

Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report
2014 / 2015**



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	www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk
E-mail	clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Meetings Structure 2014/2015

Chairman Cllr R Barker
Vice-Chairman Cllr D Clews

Monthly meeting, all meetings are Full Council;

Meeting business;
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,
memorial applications,
recent burials,
policy matters,
contract matters,
any other scheduled business.

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

To March 31st. 2015

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(C-Central)
Carl Gurney	01827 713976	(C -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	(C-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	(UKIP-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 resignation of Cllr. Adam McElhone in November 2014, there was a vacancy in North Ward and Cllr Carl Gurney was co-opted onto the Council in December 2014.

What has the Town Council done in 2014/15?

1. Allotments

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

Both sites are almost fully occupied, 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 is currently preparing areas, for use as "ashes scattering gardens". Final plans are now being produced, with installation due in 2015.

3. Old Allotment Gardens

The Town Council is still 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. Under consideration is provision of a wildlife conservation area and walkthrough, for the people of Atherstone. It also allows for the future extension of the cemetery.

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 includes a direct link to Police Headquarters at Leek Wootton.

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.

In conjunction with a grant, from North Warwickshire Borough Council, new equipment is currently being installed at Westwood Road, and is due for completion in May 2015.

Because there have been instances of damage, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour the St Mary's Road area, is covered by a mobile CCTV camera administered by the Police, while Westwood Road is covered by a camera on the town centre system.

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 purchase, testing, maintenance, erection and dismantling of the lights.

These lights use much less power than the old traditional ones and are being added to, every year.

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
Atherstone Music Festival	OSCA Cinema

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 the Town Council decided to have a Mayor's Charity and St Giles Hospice was chosen by Cllr Barker. The proceeds of the Dicken's Night reception and the Annual Dinner were presented to them.

Support for St Mary's Church and Atherstone Adders Hockey Club was also provided.

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(s) 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 Judy and Howard Vero in appreciation of their contribution to the community of Atherstone, in particular their work promoting and protecting Atherstone's Heritage and History through the Atherstone Civic 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. Local Council Award Scheme (formerly Quality Council)

The Town Council is proud of its status as a Quality Council and has registered in the new scheme at Foundation level. The Council will be working to achieve the higher levels when this initial period ends in January 2016.

14. Market Square

The Town Council has an agreement with North Warwickshire Borough Council, to manage events on 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.

The Town Council is to receive a grant, from North Warwickshire Borough Council, to purchase pop-up stalls and a canopy which will cover most of the Square. These will be available for the use of community groups, and events, and should be available by the middle of the year.

15. 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.

16. Owen Street Community Arts Centre

The Town Council has purchased The Arts Centre, Owen Street, Atherstone, CV91DG.

This has been purchased to retain and protect this important community asset for the people of Atherstone and the surrounding area.

All covenants restricting the future use of the building as a community resource remain in place.

The building has been leased back to the Owen Street Community Arts Centre whose Board of Directors will be fully responsible for running the facility, including bookings and items such as maintenance, insurance and running costs. The Board are keen to promote wider community use of the building.

**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1ST 2013
TO MARCH 31ST 2014.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2015

CCTV Account	£120,950.29
Precept Account	£192,130.37
Business Current Account	£42,158.24
Reserve Account	£35,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£390,581.70</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2015/16

2014/15

2015/16

£287,614	Gross Expenditure	£277,868
	Projected	
£221,713	Net Expenditure	£180,245
	Projected	
£65,901	Income	£97,623
	Projected	
£149,270	Precept	£130,762
£47,739.00	Amount from reserves	£28,559.00
£24,704.00	Support Grant	£20,924.00

Following the misinterpretation, in 2013/14, of the application of the Council Tax Support Grant, resulting in an increase, in the precept of £28,559, the Town Council has reduced the precept this year, by the same amount. This has been achieved by taking funds from the general reserves to support the budget requirements, and has resulted in a decrease in the charge for a Band "D" property of 17.72% giving an actual reduction of £10.84 for each property.