

## ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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

DOCUMENT	<b>MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING</b>
VENUE	Town Council Chamber, North Street
DATE AND TIME	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2015 start 7pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: Gurney, Barnard, Clews, M Davis, G Davis, R Freer, Clark, Barker, Jarvis, Bishop, J John, Wright County Cllr: none Borough Councillor: D Clews Public: Mrs L Freer, Sally Wilson
APOLOGIES	Town Cllrs: L Dirveiks, L John, Singh
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jarvis
CLERK	Mr Graham Day / Sally Oldham

Item		Actions	Notes
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b> It was resolved to accept the Town Councillor's apologies. Proposed Cllr G Davis, seconded Cllr Wright		
2.	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> Mrs Freer asked if she could be allowed to speak later in the meeting. Sally Wilson read out at statement on behalf of MP Craig Tracey as follows:  <i>"Having met with the school on several occasions, viewed the plans and had several concerns addressed, such as ability to increase the number of pupil places, my view is that the Town Council strongly consider supporting the build in its current form. It is a reality that as well as the prospect of a delay of up to five years on the build, due to Carillion having other projects in the area, that the funding is time limited and could lead to no new school being built.                      The option of using the existing footprint for the school is not feasible due to cost and the lack of acceptable facilities to house the students while the build is completed.                      In addition, Headteacher, Mr Wilmot has assured me that he will submit a letter of support to WCC supporting residents for the Witherley Road layby status to be changed to resident parking.                      The design of the build while not the most attractive is a blueprint that has been accepted across the country as the most economical viable and enables the schools to grow as the local community does.                      I feel that the new build will be good for the educational development of the students and benefit Atherstone as a whole if completed in time".</i>  Cllr Clark asked if working groups for the Arcade and Neighbourhood Plan (daytime) could be called. It was agreed the clerk could send an email suggesting suitable dates.  P08/05/15		

3.	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST, DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY</b> To be taken as and when.</p>		
4.	<p><b>PLANNING CONSULTATION, PAP/2015/0294</b> Land adjacent to 1 Princess Road, Atherstone – demolition of 2 lock-up garage blocks and construction of 2 bungalows. It was resolved there is no objection as long as the access to the curtilage of the flats and playing field is maintained. Proposed Cllr Barker seconded Cllr M Davis</p>		
5.	<p><b>PLANNING CONSULTATION, QE SCHOOL, ATHERSTONE</b> Application received from County Council NWB/15CC004 Proposed demolition of existing buildings and construction of new, 3 storey main school building and new sports hall; energy centre; creation of new natural turf playing pitch and social area; associated hard and soft landscaping.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis declared an interest as a local resident and asked for a dispensation to speak but not vote. This was agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Wright proposed that the application be supported as the developers have addressed the concerns of local residents. He reported that he had attended a meeting at the school and any doubts he had in advance had been allayed. He felt it was a good development and siting concerns had been addressed as it was not feasible or cost effective to knock down and build on the existing site. He stated that if the Town Council objected it would do a disservice to the local community.</p> <p>Cllr R Freer spoke against the application and objected on planning grounds as it should be adequate to cope with pupil numbers but that it would not be in the future. He commented that it was a quick fix option. He also commented that the application was incomplete if extension plans were not included and that an historic tree had not been considered. He added that it had been located in a position out of place with its surroundings. Moving the location would also make it easier to extend. Cllr R Freer stated that a Local Plan had been considered and agreed by NWBC – as this application disregarded the Local Plan it should not go ahead.</p> <p>Cllr M Davis said that following the public meeting last night the Town Council should consider the overall picture as there was also a voice of the people who wanted the school.</p> <p>Cllr Barker raised a concern about the building being close to the road which created safety issues and there had been two accidents he knew of involving children. He felt the project was being done down to price and Atherstone did not deserve such a building.</p> <p>P09/05/15</p>		

Cllr Jarvis commented that no neighbour has said they do not want the school.

Cllr Clark reported that having been handed a petition on parking at the public meeting signed by local residents he had sent it on to WCC and residents will get a written response. He noted that the option of residents only parking was going to be looked into. Cllr Clark stated that concerns over the road are valid and perhaps additional barriers should be included. He also commented on the mis-use of the speed humps. He sympathised with the residents and parking concerns but he felt that due process and diligence had taken place. There were concerns over the “like it or lump it” funding but that there was need for improved facilities. If this application did not go ahead the school would not be fit for purpose. As an application he considered it sound.

Cllr R Freer said that refurbishment money is on track for schools and there was ample room at the back of the old school to build new school. He felt the upper school could still be utilised.

Cllr Bishop noted the swell of local support at the public meeting and on social media forums. As it was half term a lot of people were out of town and the Town Council should consider the feelings of the local people. She noted the inconvenience of the parking issues and also that the Chair of Governors has asked to have a member of the Town Council on the board to address this and other issues.

Cllr Jarvis responded that there was no problem at the start and finish of the school day it is when events are on at night that there is a problem. School employs two wardens who will not direct traffic away from service road to use the on- site car parks.

Cllr Gurney asked why the original designs had changed. Originally there were plans for a one way system with the sports hall and school the opposite way around. County Highways objected and then the plans were reversed and the one entrance option retained.

Cllr R Freer reminded everyone that this was a planning meeting and considerations should be:

Is it suitable? No it does not fit in the surrounding area.

Is it adequate for school numbers? No

Is it in line with Local Plan? No.

NWBC Planning have noted this and Cllr R Freer believed there were other options for example S106 money and they should not rely upon the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

It was resolved to suspend the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak. Proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr Barker.

Mrs Freer said that Ian Grace the head planner at WCC asked why the school had been sited in that position and had not been set further back. NWBC are recommending an objection and also the entrance to

P10/05/15

	<p>the school includes a public right of way which pedestrians use to get to work over in the industrial estate.</p> <p>The meeting resumed.</p> <p>Cllr M Davis stated that there is concern that if we object we will lose the new school.</p> <p>Cllr Wright said that Jeff Brown recommended refusal as head of planning but as elected representatives members still have to decide. Cllr R Freer said that material matters such as additional housing should be considered. Cllr Wright raised a point of order and stated that the school could house 800 with the planned for extension blocks.</p> <p>7.45pm Cllr J John left the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Clark said there were presently 526 pupils on roll and the new building could accommodate 600 with expansion as required.</p> <p>Cllr Barker said that future numbers could be predicted in planning terms.</p> <p>Cllr M Davis said it came down to a choice of concerns about appearance versus the risk of losing new school completely. If Highways experts have advised changes he did not feel he as a councillor could challenge that decision.</p> <p>Cllr Clark agreed that experts knew requirements in terms of numbers and there was plenty of space available if a sudden expansion was needed.</p> <p>Cllr Barker said that if it came down to a choice of having or not having the school they should vote in favour of the school.</p> <p>Cllr Bishop noted other modern buildings such as the Memorial Hall or Swimming Pool which did not detract from other buildings around them.</p> <p>Cllr Wright pointed out that the difference between those buildings and this new school would be the ongoing maintenance programme so that in 20 years time it would look the same and would not be allowed to deteriorate.</p> <p>It was resolved that Atherstone Town Council supported the application. Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Clark. Cllrs R Freer and Jarvis abstained.</p>		
	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.</b></p>		

Signed ..... Chairman of Atherstone Town Council

P11/05/15