made available to the Sports and Social Club for their football fixtures. The Sports and Social Club are responsible for the maintenance of the pitch and the Council maintains the verge bordering Worthington Drive.

The Council continues to work closely with RAF Cosford and is pleased to welcome Sqn Ldr Chris Wilson as the new liaison officer with the Council. He will regularly attend the main council meetings and is one of the guest speakers at the annual parish meeting this year. The village of Albrighton has a long and happy relationship with RAF Cosford and in recognition of this the Royal Air Force has again been invited to exercise its rights to march through the village at an Approbation ceremony. We are delighted they have again accepted this invitation and the parade will take place on 5 September 2015.

The Council is pleased that the car park by the Crown public house is now fully refurbished after a number of years of negotiations between Marstons Brewery, Shropshire Council and the Parish Council. The car park is owned by Marstons Brewery and is leased to Shropshire Council.

The Council is also considering the provision of toilets in the village to which the public could have access. The toilet block in the car park is in fact an empty building owned by Marstons Brewery. The toilet furniture was removed to make provision for a coin operated toilet which required little maintenance and would therefore have saved money. However, owing to the toilet taking virtually no money and given the leasing charges which had to be met by the Council it was considered no longer viable to provide those toilet facilities and it was removed.

The Parish Flyer continues to provide a welcome service to primarily the elderly of the village who rely upon it for transport to local shops, hospital and doctor's appointments and, for example, transport to the Melville Club. The Council is pleased to report that Mr Ken West took over responsibility for the Flyer in August 2014 and has provided a reliable and enthusiastic service which has been much appreciated by those who use it. We are pleased that he has agreed to accept the contract to provide the service until at least 31 March 2016.

The council regrets that it has been necessary to implement a small charge on users of the Flyer but this was due entirely to Shropshire Council no longer paying that part of the fare covered by a bus pass. This was a significant amount of money and went a considerable distance in meeting the costs of running and maintaining the Flyer.

Thanks also go to the Village Warden, Mr Terry Ewins, for his work in maintaining the village centre and other footpaths that require attention. Thanks also to the Litter Warden, Mr Paul Jozefowski, who keeps the village litter free in all weathers.

The Council regrets the decision by Shropshire Council to withhold that part of its budget known as the Council Tax Support Grant which has been paid annually to local councils in recent years. The Parish Council recognises that Shropshire Council is perfectly entitled to not pay this grant to local councils as the money was never 'ring fenced' for this purpose, but the effect of this is to reduce the parish council's budget by approximately £8000 annually. The implications of this are that the Council has been obliged to find cheaper accommodation and is currently in the process of moving to the Red House. Additionally, it will be unable to make grants of the size previously

agreed, or may not be able to make grants at all, to bodies such as the Swimming Club.

The Council set its budget in December 2014 for the financial year 2015/2016. The precept was agreed at this meeting and it was decided that there would be no request to Shropshire Council to increase the local level of Council Tax despite losing the Council Tax Support Grant.

Signed: Sylvia Pledger
Chairman, Albrighton Parish Council.