

# Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report  
2011 / 2012**



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
Fax Number	01827 720829
Postal Address	Atherstone Town Council, P.O. Box 2000, Atherstone, CV9 1YN,
Web Site Address	<a href="http://www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk">www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk</a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk">clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk</a>

## Meetings Structure 2011/2012

Chairman Cllr M Shaw  
Vice-Chairman Cllr M Singh

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, planning applications, financial and internal reports, any other scheduled business.

Meeting 2. A Public Session is included in the meeting. Deals with correspondence, planning applications, memorial applications, recent burials, policy matters, contract matters, any other scheduled business.

# ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To March 31<sup>st</sup>. 2012

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(C-Central)
Adam McElhone	01827 722625	(I -North)
Denise Clews	01827 711340	(C-Central)
Gill Davis	01827 714491	(C-North)
Martin Davis	01827 714491	(C- South)
Lorraine Freer	01827 712531	(C-South)
Derek Pickard	01827 739419	(L-North)
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534	(L-South)
Amanda Macchi	01827 714555	(C-North)
Colin Peat	01827 713537	(C-Central)
Martin Shaw	01827 712846	(C-North)
Mejar Singh	01827 712305	(C-North)
Richard Freer	01827 712531	(C-Central)
John H Vickers	01827 712615	(C-Central)
Anthony Wright	01827 717337	(C-Central)

## Key

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

## **FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES**

Following the retirement of Cllr. Ruby Chambers and Cllr Melvyn Hopkins, in 2011, there were two vacancies left in Central Ward after the election.

These vacancies were filled, by co-option, at the annual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011, by Cllr Richard Barker and Cllr Colin Peat.

## **What has the Town Council done in 2011/12?**

### **1. Allotments**

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

Work has been carried out at Merevale to clear the remaining land, and many have now been let to new tenants.

The Town Council also owns the neighbouring Atherstone Allotment Association site, in Gypsy Lane.

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.

The Town Council has started to prepare an area, for use as an "ashes scattering garden".

The Town Council is pleased to announce that all cemetery charges will remain the same, for the year 2012/13.

### **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 project is to provide a wildlife conservation area, for the people of Atherstone.

The Town Council received a grant of £10,000 from the BIG LOTTERY FUND, to 'hedgelay' the boundary with the A5, This has now been completed and the next stage of the project, including further funding applications is being considered.

### **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. The system now includes direct link to Police Headquarters at Leek Wootton.

The Town Council is currently involved in discussions to resurrect the Retail Radio system.

### **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.

There has been an instance of vandalism, in the St Mary's Road area, causing it to be closed for safety reasons. The Council urges anyone seeing or hearing of such incidents to report to the Police.

## **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 has added to the 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, again, 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, Atherstone Theatre Workshop, Atherstone Adders Hockey Club, Atherstone Cricket Club, 1st. Atherstone Scouts, and Atherstone Carnival (for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations).

The Town Council also allows its facilities to be used for community use, currently a 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 Ruby Chambers for many charitable works and good deeds for the benefit of the people and Town of Atherstone, and her service as a Town Councillor and Mayor.

## **11. Floral Displays**

The Town Council has maintained the floral displays in the town centre during the year with summer and winter plantings, including a special planting, for summer, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

## **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 concluded an agreement with North Warwickshire Borough Council, to manage the Market Square. This extends to an agreement with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, who manage the twice weekly market. The intention of all parties is the continued improvement of the market.



**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2011  
TO MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2012.**

**Bank Balances at 1 April 2011**

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

**Bank Balances at 31 March 2012**

CCTV Account	<b>£120,950.29</b>
Precept Account	<b>£170,346.44</b>
Business Current Account	<b>£7,421.41</b>
Reserve Account	<b>£140,342.80</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£439,060.94</u></b>



## **ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2012/13**

<b><u>2011/12</u></b>		<b><u>2012/13</u></b>
£210,690	<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	£213,650
	Projected	
£182,510	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	£182,510
	Projected	
£28,180	<b>Income</b>	£31,140
	Projected	
£182,510	<b>Precept</b>	£182,510

The Town Council has not increased the precept this year, holding the rate for a sixth year.

Funds continue to be accrued for the purchase of premises which, as well as accommodating the Town Council, would provide office and meeting space for community groups.

Funds are also accrued for the eventual replacement of the CCTV camera system.

The Town Council manages and maintains the Sheepy Road Cemetery, as well as 2 play areas, 3 allotment sites, and an open space next to the cemetery, being developed as a wildlife walk.

Other areas covered by the Council are, provision and maintenance of floral displays in the town, provision and maintenance of the town Christmas lights, and grants to various community groups, in the town, to support their activities.