

## ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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DOCUMENT	<b>MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</b>
VENUE	Town Council Chamber, North Street
DATE AND TIME	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> . April 2014 start 7.00 pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: M Davis, G Davis, Shaw, R Freer, L Freer, Jarvis, Clews, Singh, Barker, Pickard, Clark, Barnard.  Deputy Chief Fire Office G Phillips, Assistant Chief Fire J Onions Public: Mrs Clay, Mrs Wrigley, Mr Wileman, S Kellegher, J Kellegher, J Maidens, E Barrs, K Wood, M Williams
APOLOGIES	Town Cllrs: McElhone, Wright,
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Singh
CLERK	Mr Graham Day

Item		Actions	Notes
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b> It was resolved to accept the Town Council apologies. Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Barker		
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST &amp; DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</b> To be taken as and when.		
3.	<b>DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER GARY PHILLIPS WARWICKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE</b> Cllr Singh stated that the Town Council was concerned about the future of the Atherstone Fire Station. Mr Phillips outlined the changes that had taken place since 2010, which had shown some improvement, however public sector spending requirements now meant that savings of £2.4 million had to be made from the budget, although Atherstone would not be affected as much as some other areas. There would be no closure of any fire stations, and despite rumours of retained firefighters losing their jobs, this was not the case. They were in the middle of a consultation period and the Council and individuals were urged to respond. He explained that senior management had already been reduced and youth development stopped. The YFA would have to stop due to lack of structure and personnel, despite trying to find other partners. He explained that 30 full time posts would be lost, not by redundancy, <b>P153 4/14</b>		

but by retirement with people reaching their 30 year service. The minimum number of engines needed had been set at 20, with 22 currently in use.

He explained that due to an outdated structure maximum coverage was not available during the busiest times of 10.00am to 10.00pm. as it was currently spread evenly through the day. It was also difficult to recruit retained personnel in some areas.

He stated that fire incidents were falling with 156 recorded in March. He explained that there would be 5 hubs, one being Nuneaton, with a full time engine based there, with shift changes at 10.00am and 10.00pm, crews would move around the area.

He explained that after 2 years the restraints were unknown but could result in the loss of further posts, including retained. They were currently trying to get the best results out of the resources available.

He explained that current response times were 10 minutes in towns and 20 minutes in rural areas, they were aiming for 10 minutes.

Cllr Shaw asked what would happen to the carp vehicles (fitted with ladders) Mr Phillips explained that they would only be used for aerial rescues.

Cllr Shaw asked what would happen to the Atherstone control unit, Mr Phillips explained that it would move to Nuneaton, along with any special appliances.

Mr Phillips stated that the proposals would go before the County Council on 25<sup>th</sup>. September, for approval. He said that he would send all documentation, and stated that he thought that the public would not see any difference in the service.

Cllr Pickard said that he empathised with the service, having to make cuts, and asked how will success of the changes be measured, and fed outside of the County Council.

Mr Phillips replied that they had to follow the political lead, they had to give assurances that the measures would work, they would be scrutinised, and give a monthly report. He said that they were quite willing to come back and talk to the Council as required. He stated that the changes would be hard to achieve and represented a reduction of about 12%.

Cllr Shaw said that the retained personnel would be busier.

Cllr Clews asked how many support staff would be leaving, Mr Phillips said that many posts had been lost in the 2010 changes, and that front line staff level was 83%. They had 23 senior management posts which was lower than other areas. Mr Onions said that counted among the support staff were people who serviced the engines and appliances.

Cllr Clark asked how many engines attended a house fire, and where did they come from. Mr Phillips said the standard response was 2, which could come from anywhere in the County, the aim was to reach anyone within 10 minutes.

Cllr Clark asked what where the biggest concerns, Mr Phillips stated that any further cuts would be very difficult , they were talking to other services about shared activities to mergers.

Cllr M Davis asked for a clarification of the required saving, it was stated that the 2.4 million had to be achieved by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup>. year

Cllr R Freer asked if the consultation was online, it was stated that it was on the County website under Fire and Rescue.

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	<p>Mr Phillips stated that the shift change for the first engine would be at Nuneaton, with the second manned by retained personnel.</p> <p>A member of the public asked what would happen when the retained personnel finished before the shift change, Mr Phillips said that there would be no cover from Atherstone, as sometimes happens now.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if the retained personnel would only cover at night, Mr Phillips said they would cover 24 hours, if possible, at least for the next 2 years. Mr Onions said that they had lost retained cover in some areas due to changing work conditions, but Atherstone had been less affected than most.</p> <p>Mr Phillips said that currently, across the County only 13/14 vehicles were available, out of 22, they were trying to improve this through shift re-organisation</p> <p>He re-stated that currently 80% response times of 10 minutes in towns and 20 minutes in rural areas were achieved, but his main concern was responding to road traffic incidents.</p> <p>A member of the public asked about a recent call from Ratcliffe Culey, where a long time had been taken for the Leicestershire service to attend, but Atherstone had not been called. Mr Phillips said they do call neighbouring services, but did not know the policy in Leicestershire. He said that he would investigate.</p> <p>Cllr L Freer asked if the crews ever had difficulty finding locations when called to another area, Mr Phillips said that they now had very sophisticated computers on board which solve this issue.</p> <p>A member of the public said that it seemed wasteful for the crews to travel to Nuneaton to change shift and then come back with the engine, and also asked about crews not knowing the buildings in another area. Mr Phillips and Mr Onions said that they were moving to a hub system, similar to the police and ambulance, they said that they were investing in systems to hold plans of major buildings, however the biggest problems were usually with smaller properties where changes were made without their knowledge.</p> <p>Cllr Singh thanked Mr Phillips and Mr Onions for their attendance and they left the meeting.</p>		
4.	<p><b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p>Mr Wileman asked about the precept overpayment from 2013/14, and about returning £10 to each band “D” property. Cllr Singh explained that it had been resolved, by the Council, that it could not be given back individually and to spend it on some special project for the benefit of the town and it’s residents. Cllr R Freer stated that this was a mistake, but agreed that it would have been too expensive to give it back individually, but should have been paid back in this year’s precept.</p> <p>Cllr M Davis said this was a minority view, it was resolved to move on with the business, proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr M Davis. Cllr R Freer asked for a named vote. The vote was as follows; against Cllrs, R Freer, L Freer, Pickard, Clark, in favour; Cllrs M Davis, G Davis, Shaw, Jarvis, Barnard, Clews, Singh, Barker.</p> <p>Mrs Maidens spoke in support of a grant application they had presented for OSCA cinema. They would be having monthly shows, starting 24<sup>th</sup> May, showing 2 films costing a hire fee of £120 each, and charging £5 admittance for a maximum of 60 people.</p> <p><b>P155 4/14</b></p>		

	<p>Cllr Shaw said that the recycling bins had now been removed from Woolpack Way car park, but in the town centre no red top bins had been issued. It was agreed to ask NWBC about the issue.</p> <p>Cllr Clark said that this had been stated at the annual NWBC/parish council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis stated that there were a lot of vans being parked around the town, but businesses should have their own parking areas. Cllr Clark stated that if used to advertise this counted as fly posting. Mrs Clay said that a van regularly parked in Welcome Street.</p> <p>Cllr M Davis said that if it is parked on the highway causing an obstruction it was a police matter, if on private land it was the responsibility of the owner.</p> <p>Mrs Wrigley said that people were concerned about customers of the White Horse who stood at the front smoking, swearing and spitting, it was agreed to write to the White Horse, Cllr L Freer asked that a letter be also sent to the Red Lion about customers smoking at the front and throwing the butts down the drain, it was agreed to write to the Red Lion.</p> <p>Cllr Barnard stated that CCTV could capture people discarding cigarette butts as it was classed as dropping litter.</p>		
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 2<sup>nd</sup>. April 2014.</b></p> <p>It was resolved to accept the minutes. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr G Davis.</p>		
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 2<sup>nd</sup>. April 2014.</b></p> <p>P147, Cllr Jarvis said that a recent event at QE School had again caused parking issues in Witherley Road, he had called the Safer Neighbourhood Team who had booked some for obstruction. It was agreed to write to NWBC (J Hutchinson).</p> <p>P147, It was reported that the Smithy Farm Shop could repair the damaged planter, this was agreed.</p> <p>P148, item 4. Cllr Jarvis stated that there were a lot of drains around the town which were blocked, it was agreed to ask County Highways to carry out a programme of cleaning, and to ask for a job number so progress could be monitored.</p> <p>P149, item 6, the clerk reported that the office roof repair was now completed.</p> <p>P149, item 7, the clerk reported that the approved accounts had now been received from the Motor Show, it was agreed to sign the cheque.</p> <p>P149, item 8, E12, NWBC investigating the phone app.</p> <p>P151, item 11, visit by CCTV camera supplier, took place, budget quote received today.</p> <p>P152, item 17, Arboretum trip booked. It was resolved that neither of the clerks need attend, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.</p> <p>P151, item 15, Cllr R Freer proposed that the £27k precept overpayment be deducted from next year's precept, this was seconded by Cllr Pickard.</p> <p>Cllr Clews made a counter proposal that the money be spent on an ashes scattering area in the cemetery, this was seconded by Cllr M Davis.</p> <p><b>P156 4/14</b></p>		

	<p>Cllr R Freer pointed out that a resolution already existed to provide an ashes scattering area, and that a firm had been engaged to progress the work. He asked for a named vote on the first proposal, the voting was as follows; in favour, Cllrs L Freer, R Freer, Pickard, Clark, Clews. Against, Cllrs M Davis, G Davis, Jarvis, Shaw, Singh, Barker, and Barnard, this was not approved.</p> <p>Voting then took place on the second proposal, this was carried with 8 votes in favour, all others abstained.</p> <p>Cllrs Pickard and Clark left the meeting.</p>		
7.	<p><b>INVOICES FOR APPROVAL AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE</b></p> <p>The clerk presented a revised list with cheque numbers 106526 to 106553 for approval and signing.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve and sign the cheques listed above, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.</p> <p><i>List of cheques above £500.00</i></p> <p><i>HTM £1168.80</i></p> <p><i>WALC £989.00</i></p> <p><i>Servicom £903.60</i></p> <p><i>NWBC £7231.75</i></p>		
8.	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b></p> <p>3/ Letter from Prime Minister regarding allowance on employer's national insurance contributions, it was agreed to display this in the noticeboard.</p> <p>7/ Grant application, OSCA Cinema, it was resolved to give a grant of £240 to cover the hire of the films for the first date. Proposed Cllr R freer, seconded Cllr Singh.</p> <p>8/ Grant application, Friends of Atherstone Heritage, it was resolved that the Town Council would pay the service charge for the 6 months lease. Proposed Cllr R Freer, seconded Cllr L Freer.</p> <p>E62/ Funding applications. It was resolved to investigate the withdrawal of the ashes scattering area from the funding applications and treat as a stand alone project handled by the Council. Proposed Cllr L Freer, seconded Cllr Jarvis.</p> <p>E51/ Complaint received by Cllr Barker regarding a dropped kerb in Lister Road, the clerk had forwarded this to the County Cllr.</p> <p>E70/ Accident near Market Square, the clerk had replied that this area was highway and the complaint should go to County Highways. Cllr Shaw stated that a risk assessment should be carried out regarding the condition of the Square itself.</p> <p>E87/ Request to use Square, July 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>. British Legion and August 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>. Friends of Atherstone Heritage.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve these requests subject to the normal requirements of insurance coverage, weight limit and finish by 11.00pm. Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Jarvis.</p> <p>Cllrs RFreer and L Freer left the meeting.</p> <p><b>P157 4/14</b></p>		

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p> <p>a) Planning Lists – 11, 12, 13.</p> <p>b) Consultations  PAP/2014/0101, 18 Rose Hill, Atherstone, Demolition of detached garage, extensions and alterations to existing bungalow, with additional first floor bedrooms and bathrooms. Amended plans.  It was resolved that there was no objection to this application, if acceptable to the neighbours.  Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.  PAP/2014/0161, Angie’s Hair Spa, 1a Church Street, Atherstone, change of use from class A1 (shops) to A2 (Financial and professional services).  It was resolved that there was no objection to this application.  Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr G Davis.</p> <p>c) <b>Decisions</b>  PAP/2014/0044, Waivan, 58 South Street, application to vary conditions granted.  PAP/2014/0581, Brighton House, North Street, conversion into 2 dwellings – granted.  PAP/2014/0094, Brighton House, conservation area consent to demolish part of wall – granted.</p> <p>d) <b>Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings</b>  None at time of compilation</p> <p>e) <b>Other</b>  None at time of compilation</p> <p>f) <b>Licensing Matters</b>  None at time of compilation</p>		
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Clerk’s Report</b>  The clerk reported that there had been problems with the main PC slowing down and locking up, the PC had now been replaced by the new laptop, and despite some set up problems was now working OK.</p> <p>The clerk reported that due to an underground water leak the supply to the external taps in the cemetery had been turned off and notices displayed. Now waiting for Severn-Trent to send contractors to find the leak.  Cllr Shaw asked that the clerk investigate if some kind of a fail safe valve could be fitted which could give a warning or shut down the supply in the event of excessive usage, this was agreed.  It was resolved to have a tap fitted inside the toilet building where water could be obtained more easily. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Jarvis.</p> <p><b>P158 4/14</b></p>		

	<p><b>Representative's Reports</b> Cllr Singh said that future meeting dates should be investigated, with a view to moving to one meeting a month, Cllr M Davis asked that the item be on the agenda for the annual meeting, and the clerk to bring all relevant information. This was agreed.</p>		
11.	<p><b>MARKET SQUARE</b> Applications received to use Square reported in Correspondence. The clerk presented an e-mail requesting use of the Square on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. July, for World Cup celebrations, including a penalty shoot-out, it was resolved that this would not be suitable on the Square and recommended that they apply to use the football ground. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr M Davis.</p>		
12.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM CCTV MEETING</b> It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.</p>		
13.	<p><b>ALLOTMENT MATTERS</b> The clerk reported that a complaint had been made about a cockerel, at Merevale, when identified action would be taken.</p> <p>A new tenant at Merevale had requested help to dispose of items being cleared from plot. It was resolved that other waste from the allotments could be disposed of when the remaining unused area was cleared. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.</p> <p>Cllr Barker said that a lot of effort had been put in at Gypsy Lane and the site looked well, he said that there was a black cockerel on one plot already identified by the deputy clerk.</p>		
14.	<p><b>CEMETERY MATTERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Memorial Applications approved by clerk</b> Bender Family – E544 headstone Margaret Nuala Hancock – E607 Additional inscription Ruth Langley – A259 – Additional inscription Malcolm Paul Lloyd – A450 – headstone Mabel Estelle Trow – B224 – headstone John Clifford Meads – B205 – Headstone and kerb Phylliss Joan Rogers – B187 – Additional inscription Rosemary Hughes – B247 – Headstone and kerbs Alice Evans – A66 – Additional inscription</li> <li>• <b>Recent Burials in Atherstone Cemetery</b> Nora May Chapman – A221 – re open for ashes Leslie Court – A316 – re open for ashes Margaret Nuala Hancock – re open for ashes Wendy Anne Jackson – E1385 – re open for ashes Betty Margaret Waite – O20 – re open for ashes.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed to have ashes scattering area on future agendas and to ask Mr D Evans to come and discuss it with a working group.</p> <p><b>P 159 4/14</b></p>		

	<p>It was agreed that, under Section 100A of the local Government Act 1972, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (<i>Details of the terms of contracts for the acquisition or disposal of property, or for the supply of goods or services</i>) 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.</p> <p><b>Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.</b></p>		
<p><b>15.</b></p>	<p><b>QUOTATIONS RECEIVED</b></p> <p>Modification to Arcade grills, the clerk presented a quote from MJ Sheetmetal to modify the grills into 3 sections each. It was resolved to accept this, proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Barker.</p> <p>The clerk presented quotes from NWBC and Tom White to provide and empty the cemetery waste skip, it was resolved to accept the quote from Tom White, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.</p> <p>The clerk presented quotes from NWBC and Tom White to remove the office waste, it was resolved to approve Tom White to provide and empty a wheelie bin at the office, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Shaw.</p> <p>The clerk presented a quote from NWBC for the lifeline monitoring, it was resolved that this was no longer needed as the office now had a Townwatch radio. Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr G Davis.</p>		
<p><b>16.</b></p>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM ARCADE WORKING GROUP</b></p> <p>The clerk gave a verbal report from the working group, it was resolved that the clerk should talk to some of the tenants regarding what waste was put into the skips provided by the Council, proposed Cllr Jarvis, seconded Cllr M Davis.</p> <p>The clerk reported that a verbal enquiry had been received regarding unit 6, it was resolved that unit 6 was available, as it stands, for a tenancy at will agreement, proposed Cllr M Davis, seconded Cllr Shaw. It was resolved to contact Mr P Bowley regarding a design for a toilet outside unit 6, and also for a concept design for the upstairs area. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr M Davis.</p> <p>The Town Council's solicitor had also recommended that if ATC wished to proceed with purchase of OSCA, an agreed deal should be submitted to NWBC. It was resolved to arrange a meeting with OSCA. Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Singh.</p>		
	<p><b>The meeting closed at 9.30pm.</b></p>		

Signed .....Chairman of Atherstone Town Council