

Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report
2010 / 2011**



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.

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Postal Address	Atherstone Town Council, P.O. Box 2000, Atherstone, CV9 1YN,
Web Site Address	www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk
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Meetings Structure 2010/2011

Chairman Cllr D Clews
Vice-Chairman Cllr R Freer

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, policy matters, contract matters, any other scheduled business.

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To May 5th 2011

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(C - North)
Ruby Chambers	01827 714117	(I - Central)
Denise Clews	01827 711340	(C - 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	(L - 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 2011.

Councillor Denise Clews

When I first joined the Council 7 years ago, I never thought that I would be making a report as Chairman and Town Mayor.

Atherstone Town Council is a progressive council and we are always looking to the future for the good of our community. This is the 5th. year running we have kept our precept at the same level, and have not raised our allotment rents.

The CCTV system has been improved, with better coverage of Sheepy Road, and a direct link to Police HQ at Leek Wootton being introduced.

Work has been carried out at the Old Allotment Gardens, between the Cemetery and the A5, in Sheepy Road, and I am pleased to announce that a grant of £10,000, from the Big Lottery Fund, has been secured for hedgelaying along the boundary with the A5. This is an important step in the opening up of the area as a wildlife conservation area.

I have represented Atherstone, as Mayor, on many occasions, such as dog shows, crowning the carnival queen, switching on the new Christmas lights and sailing up the Manchester ship canal on HMS Atherstone, later to be piped aboard to have lunch with the Captain.

One of the proudest days for me was the laying of the wreath on Remembrance Sunday, as my husband served in the Gulf War and my father in the Second World War, losing his brother at Dunkirk.

I was very pleased to invite to the annual dinner, this year, representatives from community groups in Atherstone in recognition of the work they put in serving the community.

These groups were:

Atherstone Civic Society

Atherstone Carnival

Atherstone Funday

Summer in the Square

Dickens Night

Atherstone Brownies

Atherstone Scouts

Royal British Legion

Mary Ann Evans Hospice

Atherstone Dramatic Society

Girls Friendly Society

One of these was Miss Sharon Holland who has been a member of the Girls Friendly Society since 1966 and who was made an Honorary Citizen for her outstanding service.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, for having the confidence to make me the Mayor, my husband Tony for his support as my Consort, the clerks, and the retired clerk Chris Foster who encouraged me to stand for the Council several years ago.

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

It was with some regret that in April 2011 the Town Council learnt of the retirement of Cllr. Ruby Chambers, at the local elections.

The Town Council would like to pay tribute to Ruby for all her hard work and efforts during her time as a Councillor, her input will be greatly missed.

The Town Council welcomes two new Councillors, namely Derek Pickard and Adam McElhone, and will fill two vacancies in Central Ward, by co-option, at the annual meeting on 11th May.

What has the Town Council done in 2010/11?

1. Allotments

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

The Town Council also owns the neighbouring Atherstone Allotment Association site, in Gypsy Lane, and has now concluded a lease, with the Association, for the continued use as allotments.

The Town Council works with the Associations at the Merevale and Gypsy Lane sites for their general improvement.

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 to keep the correct balance of quality and cost effectiveness.

3. Old Allotment Gardens

The Town Council has continued to improve the land between the Cemetery and the A5, which runs from Sheepy Road through to the brook at Abeles Way, now known as The Old Allotment Gardens. This is seen as an area for the extension of the present cemetery, which only has a limited space left, and as a wildlife conservation area, for the people of Atherstone.

The area has now been fenced off from the industrial estate, old wells filled in, waste removed and a pathway created around the site.

The Town Council is very pleased to announce that a grant of £10,000 has been received from the BIG LOTTERY FUND, to 'hedgelay' the boundary with the A5, which is seen as an important step towards the opening of the area to the public.

4. CCTV

The CCTV cameras and ducting in the town centre are owned and maintained by 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 Warwickshire Police. This year the system has been improved with a camera being repositioned in Sheepy Road and a direct link established to Police Headquarters at Leek Wootton.

5. Play Areas

There are two Play Areas managed and maintained by the Town Council:

St Mary's Road, which is owned outright, and Westwood Road, which is leased.

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

Earlier in the year, in conjunction with the local Police a temporary CCTV camera was installed near the St Mary's Road site to combat instances of anti-social behaviour.

6 .Planning

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

7. Christmas Lights

This year the Town Council provided new Christmas lights in the Long Street, Church Street and Market Street areas and is totally responsible for the testing, maintenance, erection and dismantling of the lights.

The new lights use much less power than the old ones and are capable of being added to, in the future, at very reasonable cost.

8. 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	Atherstone Funday

9. 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 donations have been made to Trinity Church, Atherstone Theatre Workshop, Atherstone Arts Circle and a grant made through North Warwickshire Borough Council towards the refurbishment of the canal towpath.

Grit bins have been provided at several locations in the town.

The Town Council also allows its facilities to be used for community use, currently a new Neighbourhood Watch group for Tannery Close use the meeting room.

10. 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 Miss Sharon Holland for her services to the Girls Friendly Society.

11. Floral Displays

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

12. Website

The Town Council has its own website which is maintained by the clerks and gives up to date information of Council activities, local news and documentation.

13. Quality Council

The Town Council is proud of its status as a Quality Council and as such has led the protests against the disposal and demolition of the old Magistrates Court, which would provide an ideal centre for the Town Council offices and meeting rooms for many of the local community groups.

The Town Council is still negotiating with North Warwickshire Borough Council to take over the Market Square and develop the existing market and promote other events for the benefit of the people of Atherstone.

**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1ST 2010
TO MARCH 31ST 2011.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2011

CCTV Account	£110,950.29
Precept Account	£157,685.78
Business Current Account	£15,258.26
Reserve Account	£100,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£384,237.13</u>