

Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2008 / 2009



QUALITY
PARISH &
TOWN
COUNCIL
SCHEME

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

Acting Town Clerk Mr Graham Day
Trainee Town Clerk Mrs. Sally Oldham

The Old Mortuary
North Street
Atherstone
Warks
CV9 1JN

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 11am

Outside of these hours appointments are necessary.

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Meetings Structure 2008/2009

Chairman Cllr G Davis
Vice-Chairman Cllr R Jarvis

Monthly meetings, all meetings are Full Council;

Meeting 1. Cllrs surgeries and a public session precede the meeting.

Deals with reports from other Councils, approval of invoices and cheques, correspondence, financial and internal reports, any other scheduled business.

Meeting 2. A public session precedes the meeting.

Deals with correspondence, planning matters, memorial applications, recent burials, contract matters, any other scheduled business.

Meeting 3. A public session precedes the meeting.

Deals with correspondence, planning matters, policy matters, any other scheduled business.

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To May 6th 2009

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(LD –North)
Ruby Chambers	01827 714117	(I – Central)
Denise Clews	01827 711340	(I– Central)
Gill Davis	01827 714491	(C-Central)
Martin Davis	01827 714491	(C- South)
Lorraine Freer	01827 712531	(C – South)
Melvyn Hopkins	01827 739419	(I – Central)
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534	(I– South)
Amanda Macchi	01827 714555	(C– North)
Colin Peat	01827 713537	(C – North)
Martin Shaw	01827 712846	(C – North)
Mejar Singh	01827 712305	(C- North)
Nathan Sweet	01827 716 488	(LD Central)
John H Vickers	01827 712615	(C– North)
Anthony Wright	01827 717337	(C – Central)

Key

- (C) Conservative
- (I) Independent
- (L) Labour
- (LD) Liberal Democrat

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

May 2009.

Councillor Gill Davis

It was a great honour to be elected Chairman of Atherstone Town Council, and Town Mayor in May 2008 and I have been grateful to my fellow Councillors for all their support throughout my year of office.

I would especially like to thank Vice-Chairman Ray Jarvis and of course our clerks who have always been there to offer support and last but by no means least my husband Martin.

It has been, as always, an interesting and challenging year, during which the Town Council has been active on behalf of the people of Atherstone. This year was filled with sadness at the loss of our dear friend and much loved colleague, Barry Beeson.

I have attended a great variety of functions in Atherstone such as crowning the Carnival Queen, presenting the prizes at the Atherstone Ladies Darts League, opening the Christmas Fair at the Volunteer Centre with the 'Queen'.

I have also had the honour of representing Atherstone on many occasions across the County, flying the flag for Atherstone, with one of the most memorable events attending the inauguration of the Bishop of Coventry. One other very significant event was when I led a group of Councillors and representatives from organisations across the town to meet the Mayor and Mayoress of Stone at Atherstone Station when they arrived here in Atherstone on the first train from Crewe to London, which is part of the new service we now have.

I would like to thank Cllr. Richard Barker for all his good work in lobbying on our behalf for many years to achieve this good result.

It has been with great pleasure to have published the Parish Plan during my year of office and believe that many of the actions will be completed with the partnerships formed to deliver the plan.

We have also had visitors from across the County to events such as the Dickens Night and the Annual Town Council Dinner and have received many compliments about the town and the hospitality offered by the residents of Atherstone to these visitors.

I was delighted to present the Honorary Citizen Award to Mavis Deeming on behalf of the Town Council as a token of appreciation for her voluntary contribution to the community of Atherstone.

I hope that my successor as Town Mayor and Chairman of Atherstone Town Council has an equally enjoyable year and I wish them and the Town Council well for the future.

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

It was with some regret that in October 2008 the Town Council received the resignation of Cllr. Richard Freer.

Cllr. Freer was active in supporting the community in Atherstone for many years and was always among the first to become involved in many aspects of council business, being a former Mayor and Chairman of committees.

The vacancy created by Cllr. Freer's resignation was filled by co-option at the Council meeting of 28th. January 2009 by Cllr Tony Wright.

In December it was with great sadness that the Town Council learnt of the death of Cllr Barry Beeson, after a short illness. Cllr Beeson, a former Mayor, was a great supporter of the Town Council and a very much loved member of the community.

The vacancy was filled by co-option at the Council meeting of 4th. March 2009 by Cllr Melvyn Hopkins.

What has the Town Council done in 2008/9?

1. Allotments

The Town Council provides allotments for rent. There are two sites, Merevale and Gypsy Lane.

Many efforts have been made this year to clear unused and uncultivated plots and to re-let them to people on the waiting list.

A security fence has been erected at the Merevale site to prevent the site being used as a thoroughfare from the canal to Merevale View and Penny Hapenny Court.

The Town Council works with the Association at the Merevale site for the general improvement of the site.

2. Cemetery

The Town Council maintains the cemetery at Sheepy Road and is also responsible for the maintenance of burial records for the cemetery.

The Town Council works closely with the Friends of Atherstone Cemetery and has provided funding for the tidying of derelict graves.

The Town Council policy to have maintenance and grass cutting carried out on an 'as required' basis has resulted in considerable savings with no detrimental effect.

3. CCTV

The 21 cameras and ducting in the town centre are the responsibility of the Town Council who also contribute to the staffing costs for monitoring the screens.

The Town Council is in partnership with North Warwickshire Borough Council and meetings have now commenced regarding the upgrade of the monitoring and recording system with plans for the future extension of the CCTV system.

4. Play Areas

There are two Play Areas managed by the Town Council: St Mary's Road, which is owned outright, and Westwood Road, which is leased.

Consultation with local play groups has been held to select types of new equipment to be installed at St Mary's Road, predominately for pre-school children, additional funding has been obtained from the Big Lottery Fund with the assistance of North Warwickshire Borough Council. The installation work commenced in April.

Additionally the partnership with North Warwickshire Borough Council has led to a major installation of play equipment at Royal Meadow Drive, to be started in the near future.

5. Planning

The Town Council comments on planning applications for Atherstone and those which would affect Atherstone.

6. Christmas Lights

The Town Council provides Christmas lights in the Long Street, Church Street and Market Street areas and is totally responsible for the maintenance, erection and dismantling of the lights.

7. Support for Local Community Events

The Town Council provided funding to assist:

Atherstone Fun Day

Classic Car Event

Dickens Night

Atherstone Carnival

Atherstone Ball Game

Summer in the Square

8. Support for Local Community Groups

The Town Council is able to make small grants to assist local community groups.

These are known as Section 137 donations. Groups to benefit this year include:

Atherstone Book Group

Arden Hill School

North Warwickshire Arts

Atherstone Theatre Workshop

Merevale Allotment Association.

The Town Council also provides a meeting room for Merevale View Residents Association.

9. Honorary Citizen

Each year the Town Council debates the choice of Honorary Citizen, an award made to a person who, in the opinion of the Town Council, has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the town. This year the award was made to Mrs Mavis Deeming for her voluntary work in the town.

10. Floral Displays

The Town Council has maintained the floral displays in the town centre during the year with summer and winter plantings.

11. Parish Plan

The Town Council would like to thank the Atherstone Forum, and all the band of willing volunteers, for their hard work on the compilation of a Parish Plan.

The plan sets out the aspirations of the residents of Atherstone and how they would like to see their town develop.

Together with the co-operation and commitment from all the organisations involved the plan has now been completed and printed.

Copies have been distributed to various places in the town and residents are encouraged to pick up a copy for themselves.

12. Website

The Town Council is currently commissioning a new website which is expected to go live during May 2009.

**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1ST 2008
TO MARCH 31ST 2009.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 2008

CCTV Account	87,644.64
Precept Account	126,658.03
Business Current Account	60,413.92
Reserve Account	96,695.77
TOTAL	<u>£371,412.36</u>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2009

CCTV Account	100,912.31
Precept Account	190,998.88
Business Current Account	28,701.59
Reserve Account	100,300.89
TOTAL	<u>£420,913.67</u>