

Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report
2012 / 2013**



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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Web Site Address	www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk
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Meetings Structure 2012/2013

Chairman Cllr M Singh
Vice-Chairman Cllr R Barker

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 31st. 2013

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)
Jenny Barnard	07837614582	(C-Central)
Paul Davies	07930488743	(C-Central)

Key

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

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Following the resignations of Cllr. John Vickers and Cllr Tony Wright, in 2012, there were two vacancies in Central Ward.

These vacancies were filled, by co-option, by Cllr Paul Davies and Cllr Jenny Barnard.

What has the Town Council done in 2012/13?

1. Allotments

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

Work has been carried out at Gypsy Lane to improve the car park and roadways. Both sites are near to being fully occupied, but as there is currently no waiting list anyone requiring a plot should register at the Town Council offices.

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

The Town Council works with the Associations, and tenants, at the 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 is currently preparing an area, for use as an "ashes scattering garden".

The Town Council successfully applied for a grant towards the cleaning and refurbishment of the War Memorial, which was completed in time for Remembrance Sunday.

3. Old Allotment Gardens

The Town Council is currently working on plans 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, and walk, for the people of Atherstone.

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 modernise and improve the system.

The Town Council has been involved in the introduction of a new retail radio system, for the town, now launched as Townwatch. Subsidies are given towards the cost of the radios, for all those taking part.

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 have been a few instances of damage and vandalism, in the St Mary's Road area, causing it to be closed, at times, for safety reasons. The Council urges anyone seeing or hearing of such incidents to report to the Police.

6 .Planning

The Town Council is a Statutory Planning Consultee, and comments on planning applications in Atherstone, and those which would affect Atherstone.

7. Christmas Lights

The Town Council owns the 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.

These lights use much less power than the old traditional 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

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 were made to, Age UK, Ambulance First Receivers, St Giles Hospice, and Atherstone Carnival (for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations).

The Town Council also allows its facilities to be used for community use, any group wishing to use the meeting room should apply at the Town Council offices.

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 Sharon Everitt for her many charitable works and her service to the Rainbows.

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 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 1ST 2012
TO MARCH 31ST 2013.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 2012

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

Bank Balances at 31 March 2013

CCTV Account	£120,950.29
Precept Account	£207,857.94
Business Current Account	£16,678.51
Reserve Account	£140,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£485,829.54</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2012/13

<u>2012/13</u>		<u>2013/14</u>
£167,589	Gross Expenditure	£245,366
	Projected	
£134,854	Net Expenditure	£186,160
	Projected	
£32,735	Income	£59,206
	Projected	
£182,510	Precept	£186,160

The Town Council has increased the precept for 2013/14, after holding the rate for six years.

Due to a misinterpretation of the application of the Council Tax Support Grant, the Town Council will be receiving this in addition to the stated precept, instead of the intended rise of 2%. This money will be used for the benefit of the people of Atherstone and the Council will report on this as the year progresses.

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. The Town Council, and North Warwickshire Borough Council are in the latter stages of negotiations for the purchase of the Arcade Shops, in Long Street, which will then have to be refurbished and converted for a mix of community use and retail premises.

Funds are also being accrued for the replacement of the CCTV camera system, with modern digital cameras, giving much improved recording footage need for Police investigations.

The Town Council are also investigating the provision of mobile cameras, for use in the town where problem areas have been identified.

