

Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report
2013 / 2014**



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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Postal Address	Atherstone Town Council, P.O. Box 2000, Atherstone, CV9 1YN,
Web Site Address	www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk
E-mail	clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Meetings Structure 2013/2014

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. 2014

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 713497	(L-North)
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534	(I-South)
David Wright	07711330040	(C-North)
Colin Peat	01827 713537	(C-Central)
Martin Shaw	01827 712846	(C-North)
Mejar Singh	01827 712305	(C-North)
Richard Freer	01827 712531	(UK-Central)
Jenny Barnard	07837614582	(C-Central)
Christopher Clark	07936887194	(L-Central)

Key

- (C) Conservative
- (I) Independent
- (L) Labour
- (LD) Liberal Democrat
- (UKIP) UK Independence Party

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Following the resignations of Cllr. Paul Davies and Cllr Amanda Macchi, in 2013, there were vacancies in Central Ward and North Ward

Bye-elections were held, in December, and Cllrs Christopher Clark and David Wright were elected.

What has the Town Council done in 2013/14?

1. Allotments

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

Both sites are fully occupied, and there is a small 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 a World War 1 memorial garden and an "ashes scattering garden".

3. Old Allotment Gardens

The Town Council is currently seeking funding 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 supports the retail radio system, for the town, now known 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 instances of damage, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour in the St Mary's Road area, this has resulted in the purchase and installation of a CCTV camera administered by the Police.

There are plans, this year, to provide more equipment at Westwood Road.

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:

Atherstone Motor Show

Summer in the Square

Dickens Night

Atherstone Ball Game

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, St Giles Hospice, Phantom Knights, Atherstone Theatre Workshop, and Canal & River Trust.

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 Kelvin Irons for his many good works and his services to the Gateway Club.

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 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.

14. Arcade Shops

The Town Council now owns and operates the Arcade Shops, in Long Street. This complex provides a mixture of retail use, and space for community groups and organisations to have office or meeting space. Anyone wanting space in the Arcade should contact the clerks at the Town Council offices.

**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1ST 2012
TO MARCH 31ST 2013.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2014

CCTV Account	£120,950.29
Precept Account	£283,156.87
Business Current Account	£8,576.56
Reserve Account	£35,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£448,026.52</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2014/15

<u>2013/14</u>		<u>2014/15</u>
£245,366	Gross Expenditure	£287,614
	Projected	
£186,160	Net Expenditure	£221,713
	Projected	
£59,206	Income	£65,901
	Projected	
£186,160	Precept	£149,270
	Amount from reserves	£47,739.00
	Support Grant	£24,704.00

Following the misinterpretation, last year, of the application of the Council Tax Support Grant, resulting in an increase, in the Precept, of over 20% on a band D property, the Town Council has reduced the precept this year, by an amount of 20.43%. This has been achieved by taking funds from the general reserves to support the budget requirements.

The Town Council has now purchased the Arcade Shops premises which, as well as providing retail premises, will provide sustainable office and meeting space for community groups and organisations, and allows for the Town Council to relocate.

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

