

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Table of Contents

Chairman’s Introduction	3
About the Council	4-5
Member Attendance.....	6
Your Councillors	7-11
Council Memberships.....	12
Committee Chair Reports.....	13-14
Annual Accounts Summary.....	15
Small Grant Awards.....	16-20
(inc report on Norton Community Hub)	
Dark Skies Project	21
Ultra Fast Broadband Project.....	21
Adopt a Bench.....	21
Nature Reserve.....	22
Town Wifi.....	23
How can the Council help you?.....	24
A Summary.....	25-26

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2023/24 and thank you for taking the time to read it. I hope you will find interesting and informative.

Presteigne & Norton Town Council is made up of thirteen councillors, nine representing the Presteigne Ward and four representing Norton. We meet monthly to discuss business effecting our community and members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings either in person or online via Zoom.

There have been several highlights in the last year, but the completion of the Dark Skies project was a personal favourite, after a considerable amount of time and effort. The culmination was receiving the recognition of Presteigne becoming a "Dark Skies Community" in January 2024. Successful events were held throughout the year by community groups and organisations, and we welcomed visitors to our wonderful rural town.

The long-awaited Norton Hub finally opened its doors to the public and what a wonderful successful project it has been. Converting a Grade II listed church was not easy but with a lot of hard work and good will the renovation project was completed in the Spring of 2024. It is also anticipated Presteigne Memorial Hall will be able to re-open in the coming year.

Presteigne & Norton continue to be thriving communities with two great schools, a leisure centre, library, care centre, and lots of community organisations, please do support these and use them to ensure their continued prosperity.

Best Wishes to all

Beverley Baynham, Chairman and Town Mayor 2023/24

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Town and Community Councils are known as the first tier of local government, the tier closest to the residents they represent and consisting of local people working to benefit the local area.

The Town Council is consulted on –

Planning Applications and the Local Development Plan

Tree Works

Comments on County Council formal policy changes e.g. street lighting, affordable housing and changes to play areas, grass cutting, street cleaning etc.

Some Welsh Government formal policy changes e.g changes to Council Tax, second homes legislation.

It works on projects to benefit the local area –

Currently ongoing Projects -

Small Grant Fund for local community groups.

Provision of community defibrillators and their ongoing maintenance.

Some of our past completed Projects have been –

Presteigne and Norton Dark Skies.

Creation of new Nature Reserve.

Purchase of zip wire for Wilson Terrace Playground.

Contribution towards new roundabout, Wilson Terrace Playground.

Purchase of new play equipment for Lugg View Play Area.

Securing land for an extension to Presteigne Cemetery.

Refurbishment of Town Benches (generously sponsored by a local resident)

Presteigne and Norton Town Investment Plan.

Campaign to secure investment and improvement by Welsh Water to the Presteigne and Norton Sewerage Infrastructure.

Town Council Sites and Buildings –

The Council does not have an office but holds its monthly meetings upstairs in the Assembly Rooms. It has one part time paid Officer, the Clerk to the Council, Tracey Price.

It runs –

Eddie's Meadow and the former reservoir ground adjacent to the Warden.

Went's Meadow, skateboard bowl, outdoor gym and multi-use games area.

Community Barn, Went's Meadow.

Wilson Terrace Toilets.

Hereford Street Toilets.

Thirty-six small Allotment Gardens.

Nature Reserve adj to Warden Road.

Went's Meadow and the new community barn are available for use by community groups/local charities. Please do get in touch with the Clerk to the Council if you are interested in using the site for an event.

The Council also has ten gazebos and ten small folding tables that can also be used when holding events in Presteigne and Norton.

Member Attendance 2023-24

	Possible	Actual Attended	%
NORTON WARD			
Cllr. Deb Edwards	14	13	93
Cllr. Lewers Firth	9	7	85.5
Cllr. Andre Van Huls	14	14	100
Cllr. John Wilding	14	12	85.7
PRESTEIGNE WARD			
Cllr. L. Abecasis	14	6	43
Cllr. Rose Bamford	6	3	50
Cllr. Beverley Baynham	14	14	100
Cllr. Juliet Grey	9	6	66
Cllr. T. Owens	14	14	100
Cllr. Jem Poster	6	5	83
Cllr. Fiona Preece	14	13	93
Cllr. Mark Price	14	13	93
Cllr. Mark Williams	14	11	78.6
Cllr. C. Kirkby	3	3	100
Cllr. James Ramsay	3	3	100

Your Town Council Members in 2023-24

2023/24 MAYOR, CLLR. BEVERLEY BAYNHAM (PRESTEIGNE WARD)

Email: cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk Telephone: 07976 928039

Cllr. Beverley Baynham has been a councillor since 2008 and was Mayor for the first time in 2013. She is a traditional local farmers daughter who grew up in the area and attended school in Presteigne. She originally joined the council as she wished to put something back into the local community, and over time has worked on numerous community projects. She has two children and works as the Chief Officer for a local charitable organisation in the private care sector. She has particular interests in facilities for children, affordable housing, the community and financial issues.

She is presently an LEA Governor of Presteigne Primary School and Newtown High School, representing the interests of the John Beddoes Campus.

In January 2014 Beverley resurrected Presteigne Carnival which ceased almost 20 years before, it turned out to be a huge success and has continued as a wonderful annual community event. Happy that the Carnival was once again established Beverley relinquished her role on the committee.

Beverley is qualified to Level 5 in NVQ's and Level 3 in the Association of Accounting Technicians. She considers herself to be a hardworking, enthusiastic and approachable Councillor.

In May 2017 Beverley was elected as County Councillor for Presteigne and Norton. During the term of office, she was Chairman of Powys County Council.

Beverley says – ‘As an elected Councillor for the Presteigne Ward of Presteigne & Norton Town Council I carried out duties to the best of my ability represented the residents in a fair and appropriate way. For the period I was also the elected County Councillor for Presteigne & Norton. I attended monthly full council meetings and sat on the Staffing Sub-Committee and Dark Skies Working Group, some of these were online and some were in person when Covid allowed. I was involved with the culmination of the cemetery extension, which is a fantastic achievement for the Town Council and the town. I was also involved with the town wi-fi project and the grass cutting schedule to encourage bio-diversity. I continued to serve on the following outside organisations: John Beddoes Trust Fund, Newtown High School Governing Body, Presteigne Primary School Governing Body, Judges Lodging Museum Trust Powys, Powys Community Health Council and East Radnorshire Day Centre. I continued to support and assist the residents with a variety of issues. I have always considered the role a huge privilege and take my responsibilities very seriously and always try to do the best for the residents and the community.’

Note: Beverley stood again at the 2022 County Council elections, and was re-elected for the new Presteigne Ward.

2023/24 DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR. TREVOR OWENS (PRESTEIGNE WARD)

Email: t.owens.pntc@gmail.com Telephone: 07910 072825

Trevor has lived in or around Presteigne and Norton all his life. He has enjoyed long associations with the football, cricket and Young Farmers Clubs and has also been MC at the Town Carnival. He works for the BBC and has been in the media world for over 30 years.

CLLR. LEON ABECASIS (PRESTEIGNE WARD) RESIGNED JULY 2024

Email: leonabecasis@gmail.com

I moved into Presteigne 15 years ago and I have never felt more at home than I do here, that is down to the wonderful people who live and work here. Me and my partner Annemarie have been working at The Salty Dog for the past 11 years and during that time; I have been involved in; fundraising for the Presteigne Little People Play Group, organised (along with the members of Connect) The very successful Presteigne Food and Flower Festivals and the Christmas Fair, fought the ongoing fight against the town parking charges and the adoption of the recycling centre, which helped to raise a substantial amount of money for the community, all this whilst cooking some scrumptious food.

CLLR. ROSE BAMFORD (PRESTEIGNE WARD) RESIGNED SEPTEMBER 2023

Telephone: 07538 548020

Rose grew up in Presteigne and attended John Beddoes, later followed by a degree in silversmithing and jewellery at London Metropolitan University. Presteigne has a great sense of community and she is keen to bring people together to work to protect our vital services and organisations. Rose has run her own business in Presteigne for the last 12 years. She has been involved in a range of community groups, including the carnival, fireworks and Presteigne Players, Rainbows, Presteigne and Norton Community Trust and Sheep Music which she organised in 2009. Her last five years on the council have seen her help to focus the council on the environmental issues that we face and establish a Climate Action Group, a Tree Group, which has planted a small woodland and arranged events to raise awareness, and overseen the successful grant bid for a new nature reserve in Presteigne. She is looking forward to continuing to develop the Council's response to the Climate and Ecological Crisis.

CLLR. DEBORAH EDWARDS (NORTON WARD)

Telephone: 01544 260074 or 07794 351569

Email: cllr.deborah.edwards@powys.gov.uk

Deb says 'I have had the privilege to have been raised in this beautiful part of the world and have been lucky enough to gain employment locally and so to be able to stay and live here.' She worked for many years for the Royal Mail and so physically knows Presteigne and Norton well. She previously trained and engaged in the hospitality industry within the area. She hopes that residents will find her approachable, friendly and helpful.

Note: Deb was also elected as County Councillor for the newly formed Llangunllo with Norton Ward in May 2022.

CLLR. COLIN KIRKBY (PRESTEIGNE WARD)(CO-OPTED JANUARY 2024)

Email: colinkirkbyme@gmail.com Telephone: 01544 267811. Address: Castle Barn, 40a High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BE.

Cllr. Kirkby first joined the Town Councillor in 1987 and has been Mayor on eight occasions. He stood down from the council in 2022 whilst he moved house and was co-opted back onto the council in 2024. He has been responsible for a number of hands on projects including the setting up of the Withy Beds nature reserve; the purchase of Lower Wents Meadow - three acres of ground for recreational use by the river Lugg on which the allotments were added; purchase of Silia Woods an important arboretum and backdrop to the community, which was gifted to the Woodland Trust; the setting up and running for 20 years of the Presteigne recycling centre which won 6 National Awards and put over £40,000 back into the community; obtaining grants for and leading the volunteers in the development of the Upper Wents Meadow after purchase by the Town Council, which included the refurbishment of an old barn, a community physic garden, footpath infrastructure, community orchards and the building of a skateboard and mountain bike track. He chaired the steering group and helped raise funding for the Welsh Assembly Funded Zero Waste Project which ran for three years from 2010 and achieved the highest recycling rate at that time in the UK of 74%. In 2013 he acquired an area of ground on the side of the Warden which has been dedicated to Cllr Eddie Taylor MBE and is managed as a hibernaculum. This was followed by persuading Welsh Water to gift the old reservoir on the Warden to the Town.

Other community interests have included being a Retained Fireman for 10 years, a board member of the Presteigne Festival of Music and the Arts for 15 years, Chairman of the Board of Governors at John Beddoes School for 10 years and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Judges Lodging Trust for 10 years and the internal auditor to Stapleton Group Parish for 15 years. In 2013 he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to the Environment and to the Community of Powys (Presteigne).

CLLR. JEREMY POSTER (PRESTEIGNE WARD) RESIGNED OCTOBER 2023.

Email: jemposterpntc@gmail.com

Co-opted onto Council July 2022.

CLLR. FIONA PREECE (PRESTEIGNE WARD)

Email: fiona.preecepntc@gmail.com

Cllr Fiona Preece has lived in Norton and Presteigne all her life. She joined the Town Council because she would like to work to help all clubs and organisations in the area. She currently helps to run Presteigne Cubs, and she is also involved at district level for Scouting in Radnor. She considers herself a hard worker and tries to be an approachable councillor. She currently works for Powys County Council. Since the Radnorshire Arms closed she has been liaising with the VSCC to help with their visits to Presteigne each October and in particular with the anniversary celebrations in 2019. She considers herself a hard worker and tries to be an approachable councillor.

CLLR. MARK PRICE (PRESTEIGNE WARD) (CO-OPTED JULY 2022)

Telephone: 07831 670960

Email: markp2250@gmail.com

Mark was born and raised in Discoyd and has spent his entire life within 3 miles of Presteigne. He went to the Dame Anna Childe Primary School at Whitton, followed by John Beddoes High School. He worked alongside his father in the family agricultural contracting business, supporting farmers both locally and further afield. Being directly involved with the agricultural community has enabled him to see the protection and support needed for our community, covering both planning issues, pollution and the environment.

CLLR. JAMES RAMSAY (PRESTEIGNE WARD)(CO-OPTED JANUARY 2024)

James moved to Presteigne in 2016 to join other family members long resident in the town, and since then has become involved in a range of community activities – stewarding events, hospital driving, Presteigne Screen and, inevitably, the panto – and has also been able to use his professional environmental skills on the nature reserve and in river water testing. He is looking forward to helping develop the council's response to the climate and environment emergency.

CLLR. JOHN WILDING (NORTON WARD)

Cllr. Wilding is a farmer and builder and lives in Norton. His family has lived in Norton for over 90 years. He has served as a Town and Community Councillor for 18 years and has served as Mayor for three terms of office.

CLLR. MARK WILLIAMS (PRESTEIGNE WARD) RESIGNED JULY 2024

Mark says - I've lived in or just outside Presteigne for almost 40 years during which I've engaged in many community activities including as a trustee and active member of Sheep Music (including as its chairperson), active involvement in ensuring that off-road rights of way are maintained, high street stewarding during Covid lockdowns, a panto regular, writing for and distributing Broad Sheep, helping manage Presteigne Screen, editing the Brecon & Radnor Express, volunteering at the Repair & Share Cafe, and volunteering at the town library. I hope all of this underlines my love of and commitment to this remarkable little town and my long-held ambition to become a Councillor.

I am especially interested in three areas of life in Presteigne: maintaining and developing cultural activities; ensuring that local retailers can survive and serve the needs of our community; that local services and housing benefit the *entire* community, not just the better-off.

Currently there are two vacancies on the Council.

MAYOR FOR 2024-25 IS CLLR TREVOR OWENS

DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2024-25 IS CLLR ANDRE VAN HUL

Council Memberships 2023-24

SITES AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Cllrs. Baynham, Preece and Price. Two vacancies.
Outside Representative for Meadow Matters: Richard Rimington.
Outside Representative for Allotments: Karen Lewis.
Outside Representative for Meadow Matters: Gareth Graham.
Outside Representative for Meadow Matters: Colin Kirkby. (Now a Councillor)

STAFFING COMMITTEE

Cllrs. Baynham, Edwards, Wilding, Vanhuls and Owens.

CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE (Formed Sept 2022, previously a working group)

Cllrs Baynham, Edwards, Kirkby and Ramsay.
Plus two outside representatives – Jenny Mottershead, Kate Van Den Ende

LIBRARY SERVICE/ASSEMBLY ROOMS WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. Williams, Abecasis, Baynham. (Note - reduced to four Members)
One vacancy (Cllr).

LDP WORKING GROUP: Cllrs. Baynham, Edwards, Abecasis. One vacancy.

BROADBAND WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. Owens and Edwards.

LEISURE CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. Baynham, Edwards, Preece.
Outside Representatives: Mr. C. Kirkby, Mr. P. Wright, Mr. R. Rimington

GRANT AWARDING POLICY WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. Baynham, Wilding, Williams, Price.

DARK SKIES/INTELLIGENT LIGHTING WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. Baynham, Kirkby, Ramsay. Outside Representative: Leigh Harling-Bowen.

COMMUNITY STORAGE WORKING GROUP – under review

Cllrs Edwards, Wilding.
Outside Representatives – Owen Rimington and Colin Kirkby (now a Councillor)
One Vacancy (Cllr)

ALLOTMENT LIAISON MEMBER: Cllr. Preece.

YOUTH REPRESENTATION MEMBER(S): Cllrs. Abecasis, Owens.

REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Presteigne Primary School	Cllr. Preece.
One Voice Wales (2)	Cllrs. Baynham, Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
PACDG	Cllr. Williams.
Presteigne Trust (4)	Cllrs. Edwards, Vanhuls and Wilding. One vacancy.
East Radnorshire Care (2)	Cllrs. Edwards & Vanhuls.
Warden Guardian Foundation	Cllr. Kirkby

Reports from Committee Chairs

2023-24

Sites and Buildings Committee: Current Chair Cllr. Fiona Preece.

The Committee meets twice a year to consider matters relating to the Council's property/land in more detail than can happen at Full Council meetings. The Council owns and runs Went's Meadow, Eddie's Meadow, Coed Llanandras Nature Reserve, Allotments and two public toilet blocks.

As a Committee the Council is able to include members of the public by invitation in order to draw on their particular experience. Currently members of the public that are part of the Committee are Gareth Graham, Richard Rimington and the current Chair of the Presteigne and Norton Allotment Association. Mr. Colin Kirkby MBE was also on the Committee in this capacity until he re-joined the Council in February 2024.

This Spring, after a gap of several years a volunteer work day was organised to carry out maintenance and tidying works on the site. Despite it being a beautiful day turnout wasn't large but a fairly large number of the jobs on the list were dealt with. Volunteers removed the blocks of the old bbq down to a good base level and rebuilt it using bricks (they have been back since to complete the brickwork) and have done a lovely job. We also managed to paint the whole slatted side of the one barn and touch up some graffiti inside which was great. The bank between the two barns which had a lot of brambles and nettles was cleared and we also cut the lower branches from the two trees. The bank is designed for sitting/shelter during events. Thank you to everyone who came to help out on the work day. If you would be interested in helping out on future work days please do get in touch with either myself or the Clerk to the Council and we will make sure we let you know if/when another is planned.

Climate Crisis Committee: Current Chair Cllr. Jamie Ramsay

The Committee held two meetings during the year, with different chairs (Cllr. Poster, Cllr. Ramsay). A third meeting, in Nov. '23, did not prove feasible but that month was marked by release of the Council's Climate Crisis Report, summarizing the actions being taken by the council to respond to the ongoing climate and environment crisis.

The Committee's work focused on completion of the new community nature reserve, Coed Llandandras, in particular a battle against time and weather to use remaining Heritage Lottery Grant funds by the end of October to enlarge and waterproof the new ponds. The reserve project is now administratively finished (although rapidly evolving ecologically) and, as a Council asset, is now overseen by the Sites & Buildings Committee, with the physical work being done by volunteers guided by a formal management plan.

A second notable achievement (due to many people's efforts) was the January 2024 award to Presteigne and Norton of Dark Sky Community Status, the first such in Wales and England.

In May 2024 the committee was renamed the Climate & Environment Committee, and over the next year will revise its role and activities to continue to reflect the Welsh Environment Act's statutory requirements for all councils to include energy and biodiversity considerations in decision-making.

Staffing Committee: Chair Cllr. John Wilding

The Council has just one employee, the Town Clerk.

All other works are carried out by contractors.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND INFORMATION

The Town Council raises most of its funds through the Council Tax. It sets a budget each January for the forthcoming financial year (April to March).

2023-24 Spending summary (full accounts on the website)

2023-24	£
Administration	32,666.60
Grants/Donations	15,560
Member's Allowances/Expenses	265.69
Public Toilets	10,171.61
Running of Went's Meadow etc.	11,169.82
Coronation Gifts	500
Contribution twds Town Library Service	1000
Nature Reserve (grant funded)	35,786.24
Misc. (inc wildflower grant)	9203.45
VAT (is reclaimed)	9030.11
Total	125,353.52

SMALL GRANTS

The grants/donations awarded in the year were to –

Air Ambulance	300
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	60
East Radnorshire Care	2000
Memorial Hall	1000
Mid Border Arts	1250
Norton Community Trust	5000
Norton Sports Committee (Fireworks)	200
PACDG	250
Presteigne Festival	1250
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000
Powys CAB	200
The Samaritans	250
Youth Project	1000
Sleeping Dragon Fund	300
Warden View Methodist Church	250

Any group or organization wishing to apply for a small grant should contact the Clerk for more information.

Note: In order to be considered for inclusion in the budget for the following financial year please apply by 1st January i.e., for a grant in 2025-26 you will need to apply by 30th November, 2024.

A major project supported by the Council has been the creation of the Norton Community Hub. Please see the following pages for a report from the Hub Committee.

NORTON COMMUNITY HUB

Final report on the project to adapt the Grade 2* listed former church of St Andrew in Norton as a Community Hub.

Following the decision of The Church in Wales to declare the former church redundant in 2018, local resident surveys in Norton demonstrated strong support for the preservation of the building as a community facility.

A steering group of local residents initially comprising Gill Tennant Eyles, Brian Price, John Wilding and John Refausse, (subsequently joined by Maggie James and Tony Morgan) put together the initial adaptation plan which proposed the removal of all pews and the Victorian heating system, the installation of new flooring, a kitchenette, an accessible WC, internal lobby, fire door, a separate meeting room, new heating and lighting, and PA and hearing loop systems.

The initial planning application was submitted in February 2020 and full planning and listed building consents were granted in December 2021, greatly assisted by professional support from the project architect, Trevor Hewett.

The formation, with Council support, of The Presteigne and Norton Community Trust (PNCT) in September 2021 gave the project the benefit of charitable status, and the Trust agreed a 30 year lease for the building with The Church in Wales in May 2022.

The appointment of Firth Construction as the project contractor enabled a costed project plan to be put in place, and charitable status also proved invaluable in obtaining the significant funding necessary for the project (See details below).

The project was effectively divided into three phases, with work commencing in February 2023 with completion in March 2024.

The total project cost, including fixtures and fittings, is £220,000. This cost was met by a combination of major grant funding supported by fundraising events and initiatives in the local community.

The ongoing support of the Town Council, particularly at the project development stage of the project, has been invaluable. In the period 2021 to the present the Council has awarded the project grants totalling £14,000.

The early support from the National Lottery Community Fund Wales (£81,000) also represented a strong vote of confidence in the viability of the project.

In anticipation of the completion of the project in late 2023, a 14 member management committee was formed to operate the Hub under delegated authority from the PNCT. An operating budget is in place and a programme of Hub-based events is already under way.

An Open day was held for local residents on 1st April 2024 and c 250 residents had the opportunity to see the completed work and share ideas about the Hub's future use.

The Hub was officially opened by the High Sheriff of Powys on 29th June 2024.

In spite of the many challenges associated with the tight planning constraints as a consequence of radical alterations to a Grade 2* listed building, the outcome is a much needed community resource in a village without any other public amenities, and the preservation of an historic building.

Summary of Main Sources of Project Funding

Phase 1 (Cost £30,000)

Architectural Heritage Fund

Presteigne and Norton own Council

Local Fundraising Initiatives

Phase 2 (Cost £150,000)

National Lottery Community Fund

Church in Wales (Proceeds from sale of Norton School Room)

Foyle Foundation

Community Foundation Wales

Local Fundraising Initiatives

Phase 3 (Cost £40,000)

Bernard Sunley Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation

Moondance Foundation



Work in Progress





The Finished Project

DARK SKIES PROJECT

In the UK today less than 10% of the population can enjoy a truly dark sky. Light pollution affects health, wildlife and energy consumption.

Following an approach to the Town Council from a local resident the Council has been working with the resident, a lighting designer and the County Council to investigate the possibility of applying for dark sky status for Presteigne and Norton.

The benefits of dark skies are –

To preserve the environment and protect the natural behaviour of nocturnal wildlife.

To enjoy the full experience of our night skies and to see our stars.

To appreciate the character and beauty of the natural landscape.

To protect our health and well-being.

Dark Sky status has now been awarded.

COMMUNITY ULTRA FAST BROADBAND PROJECT

The Town Council continues to work with Powys County Council and BT Openreach to try to secure full fibre connections for all who request them in our area.

ADOPT A BENCH

In 2021/22 the Town Council launched an Adopt-a-bench appeal for residents to look after a bench and keep it tidy. If you'd like to help please contact the Clerk.

CREATION OF NATURE RESERVE

The Town Council obtained grant funding to create a new woodland nature reserve to become part of the National Forest of Wales and create a designated place for nature on the edge of town. The purchase and set up costs were fully funded with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Welsh Government. A suitable field was found and with the help and expertise of The Woodland Trust, Natural Resources Wales, CADW, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and many local experts and enthusiasts a plan was made.

The project will help Presteigne address climate change by storing carbon and will be managed as a nature reserve with help from members of the community to create and maintain it.

The site is open to the public and there are three benches on the site for visitors to sit and enjoy the views.



TOWN WIFI

In July 2021 the Town Council was approached by the County Council to establish its interest in providing free wifi in the town centre.

Thanks is due to the following for continuing to site the units –

The Salty Dog

The Old School (Presteigne Youth Project)

The Royal Oak

Powys County Council – Assembly Rooms

In addition to providing the free wifi the system will also provide visitor data (numbers/length of stay etc) which can be supplied to businesses and used to provide supporting information for grant applications etc.

The system is up and running and available for use for both residents and visitors when out and about in the town.



HOW CAN THE COUNCIL HELP YOU?

The Town Council is interested to know what you want from your Council.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know.

Please note that the following matters fall under the County Council and as such the Town Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to insist!

County Council matters are –

- Highways including road surfaces and potholes
- Street sweeping
- Refuse and Recycling
- Road Signs
- Verge grass cutting
- Council Housing
- Education
- Social Services
- Planning

The PCC switchboard number is 01597 826000

Details of how to contact your County Councillor can be found on their website - www.powys.gov.uk

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/findmycouncillor>

A Summary

Presteigne and Norton Town Council covers Presteigne Town, Norton village and surrounding areas.

It is made up of thirteen Councillors and has one paid part time officer, the Clerk to the Council.

Members during 2023-24 were –

Beverley Baynham (Chairman/Mayor)

Trevor Owens (Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor)

Leon Abecasis (now resigned)

Rose Bamford (now resigned)

Deborah Edwards

Lewers Firth (now resigned)

Juliet Gray (now resigned)

Colin Kirkby MBE

Jem Poster (now resigned)

Mark Price

Fiona Preece

Alex Ramsay

Jamie Ramsay

Andre Van Huls

John Wilding

Mark Williams (now resigned)

Two current vacancies.

Contact Us

Tracey Price, Clerk to the Council

Garn Farm, Chapel Lawn, Shropshire, SY7 0BT

Phone: 01547 528575

Email: presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com

Web: <http://presteigne.org.uk/>



Annual Report 2023-24 – Presteigne and Norton Town Council