

Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report
2015 / 2016**



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 2015/2016

Chairman Cllr R Jarvis
Vice-Chairman Cllr R Barker

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. 2016

Richard Barker	01827 713275	(C-North)
Carl Gurney	01827 713976	(C -North)
Sara Bishop	01827 717480	(L-North)
Gill Davis	01827 714491	(C-South)
Martin Davis	01827 714491	(C- South)
Tony Clews	01827 711340	(C-North)
Lorna Dirveiks	01827 713191	(L-Central)
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534	(C-South)
David Wright	07711330040	(C-North)
Louis John	01827 705462	(UKIP-Central)
Jane John	01827 705462	(UKIP-Central)
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 elections in May 2015, Denise Clews, Derek Pickard, Colin Peat, Martin Shaw and Lorraine Freer left the Council. Newly elected were Councillors Louis John, Jane John, Sara Bishop, Tony Clews and Lorna Dirveiks.

What has the Town Council done in 2015/16?

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 Council has appointed a new grounds maintenance contractor for 2016.

The Town Council works closely with the Friends of Atherstone Cemetery.

The Town Council has completed the construction of 2 ashes scattering areas and is currently completing procedural arrangements before they are opened later this year.

3. Old Allotment Gardens

The Town Council has been unable to attract 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 was 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 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 was installed at Westwood Road in 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.

The Town Council has commenced the process to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Christmas Lights

The Town Council owns the Christmas lights in the Long Street, Church Street and Market Street areas and outside St Mary's Church, 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	

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 North Warwickshire First Responders chosen by Cllr Jarvis as the recipient of the Mayor's Charity.

Support for St Mary's Church, Girl's Friendly Society, The Phantom Knights, St Giles Hospice, Atherstone Town Cricket Club, Atherstone Adders Hockey Club, and Friends of Atherstone Heritage 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 Mr Martin Shaw in recognition of his commendable contribution and service to the Community of Atherstone for the past 25 Years.

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 has been re-accredited in the scheme at Foundation Level. The Council is now working to achieve the next level (Quality Award).

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. There has been a considerable increase in the usage of the Square over the year.

The Town Council received a grant, from North Warwickshire Borough Council, to purchase pop-up stalls and a canopy which cover most of the Square. These are available for the use of community groups, and events, Details can be obtained from the Town Council offices.

15. Arcade Shops

The Town Council 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. Refurbishment of the downstairs area is in process, and a consultation was held to assess demand for the upstairs space. This will be considered when further plans are made.

Anyone wanting space in the Arcade should contact the clerks at the Town Council offices.

16. Owen Street Community Arts Centre

The Town Council owns The Arts Centre, Owen Street, Atherstone, CV91DG.

This was 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 are 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 2015
TO MARCH 31ST 2016.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2016

CCTV Account	£120,950.29
Precept Account	£146,823.87
Business Current Account	£20,447.13
Reserve Account	£35,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£323,564.09</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2015/16

<u>2015/16</u>		<u>2016/17</u>
£277,868	Gross Expenditure	£261,633
	Projected	
£180,245	Net Expenditure	£178,363
	Projected	
£97,623	Income	£83,270
	Projected	
£130,762	Precept	£134,691
£28,559.00	Amount from reserves	£26,000.00
£20,924.00	Support Grant	£17,672.00

The Town Council has finalised its budget for 2016-17 and has set a Precept of £134,691.
In addition the Council will receive a Council Tax Support Grant of £17,672.
This has been achieved by taking funds from the general reserves to support the budget requirements, and has resulted in an increase in the charge for a Band "D" property of 2.03% giving an actual increase of £1.02 for each property.