

Albrighton Parish Council



Albrighton Parish Council work for and on behalf of the community of Albrighton.

Precept and Budget for 2023/24

The Parish Council is empowered to incur expenditure in the execution of its duties and work for and on behalf of the parish. The expenditure can include the employment of staff, running of community facilities, buildings and parish property; including maintenance and improvement and those statutory powers which the Parish Council agree to deliver. There is also a power to incur expenses for the benefit of the parish area for all or some of its residents.



The Parish Council receives the funds for expenditure via the means of precept, the precept is the money the Parish Council receives via Shropshire Council, the council responsible for collecting local government taxes, through Council Tax.

Those Councillors who are members of the Finance Committee have been working with the Clerk prior to her departure and have completed a piece of work to review the expenditure for this year (2022/23) and prepare a draft budget and precept for year 2023/24.

At the Full Council meeting held on the 8th December 2022 Resolution #FC22/156 those Councillors present at the meeting received a verbal update from the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Locum Clerk regarding the draft budget for 2023/24 and the precept for 2023/24.

It was unanimously agreed by all Councillors at the meeting to set the budget and precept for Albrighton Parish Council with an increase of 3.5% to the precept for the financial year 2023/24.

Albrighton Parish Council's precept will be £183,750.00 an increase of £9,387.66 compared to last year.

Shropshire Council have also raised the Council Tax Base and Band D Properties will be at a rate of £111.23, an increase of £3.78 per household.

Albrighton Parish Council will continue to deliver its services and work for and on behalf of the community, including;

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| • Parish Council staff and office | - Albrighton Library and staff |
| • Albrighton Flyer and staff | - Defibrillator in the Community |
| • Support of the Community through Grants | - Support the Albrighton Fayre |
| • Village Planters | - Footway Street Lighting |
| • War Memorial | - Supporting the local churchyard |
| • Supporting the Local Nature Reserve | - Christmas Lights for the village |
| • Litter Picking the local community and school routes | |
| • Maintenance of the Parish owned land and community areas | |

Albrighton Parish Council will continue to work with its Partners, Community Partners, Groups and residents.

Albrighton Parish Council will also be exploring the following;

- Reviewing its contracts and any possible reduction in costs with suppliers
- Reviewing its services and any possible increase in income streams

Village Warden

Albrighton Parish Council would like to welcome Kevin to the team, he will be working as the Village Warden and he is already enthusiastic to work as part of the team and get stuck into learning his role. The Village Warden role will include working on maintenance of the council's assets, including but not limited to; grass cutting of the Village Green, maintenance of the council's benches and maintenance of the Library Garden.

During his first few weeks he has worked alongside Councillor Lumby to help get settled into his role and they have been working hard clearing up the leaves from the Village Green and War Memorial. Feel free to give Kevin a wave if you see him out and about working in our community.



If you wish to report any issues within the village, please contact the Parish Council Office 01902 375455 or email clerk@albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk OR admin@albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visit our website for more information about what the Parish Council is responsible for www.albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Albrighton War Memorial



The Albrighton War Memorial Committee is making steady progress in developing the project and specification for the renovation works for our wonderful War Memorial.

The specification is one of the important elements for the project to ensure that the works being completed are correct. This piece of work requires lots of input from specialist restorers and the Council and Committee want to get this right.

At the Full Council meeting 8th December 2022 Resolution #FC22/160 the Council approved the quotation for the tree maintenance works surrounding the War Memorial. This is scheduled to take place in March, subject to the contractor's schedule. Thank you to those involved in the Albrighton War Memorial Working Group who have secured a crash deck to protect the War Memorial, this will be put in place whilst the maintenance on the trees is carried out to ensure the safety of the structure.

The next Albrighton War Memorial Working Group Meeting will be held on **23rd March 2023** at 5:30pm in the Albrighton Parish Council Meeting Room, Library Building, Station Road, Albrighton near Wolverhampton WV7 3QH. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



Community Partnerships

Albrighton Parish Council not only work with organisations and businesses, but they also work with voluntary groups to engage in community partnerships. One of these community partnerships is with the Albrighton Craft Group.

Albrighton Craft Group not only provide wonderful and decorative displays of their crafts throughout the village and parish area, but they also now hold a monthly community group for FREE the third Wednesday of the month. This group is to help teach anyone to knit or crochet or help people advance their skills.

Warm Space at Library Meeting Room

The warm space at The Parish Office and Library meeting room has been open for a few months now and we are starting to see some regulars using the service. Albrighton Parish Council are very proud to be supporting our local community during a time where people are concerned about the rising costs of living and fuel bills. All residents of Albrighton are welcome to use the Warm Space regardless of your circumstances. This service will continue throughout the winter months, so please make use of the space, you don't need to be a member of the library to use it.



The Parish Office and Library meeting room for the Warm Space is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and on a Saturday morning 10.00am to 12noon.

This warm space is working in partnership with Shropshire Libraries and Albrighton Parish Council have pledged £500.00 towards the set-up costs for this initiative. Thank you to Donington with Boscobel Parish Council who have also pledged money towards this vital project for our community.

There is free tea, coffee, and cuppa soup available and a selection of games and activities for those who wish to join in. There will be a community jigsaw puzzle available to complete by everyone and a daily crossword. Also available will be a selection of newspapers and magazines.

If you are worried about transport, don't forget the Albrighton Flyer is available Tuesday to Friday, telephone 07543869754.

Chairman of the Council's Update - Councillor Adrian Robinson



I hope everyone enjoyed the new Christmas Lights in the village this December, the Parish Council invested in upgrading and purchasing new Christmas Lights around the Village High Street. We have received a few comments asking whether the Parish Council will have Christmas Lights further down the High Street on both ends, at present there is no plan to purchase additional Christmas lights, but this may be something the Parish Council consider in the future. The Christmas Lights Committee will meet later in the year and any

decisions made will be taken to full council closer to the date.

The Chairman's Charity supporting the Albrighton Food Bank received an extremely generous donation from The Old Bush after they hosted a raffle in aid of the Foodbank - £100 was raised and tins of food were purchased to donate to the cause. Thank you to those of you were involved in the raffle night donating to this fantastic service for our community, special thanks to Councillor French who is the manager of The Bush for organising this! Albrighton Foodbank is situated at St Mary's Church Centre, High Street, and those in need are welcome to collect food parcels – no referral needed and sign up is not required.

Albrighton Library is a donation point and collection point for food parcels, we have a limited number available for those who are in needed. Thank you to St Mary's Church Centre for working in partnership with Albrighton Parish Council and for providing this service to our community.



Interviews for the Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer/Proper Officer took place on Thursday 26th January which consisted of 3 councillors and myself included. Four applications were received for the post, and we are pleased to confirm that Joanne Oliver was successful in her interview. Joanne will be joining us in March, and I look forward to welcoming her at Albrighton Parish Council, she will be an invaluable asset to the Parish Office team, and I am sure the Councillors and the Community will join me in welcoming her.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish a warm welcome to the new Village Warden. Kevin joined the Albrighton Parish Council team in January and is already settling well into his role. He will be working on maintenance of the Village assets, including but not limited to the Parish Council benches, general maintenance in the Library Building and garden and tidying up the Village Green and War Memorial from leaves and debris. I would like to thank Councillor Lumby who has been answering any queries and helping Kevin in his first few weeks learning the new role. I would also like to thank the previous Village Warden, Terry, who has been answering any questions Kevin has about the role.

The Events Committee will be looking into hosting an Easter Egg Competition again this year after the success of last year, watch this space to find out how you can get involved!