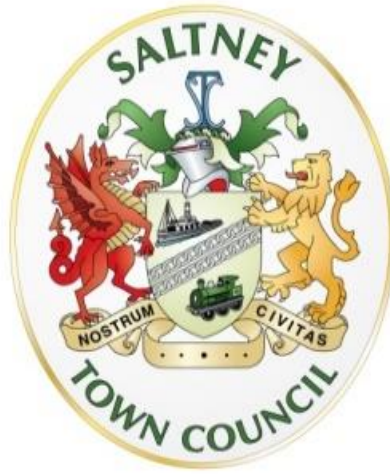
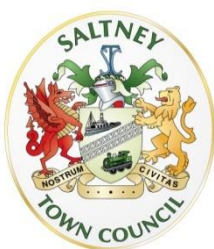


SALTNEY TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



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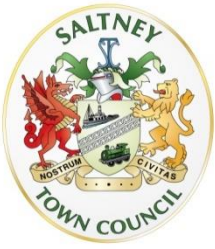


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From Your Town Clerk

1 As the Town Clerk of the Town Council, may I welcome you to read the Town Councils Annual Report.

2 Following the changes in the Local Government Act 2021, Town and Community Council are required to publish an Annual Report/Action Plan. Part of the Annual Report is now required by law, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 shows how your Council's work contributes to the objectives set out in our Flintshire Local Well-being Plan.

3 The content of the remainder of the report is much more flexible and at its core is setting out what the Town Council could do and how it has supported the local community.

4 The Town Council welcomes our communities, feedback on what could be added, or how things could be improved, or removed to make future annual reports more achievable, more informative .

5 As your Town Clerk my core responsibilities are:

- as the Proper Officer of the Council and as such is under a statutory duty to carry out all the functions, and in particular to serve or issue all the notifications required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer.
- to advise and support the Town Council, within the law, independently and objectively whilst recognising that the Town Council as a body is responsible for its decision-making responsibility.
- responsible for ensuring that the instructions of the Council in connection with its function as a local Government body are carried out.
- to advise and support the Council on, and assist in the formation of, overall policies to be followed in respect of the Council's activities and in particular to produce all the information required for making effective decisions and to implement constructively all decisions.
- accountable to the Council for the effective management of all its financial resources.

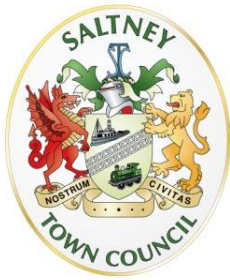
6 Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our community leaders, members of the public and local businesses and community organisations within our Township, who have supported Saltney Town Council and its community, which makes it a rewarding pleasure and privilege to serve. The help and support given by Flintshire County Council, Members, and Officers, together with partners we have locally. I hope you find our Annual Report informative.

Tracey Brown

Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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A Brief Introduction to the Report

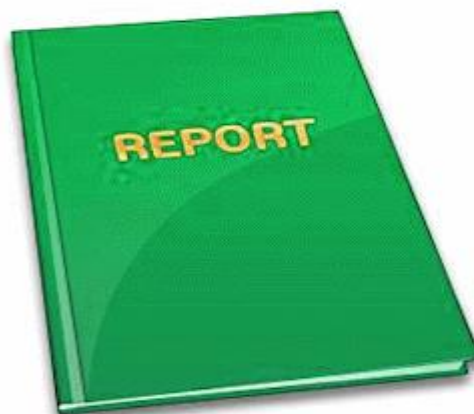
1 This Annual Report sets out to inform our residents of Saltney and Saltney Ferry, about the activities undertaken by the Town Council. This Report will contain a brief outline of the structure of the Council, an overview of a financial summary, details of all the Town Councillors, the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and how to contact the Council.

2 Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities, jobs and growth. To tackle these challenges, we need to work together in order to give current and future generations a good quality of life and we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make today. We also need to bear in mind the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic still has on our residents, the local economy and of course the impact of the recovery process which will be needed over the next few years.

3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides a legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specific public bodies must work, and the importance of working together to improve the well-being of Wales. There is a specific duty under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to produce an annual plan on how the Council contributes to the climate change and biodiversity plans for the area. A copy can be accessed via the following link:

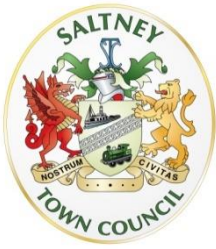
http://www.saltneytowncouncil.gov.uk/Policies_and_Documents_17028.aspx

4 The Town Councils Annual Report outlines how Saltney Town Council has and will continue to contribute to the seven well-being goals for the community of Saltney and Saltney Ferry and covers the municipal year 2024-25.



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Section 1 – Saltney Town Council

1 The Town Councils office is located at Suite 15, Riverside House, River Lane, Saltney, Flintshire, CH4 8RQ.

2 Town Council meetings are held at Saltney Community Centre, Sandy Lane, Saltney. Members of the Press and Public are very welcome to attend all meetings of the Council and its Committees.

3 The Council meetings commence at 7.15pm on the second Wednesday, of each month, excluding August and December. The Town Council has three Committees chaired by an elected members as follows:

- Council, Mayor Councillor Kim Shallcross
- Finance Committee, Chairman, Councillor Barrie Gregory
- Environmental and Regeneration Committee, Chairman, Councillor Aled Roberts
- Personnel Committee, Chairman, Councillor Barrie Gregory

Councillors

4 The Town Council has 14 Town Councillors which includes 3 County Councillors. (1 vacancy)

County Councillor Richard Lloyd
County Councillor Ryan McKeown
County Councillor Jason Shallcross

Youth Councillors

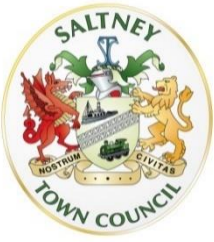
5 The Town Council has 2 vacancies for Community Youth Councillors to represent the youth sector and to be a “voice” on the Town Council for local issues affecting young people.

6 The Town Council's main duties include:

- providing financial and administrative support in respect of all services delivered by the Town Council.
- management and support for the Town Council office located at Suite 15, Riverside House, River Lane, Saltney, CH4 8RQ.
- as landlord, overseeing the management of the Victoria Road allotment site
- installation of the Christmas lights each year along the High Street from the Anchor, through to the junction for Saltney Ferry.
- Management and support of any annual events that take place in the community, including the Christmas Parade, Remembrance Sunday and Civic events.
- Provision of the CCTV cameras around the Township.
- Maintenance of street lighting, Saltney Town Council owns 275 streetlights within the Township, which are currently maintained by Flintshire County Council
- Provision of financial support (grants and community donations) to local organisations
- Provision of Community Notice Boards
- Provision and maintenance of 5 community defibrillators, around the Township.

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Section 2 – Saltney Town Council – A Little bit of history

1 Saltney is a unique cross border town which is divided between Flintshire, Wales, and Cheshire, England. The Town is intersected by the England-Wales border, with its larger part being a community of Wales, in the historic County of Clwyd. The Town forms part of Chester's built-up area and is around 5 miles from Deeside and boarder with Cheshire West and Chester, Saltney is located next to the River Dee.

2 Saltney's name is derived from the former salt marshes by the River Dee on which it is built. Once the terminus for Sir John Glynne's Canal, Saltney grew in the late nineteenth century and through the twentieth century to its present-day population of around 6,000. Saltney Ferry Railway Station was open between 1891-1962.

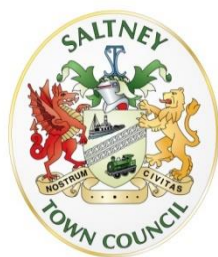
3 Saltney was a prime location for shipbuilding and in particular chain-making and the manufacture of anchors. The local firm Henry Wood & Company was first to establish an engineering works on the west bank of the River Dee in 1847, with further industrial development continuing into the 1880's.

4 Saltney Town Council was formed in the 1960's. The Town Council originally comprised of 2 electoral wards Mold Junction, Saltney Ferry and Stonebridge, and still remain as so today. There are currently fourteen Councillors representing a population of approximately 5,000. Individual Councillor details are listed at the end of the report . At the head of the Council is the Mayor, who is elected annually in May, from amongst its serving Councillors. The current Chairman is Councillor Kim Shallcross, she currently represents Stonebridge ward, Saltney. The current Vice-Chair is Councillor Barrie Gregory, he also represents the Stonebridge ward. The Town Council employs one member of staff the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on a full-time basis.



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Section 3 – the Seven Wellbeing Goals for Wales

1 The summary of the Council's activities that follows is based upon the seven well-being goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (hereinafter called the "Act"). The Act defines sustainable development as the process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

2 Saltney Town Council recognises the role that it needs to play in promoting sustainable development and how it goes about meeting its duty under the Act whilst continuing to work for and with its local communities.

3 The well-being goals are indivisible from each other and explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales. The Town Council embraces these well-being goals and will place them at the heart of its planning and decision-making process to improve the general quality of life (well-being) within its administrative area. The seven goals are as follows in accordance with the Act.

A Prosperous Wales	Cymru Lewyrchus
A Resilient Wales	Cymru Gydnerth
A Healthier Wales	Cymru Iachach
A More Equal Wales	Cymru sy'n fwy Cyfartal
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Cymru o Gymunedau Cydlynus
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Cymru â Diwylliant Bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn Ffynnu
A Globally Responsible Wales	Cymru sy'n Gyfrifol ar Lefel Fyd-eang

The Act requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of its activities on the community. The Council needs to work together with key partners and agencies in order to achieve these goals. The profile of the community can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/LDP-evidence-base/Local/Assessment-of-Local-Well-being-for-Flintshire.pdf>

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A Prosperous Wales - Cymru Lewyrchus

“An innovative, productive, and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.”

1 Saltney Town Council has representatives on numerous bodies which aim to deliver future plans to grow the economy within the community.

2 The Town Council has strong links with its primary schools and the local high school in and tries to work on various projects collaboratively throughout the year. The Town Council has links with Airbus UK and continues to work collaboratively with one of the largest employers in Saltney, Bretton and Broughton.

3 The Town Council continues to work with the Coastal Ranger, ensuring the Riverside Walk is maintained, recognising the global environment and the effects of climate change.

4 The Town Council makes an annual payment of £2k per year for the maintenance of the Riverside Walk and the continued working in partnership with Flintshire County Council.



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A Resilient Wales - Cymru Gydnerth

“A nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economical, ecological resilience, and the capacity to adapt to change – (for example climate change)”

The Town Council has significantly invested in more efficient and environmentally friendly use of energy sources in street lighting in recent and current years which has resulted in a reduced carbon footprint and energy costs.

The Town Council embarked upon a major capital programme to replace its streetlights with new LED¹ Heads which consume less energy and are more environmentally friendly. The Town Council continues to work to reduced carbon footprint whilst the Council's stock is continually updated.

The Town Council produces an annual bio-diversity report to outline areas where it can enhance and encourage biodiversity as legislated by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty) Regulations 2021 Section 6 Duty on Welsh Councils.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer continues to work towards a paperless office transferring files from paper to electronic, where possible, The use of email as a form of communication has greatly increased and large documents are circulated via email rather than in paper copy. The Town Councils Council and Committee agendas and reports are all circulated by email. During the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the introduction of The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Wales) Regulation 2020 enabled the Town Council to meet virtually and use electronic forms of communications including summons' to meetings. This was substantiated with the introduction of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.



¹ LED stands for "light emitting diode." A diode is an electrical component with two terminals which conduct the electricity only in one direction. With an electrical current, the diode emits a bright light around the small bulb. Typically, diodes have been used in many technologies such as radios, televisions and computers as an electrical component for conduction.

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A Healthier Wales - Cymru iachnach

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood".

The Town Council aims to support groups who encourage healthier living.

Some of the community groups that have benefitted during the past from Community Donations or one-off Grants include:

- The Old Chapel
- Woodwork to Wellness
- Victoria Road Allotments Society
- 3 Primary Schools
- St David High School
- Neuro Therapy Centre
- Boxing Club
- Wales Air Ambulance
- Marie Curie
- McMillan
- Scouts and Beavers
- Saltney Ferry Mold Junction Residents Association
- Douglas Place, Community Hub and its residents
- Sandy Lane Community Centre
- Summer Play Scheme – Saltney Youth Club
- Summer Play Scheme – The Rec
- Saltney Town Football Club

The Town Council has also invested significantly in matched funding with Flintshire County Council for refurbishment of play areas in the Township and will continue to support the scheme wherever possible.

The Town Council jointly manages an allotment site with the Victoria Road allotment society.

The Council has funded community defibrillators across the Township at The Old Chapel, Saltney Ferry, Ben Wild Motors, Saltney Ferry, Go Outdoors, River Lane, Saltney, Londis, Victoria Road, Saltney, and Douglas Place, Saltney. The Town Council supported Woodwork 2 Wellness and Sandy Lane Community Centre with their defibrillators by buying the cabinets and fitting them.

The Town Council annually provides a Summer Play scheme on the Rec, Park Avenue, which is highly successful.

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A More Equal Wales - Cymru Mwy Cyfartal

“A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)”

The Town Council continues to financially support diverse groups within the community.

The population characteristics as defined by the “Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire” states:

- Population characteristics – age structure similar to GB average. Population total increased well above Flintshire average in past 10 years.
- Ethnicity & Religion significantly less diverse than England & Wales averages. Welsh speakers well below the Welsh average.
- Health - limiting long term illness below Wales & Flintshire average. Lower levels of chronic illness than Wales average.

Housing and living arrangements - lower proportion of person households than national average. Overcrowding and lack of central heating levels below national average, as is proportion of households with no car - all measures similar to Flintshire average. High level of owner occupation compared to national averages. House prices above Wales and Flintshire average. Affordability (income to house price ratio) particularly poor at lower quartile level.

Ethnicity and religion are significantly less diverse than England and Wales averages, but there is a high proportion of “other white” ethnic groups compared to Wales as a whole.



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A Wales of Cohesive Communities - Cymru o Gymunedau Cydlynus

“Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities”

The Town Council, in exercising its statutory and consultative responsibilities, continues to engage in issues that affect all people across the community and takes its time to ensure that it makes the best decisions in the interests of the community.

Saltney Town Council continues to provide support to local community groups via one-off grants or community donations.

The Town Council supports events such as Remembrance Sunday, Jubilee Event, Coronation Event, Christmas Parade, and Christmas Lights. These events bring the community together and increase in size and popularity year on year.

There is sufficient dialogue with the local Police Community Support Officers who respond to issues efficiently.

The Council also has CCTV cameras around the Township to assist with anti-social behaviour throughout the community.

According to the “Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire” it states in relation to Saltney that *“community safety - crime rates are low compared to national level and Flintshire average.”*



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**A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
Cymru Â Diwylliant Bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn Ffynnu**

“A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh Language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.”

The Town Council converses in the English language to conduct its business. Wherever possible the Town Council will include the Welsh language when corresponding with the community as shown in the headings of this section of the report.

The most recent statistics show that the number of Welsh speakers in the community is well below the Welsh average. Relevant Council documentation will be made available in Welsh or alternative formats on request.



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A Globally Responsible Wales Cymru sy'n Gyfrifol ar Lefel Fyd-eang

“A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to the global well-being.”

The information contained throughout this annual report illustrates quite clearly how Saltney Town Council contributes towards the enhancement of people's well-being locally.

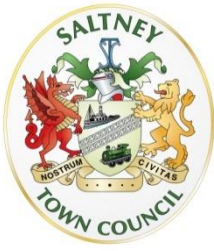
By retaining its focus on the future requirements of local people and continuing to work closely in partnership with local communities and other key stakeholders who have a wider remit, including Flintshire County Council and members of the Public Services Board, and One Voice Wales, Saltney Town Council can be confident of contributing positively to national and indeed global well-being.

The Council was successful in obtaining support from the Welsh Government under the Keep Wales Tidy initiative. A butterfly garden has been installed along with a wildlife garden throughout the Saltney Riverside Walk contributes positively to the communities well-being locally and further afield.



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Section 4 – Finance 2024-25

1 The Town Councils financial summary for the forthcoming financial year 2024-25. The Council's precept has been set at £88,922.

2 The total amount of income for the Town Council is the precept which comes from Flintshire County Council quarterly.

3 The Town Council has not raised its precept in more than 12 years' and has worked extremely hard to maintain a 0% increase for the Council's precept each year. The Town Council in the last two fiscal years had topped the budget up from reserves.

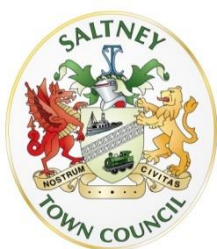
4 The Town Council's precept is relatively low compared to other Town and Community Councils within the County of Flintshire; please view the Council Tax Budget leaflet via this link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Council-Tax/Council-Tax-Budget-Leaflet-2023-24.pdf>



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Section 5 – ‘A Competent Council’

- 1 The future is challenging for Town and Community Councils in Wales. Welsh Government recently conducted a review of this tier of government and the findings can be viewed via the following link

<https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/180807-independent-review-panel-en.pdf>

2 The Town Council is subject to internal and external audits to ensure that it manages public finances appropriately. Thanks to the diligence of the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer working closely with the Chairman of Finance, the Town Council's finances are in good order. The Town Council still has an outstanding audit for 2022-23 due to problems with Audit Wales, the Town Council has submitted the audits to Audit Wales on time.

3 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 which was introduced in April 2021 allows for the local councils to use the “General Power of Competence”. This can be applied where a council has a qualified clerk, two thirds of its members have been elected and it has two years unqualified audits. Unfortunately, due to the delay in processing the audits, the Town Council is unable to apply for the General Power of Competence at this moment in time. This matter will be debated by the Town Council in due course.

4 All Town Council agendas, minutes accounts and contact details can be viewed via the Town Council's website or by emailing the office at townclerk@saltneytowncouncil.gov.uk. or on the Town Councils website <http://www.saltneytowncouncil.gov.uk/default.aspx>

5 The Town Council is also signed up to the ‘Community Charter’ to govern its relationship with Flintshire County Council and has a Saltney Standard for the Town Council to adhere to.

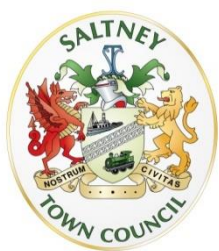
6 The Town Council in 2022 also signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge and in accordance with the Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 have developed a training plan for members of staff and Councillors which can be accessed at:

http://www.saltneytowncouncil.gov.uk/Policies_and_Documents_17028.aspx



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Section 6 – Council and Committee Timetable

Dates of meetings, agendas and minutes of all the meetings of the Council and its Committees are all available via the Council's website at: <http://www.saltneytowncouncil.gov.uk/default.aspx>

Please note that minutes only become an approved document when they have been ratified by Council at the following meeting and may therefore be subject to alteration.

The Council and most of its committee meetings take place Saltney Community Centre, Sandy Lane, Saltney. Commencing at 7.15 p.m. on the dates below via hybrid arrangements. Members of the press and public are more than welcome to attend.

The Town Council does not have meetings in August or December.

Meeting Dates 2024

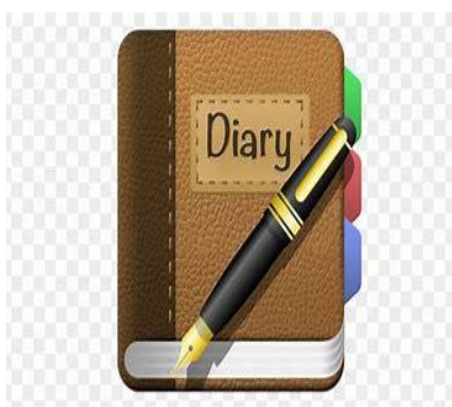
10 January 2024	14 February 2024	13 March 2024	10 April 2024
8 May – AGM			
12 June 2024	10 July 2024	11 September 2024	
9 October 2024		13 November 2024	

Committee of the Town Council

Finance and General Purposes Committee (held quarterly first Tuesday of the Month)

Environmental and Regeneration (held quarterly fourth Wednesday of the month)

Personnel Committee (held quarterly fourth Wednesday of the month)



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Section 7 – Town Councillors Details

Detailed below are the contact details of the Town Councillors for Mold Junction ward and Stonebridge ward.

Mold Junction

Richard Lloyd Flintshire County Councillor	Cornerways, 2 Saltney Ferry Road, Flintshire, CH4 OBN Tel: 01244 682480 Mobile: 07759 729 196 Email: t.r.lloyd@hotmail.co.uk	Welsh Labour
Ros Griffiths	Email: ros@busygriffiths.co.uk Tel: 01244 531587	Independent
Ryan McKeown	Email: ryanmckeown44@gmail.com Tel: 07837 934 258	Welsh Labour
Claire Davis	Email: c.hendersondavis@gmail.com Mobile :07779579755	Independent

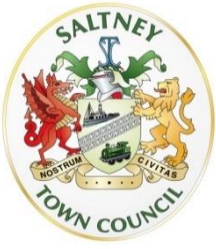
Stonebridge

Jason Shallcross Flintshire County Councillor	Pear Tree Cottage, Sandy Lane, Saltney, Flintshire, CH4 8UB Tel: 01244 674300 Mobile: 07394 969 966 Email: jackshull@hotmail.com	Independent
Jeff Brett Roberts	Email: jeffbrettroberts@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07527595960	Independent
Penny Brett Roberts	Email: pennybrett@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07527595960	Independent
Veronica Gay	Mobile: 07790 751 690 Email: saltneystonebridge@hotmail.com	Independent
Arthur B Gregory	3 Irving Crescent, Saltney, Flintshire CH4 8TU Tel: 01244 682549 Mobile: 07851 410 874 Email: barrieg123@sky.com	Independent
Eileen Gregory	3 Irving Crescent, Saltney, Flintshire CH4 8TU Tel: 01244 682549 Mobile: 07810 247 192 Email: eileenmg1957@gmail.com	Independent
Ann Lloyd	Cornerways, 2 Saltney Ferry Road, Flintshire, CH4 OBN Tel: 01244 682480	Independent
Aled Roberts	6 Chainmakers Row, Saltney, Flintshire, CH4 8QZ Mobile: 07971 520 753 Email: aled@aledroberts.com	Independent
Mark Robinson	79 Park Avenue, Saltney, Chester. CH4 8TR Email: Robinson.Mark1@outlook.com Tel: 01244 683820	Independent
Kim Shallcross	Pear Tree Cottage, Sandy Lane, Saltney, Flintshire, CH4 8UB Tel: 01244 674300 Email: kimmyshallcross@gmail.com	Independent



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Section 8 - Officer of Saltney Town Council

Tracey Brown

Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Suite 15
Riverside House
River Lane
Saltney
Flintshire
CH4 8RQ

Email townclerk@saltneytowncoouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01244 398829



Tracey Brown

Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Saltney Town Council