

## ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Communications: PO Box 2000, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1YN  
 Telephone and Fax 01827 720829  
 Email clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

DOCUMENT	<b>MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</b>
VENUE	The Committee Room, Civic Suite, NWBC, South St, Atherstone, CV9 1DE
DATE AND TIME	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 7.00pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: L John, Gurney, L Dirveiks, Barnard, Freer, Jarvis, Singh, Wright Borough & County Cllrs: D Clews Public: S Jones – (Hinckley & Bosworth BC) M Wrigley, V Loach G Eaton, K Eaton, C Brown, A Brown, J Brown,
APOLOGIES	Councillors: M Davis, G Davis, Bishop, J John, Barker, Borough Councillor County and Borough Councillor N Dirveiks
CHAIRMAN	Cllr T Clews
CLERK	Odette Ghent/ Deputy Clerk Sally Oldham also present

Item		Actions	Notes
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b> It was resolved to accept the apologies. Proposed Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Wright		
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY.</b> It was agreed that these would be taken as and when.		
3.	<b>PUBLIC SESSION (maximum 30 minutes)</b>  <b>Cllr Barnard</b> reported complaints about the skips are full and out of licence outside Winnies café. <b>Cllr Barnard</b> asked the police for any feedback after the removal of the bench outside Mc Colls. <b>Sgt Oakley</b> reported it has been successful in removing the anti-social behaviour but has now moved the problem to outside the Red Lion. <b>Sgt Oakley</b> mentioned the police can use the CCTV from the Red Lion to assist with enquiries. <b>Cllr Barnard</b> reported there is a problem with youths on bikes dressed in black with no lights on, <b>Sgt Oakley</b> reported it's a nationwide problem. <b>Cllr Barnard</b> reported that in the morning they are cycling through the Co Op on their bikes. The police are aware and are dealing with it. The police do still go into schools and advise on safety. Parking is still a problem in Market St and Long St. The A frame outside Crafty Corner is causing an obstruction.  <b>Cllr T Clews</b> asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. Graham Eaton and Carol Brown then asked the council a series of question  P90 1/18		

1. Who are the victims in their parents grave dispute. Is it Dennis and Sharon or Graham and Carol?
2. Carol Eaton requested that Cllr Freer did not answer any of the questions due to his personal interest with her brother Dennis Eaton.
3. Why now have the Town Council got involved in this issue when three years ago at a Town Council meeting they said they would not get involved.
4. Why did the Town Council get involved against the advice of the ICCM
5. Alan Brown asked will anyone from the Town Council be attending the court case on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018
6. Why was an EGM called on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and why weren't Graham Eaton and Carol Brown not informed.
7. Graham Eaton and Carol Brown asked for clarification about the wording of the sign on the noticeboard \*\*\* in the cemetery that states it's an offence to wilfully interfere or remove items from a grave. They asked are these still correct now that there has been the clarification of Regulation 37 as this extract is also included at the end of the cemetery regulations on our website.
8. Carol Brown asked why did Sally Wilson from the office of Craig Tracey say that anyone can put flowers on a grave. She asked who is correct? As the MP says we can place flowers on our parents grave and ATC are saying cannot.
9. Graham Eaton referred to a letter he got in September 2015 from Wilson Solicitors. This was referring to a previous letter from Sgt Oakley outlining a mediation plan, specifying days when they were allowed to place flowers on their parents grave. All parties agreed and ATC were given a copy. This agreement subsequently broke down after 4-5 months.
10. Graham Eaton asked the council what did they think about this situation and Carol Brown asked if it was their parents how would they feel.

**\*\*\* [For clarification purposes Carol Brown is referring to the extract of Article 18 Part I of Schedule 2 to the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order, 1977 which is on both the Cemetery entrance noticeboard and also at the end of the Cemetery Regulations](#)**

In response to the questions asked as above the following comments were made.

**Q2.** Cllr Freer commented that the only interest he had was looking after the interest of the people of Atherstone that have a contract with ATC and who own a grave space in the cemetery and has no other interest.

**Q3. Cllr Wright** commented that ATC had got involved in this issue but specifically made it clear that they were not getting involved in a family dispute but were seeking to clarify the position of Regulation 37.

**Q4. Cllr Freer** replied that ATC had acted precisely within the realms of the advice given by the ICCM by not becoming involved but by clarification of the cemetery regulations.

**Q5. Cllr T Clews** replied he could not clarify if anyone would attend it would depend on availability.

**Q7. Cllr Freer** replied that the regulations that are on the deed are not the ones that are on the noticeboard and before anyone places flowers on a grave that have to have the right. The right is enshrined by a deed either bequeathed or purchased so the owner has the right to place flowers or remove any unwanted items off their grave. They are advised if they do remove flowers not to harm them and to put in a safe place away from their grave space.

**Q8. Cllr Freer** questioned if the MP had read the Cemetery regulations and that no one can stop them putting flowers on their parents grave but it is only the deed holder that has the right and if they do not want the flowers on the grave they have the right to remove them.

**Sgt Oakley** clarified the following regarding the two noticeboards the one on the external wall on Sheepy Road and the one inside the cemetery. The wording is taken directly from the Local Cemeteries Act and the legislation that Carol Brown is relating to is correct and current and the wilful removal of flowers is a criminal offence. The two defendants that are not present at the meeting have been charged and are summoned to court and will be appearing in court in relation to that offence being committed, so it is a live offence at the moment. That court case will be heard on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**Sgt Oakley** reported there may be some error in the administration side of the current deed plot owner of E37 which is being looked into as it will form part of the prosecution when it goes to court. Case handling in Warwick have been informed and he is awaiting feedback from them.

**Cllr Freer** asked Sgt Oakley about the anomaly with the grave deed as was not aware of this. **Sgt Oakley** confirmed he got this information from the backlog of history but as it is an ongoing investigation cannot comment further.

**Q10 Cllr L John** replied saying he felt it was the right of the grave owner to decide what is put on the grave

**Cllr D Clews** asked how other members of the family are going to know there is a dispute between families that they can't place flowers or items on the grave without the police or council getting involved.

**Cllr Freer** asked how the police had got involved in a family dispute.

**Carol Brown** asked how ATC had got involved.

**Sgt Oakley** confirmed the police became involved due to continued harassment of the victims which is a criminal offence.

	<p><b>Cllr Wright</b> confirmed ATC have not got involved at any stage in the family dispute and feels that as this is a live ongoing investigation that ATC should not comment further.</p> <p><b><u>Items from other members of the public</u></b></p> <p><b>M Wrigley</b> mentioned her concerns that the shops were not or did not know how to use the Townwatch radios correctly. She recently witnessed a shoplifting incident in the Chemist where the shop owner did not use the radio to alert the police. The grass outside the flats on Welcome Street is very churned up due to parking on the grass. Regarding the relocation of the post office she wanted to confirm that responses, complaints and feedback were sent regarding to the Post Office even though the article in the paper said there had been none. There is still a problem with 28 bins in Meadow Street.</p>		
4.	<p><b>REPORTS FROM POLICE, COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.</b></p> <p><b><u>Police Reports</u></b></p> <p><b>Sgt Oakley</b> reported regarding parking in Welcome Street, this has been reported to NWBC and obstruction notices are issued accordingly. <b>Feedback from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The safety equipment offer (for removal of dumped drug needles etc) by the council has been declined by senior management and the request directed to the police Health &amp; Safety team. <b>Cllr Jarvis</b> mentioned the ATC offer was in good faith to assist the police to ensure the safety of the public. <b>Cllr L Dirveiks</b> said the Borough Council no longer dispose of sharps and is replaced with a new collection service via a telephone call to the Borough Council to arrange.</li> <li>• <b>Sgt Oakley</b> confirmed the caravan behind the bus station was on a residential premises for personal use and sightings of it being occupied was simply the owners trying it out.</li> <li>• Police dogs, Sgt Oakley confirmed from chief constable that there has been a reduction in service dogs over the past 5 years. Cllr Freer asked that as there is an increase in drug issues in the area, if ATC can assist Sgt Oakley and question the reduction in dogs.</li> <li>• It was resolved to write to the chief constable asking the reason for the reduction in the capacity to seek out drugs through dogs. Proposed Cllr Freer seconded Cllr L Dirveiks</li> </ul> <p>P93 1/18</p>		

## County and Borough Councillor reports

- **Cllr Singh** Reported the corner of Church Street where cars and vans are parking on double yellow lines means that a Mobility Scooter or pushchair is unable to pass. Could bollards be put up to prevent parking.

**Sgt Oakley** suggest the council approach WCC planning and ask if bollards could be erected in Market Street to stop cars parking. It was mentioned that previously the council were told the footpaths were not wide enough for bollards.

**Cllr L Dirveiks** reported that up by the Library there are bollards and cars still park in between them.

**Cllr Gurney** confirmed cars are parking on the right hand footpath as you go in from Long Street.

**Cllr Jarvis** reported the parking of cars on the left hand side of Market Street opposite Bates butchers forces cars to drive very close to the footpaths.

It was proposed for the clerk to write again to WCC proposed Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Jarvis

## Police reports continued

### **New report for 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 meeting from Sgt Oakley**

- The ball game is on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Feedback from the monthly emerging trends meeting that over a 19 day period there were 250 incidents reported to the police where people need assistance in the area, 28 road related.
- The number of Townwatch radio users is decreasing. Cllr Jarvis mentioned recent neighbourhood watch reports praised the CCTV and retail radio and the use of these need publicising in the town. It was proposed to write to the users that no longer subscribe and ask the reason why they have stopped using this facility. Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Jarvis

### **Drug related issues**

- There has been a recent triple class A drug related stabbing in Tannery Close the three offenders were not from Atherstone but part of an organised crime group from outside the area.
- Sgt Oakley encouraged any concerns of suspicious behaviour to be reported to the police.
- Cannabis was recently discovered being grown in Cooks Close the offender assaulted a PCSO.
- A serial thief has been arrested and now serving 18 weeks
- No further drug needle incidents.
- Two recent robberies, one attempted at the Co-op where a knife was pulled and the other on a Chinese delivery car both Class A drug related.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a car crash on M42 J9 two females killed one of the drivers was under the influence of cannabis</li> <li>• <b>CSE (child sexual exploitation)</b> the police are actively looking at some of the younger local residents in relation to this matter and asked for people to be mindful and ensure their children are safe.</li> <li>• <b>Preventative terrorist activity</b> – it has been discussed at Strategic Safety Advisory group meeting for the Ball Game that the road closure barriers need to be very strong to stop a vehicle entering the road. Sgt Oakley asked if consideration could be made to using <b>decorative transportable concrete planters</b> when replacing planters. These could be moved around the town during events to form roadblocks. This would be a long-term saving avoiding paying for some of the road closures each time an event was on.</li> <li>• Two car seizures in the Town recently.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Report from Simon Jones Cultural Services Manager– Hinckley and Bosworth BC (HBBC)</u></b></p> <p>The Tuesday and Friday market is currently managed on a month by month basis by HBBC, initially there were 7-8 stalls but recently there are only 1 or 2 stalls. Below 5 traders is not financially viable and there is now the need to consider the future arrangement of running the market and the possibility of the Town Council managing the market. It was agreed to add this matter to the February council meeting.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the Meat Lorry as on occasions it parks on the market square which due to weight restrictions is not allowed. His preferred position is in the layby he has been trading for 20 years and has a loyal customer base.</p> <p>It was resolved to have a separate meeting with the market traders, like a brainstorming session to look at the future of the market.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Wright Seconded Cllr Singh</p>		
5.	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 13th December 2017.</b></p> <p>It was resolved to approve the minutes, proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr Barnard</p>		
6.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</b></p> <p>P80 Street lighting, an email received from Mike Cunningham confirming there are no plans to return WCC streetlights to all night lighting.</p> <p>P85 NW Area Committee – Email from Paulette Ross confirming no representation by ATC since 2009. The next meeting is Monday 5 March 2018 at No Mans Heath.</p> <p>P95 1/18</p>		

7.	<p><b>INVOICES FOR APPROVAL AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE</b></p> <p>A list was circulated prior to the meeting. Approval for all new cheques 108151 to 108174 inclusive. Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Singh Cllr T Clews declared an interest on cheque 108070 and Cllr Barnard on cheque108171</p> <p><b>It was resolved to approve the list.</b> <b>Proposed Cllr Wright seconded by Cllr Singh</b> <b>List of cheques over £500</b></p> <table data-bbox="220 465 938 869"> <tr><td>Wages</td><td>£3,280.32</td></tr> <tr><td>WCC</td><td>£1,135.88</td></tr> <tr><td>C Belcher</td><td>£1,665.00</td></tr> <tr><td>NWBC</td><td>£7,231.75</td></tr> <tr><td>Servicom</td><td>£720.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Simply mail solutions</td><td>£1,221.96</td></tr> <tr><td>Turnock</td><td>£3,159.60</td></tr> <tr><td>Glendale</td><td>£2,029.20</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>replacement</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>chq original</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>lost &amp;</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>cancelled</td></tr> </table>	Wages	£3,280.32	WCC	£1,135.88	C Belcher	£1,665.00	NWBC	£7,231.75	Servicom	£720.00	Simply mail solutions	£1,221.96	Turnock	£3,159.60	Glendale	£2,029.20		replacement		chq original		lost &		cancelled		
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8.	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (see list)</b></p> <p>No comments</p>																										
9.	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b> <b>Cllr Jarvis declared an interest.</b></p> <p>a) <b>Planning Lists – 50,51, 1</b> b) <b>Consultations</b></p> <p><b>Application Ref: PAP/2017/0556</b> 178 Long Street Change of use from granny annex to single storey dwelling and conversion of barn to 2 dwellings with associated access and parking <b>No objection</b></p> <p><b>Application Ref: PAP/2017/0673</b> Unit 6 Netherwood Industrial Estate Change of use from industrial B1/B2/B8 to sui generis for corporate team building. <b>No objection</b></p> <p><b>Application Ref: PAP/2017/0675</b> 51 Long St Atherstone Erection of 4 craft retail units Response deadline requested to 18.1.18 <b>No objection</b></p> <p><b>Application Ref: PAP/2018/0015</b> Unit 11 Carlyon Rd Variation of conditions in respect of extensions to 10a 11 and 11a. <b>No objection</b></p> <p>P96 1/18</p>																										

	<p><b>Application Ref: PAP/2018/0016</b>  Unit 11 Carlyon Rd  Variation of conditions in respect of extensions to 7a 8a and 9a  <b>No objection</b></p> <p><b>c) Decisions:-</b></p> <p><b>As per weekly planning lists 50,51,1</b></p>		
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Financial reports for December 2017 had been circulated.</b> Noted.</li> <li>• <b>Clerk's Report</b></li> <li>• The budget for 2018/19 needs to be agreed and the precept required submitted by 2 February 2018. An EGM to be called 31 Jan 18</li> <li>• The clerk asked if the iPads/new email addresses are working ok and offered to give more training as required.</li> <li>• The clerk reported the clerks accrued hours worked to end of December 2018 are Clerk 61hours, Deputy Clerk 63 hours.</li> <li>• Maureen Parker that rent the upstairs room in arcade for De Villes Health &amp; Fitness asked in March 17 if the council would consider installing insulated flooring to her unit to act as both a sound and cold barrier. In particular for the cold as her unit is above the entrance to the arcade and very cold. The council asked for more information and details regarding trading times the clerk to contact her.</li> <li>• It was agreed to relocate the bench that was removed from outside Mc Colls to the market square just opposite the Angel pub where a tree had been removed. Proposed Cllr Jarvis Seconded Cllr Singh</li> <li>• The clerk asked if she can attend a SLCC seminar 22/23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 it was agreed proposed Cllr Jarvis Seconded Cllr Wright</li> </ul> <p>P97 1/18</p>		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Town councillor reports</b></li> </ul> <p>None</p>		
11.	<p><b>CEMETERY MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>a) Memorial applications</b> – none this month</p> <p><b>b) Recent Burials in Atherstone Cemetery</b></p> <p>Reginald William Edward Blower B288 New triple grave  Derrick Deeming E1527 Re open to single depth  Valerie Bates (Nicholson) E1459 re open to single depth  Anne Belinda Thompson B129 re open for ashes  Rita Barbara Wright RCE911 open to double depth  Ernest John Jones RC836 open to double depth</p> <p><b>c) Ashes scattering area update.</b></p> <p>The benches in the Ashes Scattering shelter have now been sanded down.</p> <p><b>d) Pathways</b>  The paths around the cemetery are very narrow and causing the contractors to often drive on the grassed areas at the bottom end of the cemetery.  A site meeting to be arranged with the contractors.</p>		
12.	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b></p> <p>No further progress this month.</p>		
13.	<p><b>ARCADE SHOPS</b></p> <p><b>a. Working group feedback</b></p> <p>No further progress this month</p>		
14.	<p><b>MARKET SQUARE</b></p> <p><b>a. Grit Bin/Gritting</b>  The grit bin on the market square was locked and no idea who had the key, the lock has now been removed and there is grit in there for the traders to use if needed. The clerk has asked Jane Pritchard at WCC Highways if this bin is on their grit bin refill schedule.</p> <p><b>b. Booking Application re Badgers Road Race Sunday 26 Aug 2018</b></p> <p>It was resolved to accept the booking proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr Singh</p> <p>P98 1/18</p>		

15.	<p><b>FUNDING REQUESTS</b></p> <p><b>a. Football club publicity photograph</b></p> <p>Jason Palmer from Atherstone Town Supporters Trust would like to publicise the funding award granted by ATC and have a photo opportunity with the councillors at the football ground with some clothing that has been purchased with the funds. This was agreed to arrange this at a mutually convenient date proposed by Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Barnard</p>		
16.	<p><b>PLAY AREAS</b></p> <p>Nothing this month</p>		
17.	<p><b>ALLOTMENTS</b></p> <p>Nothing this month</p>		
18.	<p><b>The Old Mortuary Maintenance ( From 15th November 2017)</b></p> <p>The surveyors report has now been received from Tim Jones and had been circulated for the meeting.</p>		
19.	<p><b>ROYAL GARDEN PARTY BUCKINGHAM PALACE</b></p> <p>Nominations for attendance at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018, Cllr Barnard was nominated.</p>		
20.	<p><b>FEEDBACK RE MEETING ON CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVES/ROADSHOW</b></p> <p>There was an informal meeting with Tony Hardman to discuss the Crimestopper/Neighbourhood watch roadshow it was agreed to liaise with him to arrange a date for a roadshow to be held in April 2018 outside Mc Colls.</p>		
	<p><b>PRIVATE &amp; CONFIDENTIAL</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved that, under Section 100A of the local Government Act 1972, in view of the confidential nature of the business about</b></p> <p><b>to be transacted (Details of the terms of contracts for the acquisition or disposal of property, or for the supply of goods or services, employment matters, and action to be taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, prosecution or investigation of a crime) it is advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Cllr Barnard seconded Cllr Wright</b> <b>P99 1/18</b></p>		

21.	<p><b>QUOTATIONS</b></p> <p><b>a. Floral displays Summer &amp; Winter 2018/19</b></p> <p>It was resolved to use Smithy Farm shop for the 2018/19 floral displays. Proposed Cllr Jarvis Seconded Cllr Singh</p> <p><b>b. Xmas lights preferred contractor for Nov 2018-Jan 2022</b></p> <p>It was resolved to use Turnocks as the preferred contractor for the 2018 Christmas lights proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr Singh A working group to be set up regarding the electrics and any future lighting schemes to include a representative from Turnocks</p> <p><b>c. Old Mortuary maintenance</b></p> <p>It was resolved to ask contractors to tender for the work that needs doing. Proposed Cllr Clews seconded Cllr Singh</p> <p><b>d. Xmas Tree 2018</b></p> <p>The location of the Christmas tree outside the church causes the top half of the tree to be obscured from view and difficult to reach for the lights to go on it. It was resolved to move the electrics and fixing point. Proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr Singh Cllr Jarvis will talk to the vicar and add the Christmas Tree to the working group discussions.</p>		
22.	<p><b>GRAVE MATTERS</b></p> <p>It was resolved to instruct Garner Canning solicitors to write the reply letter in order to resolve the current grave dispute. Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Singh there was a vote all in favour except Cllr Freer who was against.</p>		
23.	<p><b>POLICE POWERS TO REQUEST INFORMATION</b></p> <p>The clerk read the email response from Sgt Oakley</p>		
24.	<p><b>CCTV UPGRADE UPDATE</b></p> <p>The NWBC resources board are due to meet on 29 January 2018 if there are resources available the project can go ahead. <b>P100 1/18</b></p>		
25.	<p><b>CCTV – Fibre Optic Cable run from camera 9-10</b></p> <p>The feedback from the informal meeting held on 16 January 2018 was reported, this is an ongoing dispute between NWBC/ATC and Aragon Properties. There was a discussion about the costs to relocate the camera and cable using 106 money, to contact Geoff Brown about the costs. Proposed Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Wright</p>		
	<p><b>The meeting closed at 9.32 pm the Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b></p>		

Signed ..... Chairman of Atherstone Town Council

**P100 01/18**