

Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2009 / 2010



QUALITY
PARISH &
TOWN
COUNCIL
SCHEME

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

Town Clerk Mr Graham Day
Deputy 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.

Phone Number	01827 720829
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Meetings Structure 2009/2010

Chairman Cllr R Jarvis
Vice-Chairman Cllr D Clews

Monthly meetings, all meetings are Full Council;

Meeting 1. Cllrs surgeries precede the meeting.
A Public Session is included in 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 is included in the meeting.

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

Meeting 3. A Public Session is included in the meeting.

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

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To May 5th 2010

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)
Richard Freer	01827 712531	(C - 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 2010.

Councillor Ray Jarvis

Back in May 2009 I was honoured by my fellow Councillors to be elected as chairman of Atherstone Town Council and Mayor of Atherstone.

This was a great honour for me having been born in the town and lived locally for many years it was with great pride that I accepted the position.

Having represented the town both locally and further afield, we have been to many events that have all, without exception, been a pleasure to attend and promote OUR town throughout the area.

There is not one single event that I would single out for special mention as they have all been special to us in different ways.

The council year has been fruitful for the town, with us attaining re-accreditation for Quality Status, giving us further powers within the council hierarchy.

To support this important accreditation it is a requirement that we have qualified clerks and I was proud to present both of our clerks with their CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) certificates at our annual dinner, both Graham and Sally have worked hard to achieve the qualification and the whole town should be proud of their achievement.

Early in my year as Mayor I opened the new play equipment with a garden party in St Mary's Road play area, it was a sunny day, the party was well attended, and since the opening the new equipment has been well used by the younger (pre-school) children.

We are now making significant inroads into taking over the running of the Market Square, from the Borough Council, something that would have not been possible without Quality Status. This will enable us to develop the Square into a better town facility and a thriving market.

We have recently purchased a plot of land between the Atherstone By Pass and the Cemetery in Sheepy Road, over the coming months / years this will be developed for the people of Atherstone.

I did say earlier that I would not mention one event over the others, but I cannot overlook our annual dinner which I was honoured to host.

It was an excellent night, enjoyed by all that attended. The Honorary Citizen Award this year was presented to Paul Clamp who has been a special constable in the town for 30 years, it was a pleasure to present the award to Paul and I know that he will wear it with pride as it was an award from the town he loves.

Recently Cllr Nathan Sweet resigned from our Council due to him being a student and living away from the town, making it difficult for him to attend meetings.

It was with regret that we lost our youngest Councillor, but understanding the reasons I wish him all the best and hope that he will re-join the Council at some time in the future.

The departure of Nathan left a vacancy that has now been filled by Richard Freer, I would like to welcome Richard to our council and look forward to working with him.

Finally I would like to thank:-

Firstly, my wife Carol for her support and understanding during the year, I know that it was with trepidation that she took on the position of Consort but I know that she has enjoyed the year and all the events which we have attended.

Secondly, my Vice-Chairman Denise Clews for all her support and assistance during the year.

Thirdly, all the Councillors for having the confidence in me (and maybe courage) to elect me as Chairman / Mayor for 2009 / 2010

And finally to all the people of Atherstone for their support during the year and making it so memorable for us.

Ray Jarvis

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

It was with some regret that in January 2010 the Town Council received the resignation of Cllr. Nathan Sweet, for personal reasons.

The Town Council would like to thank Nathan for all his hard work and efforts during his time as a Councillor, his input will be greatly missed.

The vacancy created by Cllr. Sweet's resignation was filled by co-option, at the Council meeting of 24th. March 2010, by Cllr Richard Freer.

What has the Town Council done in 2009/10?

1. Allotments

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

The Town Council has now purchased the Gypsy Lane site, along with the neighbouring Atherstone Allotment Association site from the Trustees of the Bracebridge Estate.

This year the Town Council has provided skips for the disposal of a considerable amount of waste material at Gypsy Lane, and has had work carried out at Merevale, on trees bordering the brook, and has had the brook cleared to prevent flooding.

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

The Town Council is pleased to see that an association is being set up at the Gypsy Lane site and looks forward to working with them to improve that site.

2. Cemetery

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

The Town Council works closely with the Friends of Atherstone Cemetery.

The Town Council policy to have maintenance and grass cutting carried out on an 'as required' basis has continued with new companies being used to obtain the correct balance of quality and cost effectiveness.

This year a new water supply has been connected to the cemetery instead of the shared supply across the adjoining bungalow which had been a source of problems in the past.

The Town Council has purchased from the Trustees of the Bracebridge Estate, the land between the Cemetery and the A5, which runs from Sheepy Road through to the brook at Abeles Way. This is seen as an area for the extension of the present cemetery, which only has a limited space left.

Other options are being investigated for the use of the rest of the land until needed for the Cemetery.

3. CCTV

The CCTV 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 who this year have upgraded the monitoring and recording system to a much more efficient digital system.

The Town Council is currently investigating the expansion of the network further into Sheepy Road and Ratcliffe Road, and a direct link to Police Headquarters at Leek Wootton.

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.

After consultation with local play groups new equipment has been purchased and installed at St Mary's Road, predominately for pre-school children, additional funding was obtained from the Big Lottery Fund with the assistance of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Additionally in partnership with North Warwickshire Borough Council a major installation of new play equipment has taken place at Royal Meadow Drive, the Town Council contributing towards the cost of the equipment.

Again the Town Council policy to have maintenance and grass cutting carried out on an 'as required' basis has continued with new companies being used to obtain the correct balance of quality and cost effectiveness.

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:

Classic Car Event

Summer in the Square

Dickens Night

Atherstone Ball Game

Atherstone Carnival

8. Support for Local Community Groups

The Town Council is able to make small grants to assist local community groups. Details of these can be found on the website.

This year a donation has been made to the Volunteer Centre, North Warwickshire and grit bins have been provided for several locations in the town.

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 Mr Paul Clamp for his long service as a special constable 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. Website

The Town Council has commissioned a new website which is maintained by the clerks and gives up to date information of Council activities, news and documentation.

12. The Town Council is proud that in May 2009 it gained re-accreditation of its status as a Quality Council for another 4 years, and that early in 2010 both clerks attained their CiLCA qualifications.

**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1ST 2009
TO MARCH 31ST 2010.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2010

CCTV Account	100,950.29
Precept Account	141,175.78
Business Current Account	10,325.02
Reserve Account	100,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£352,793.89</u>