

Atherstone Town Council



**Annual Report
2017 / 2018**



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

Town Clerk Mrs Odette Ghent
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 2017/2018

Chairman Cllr T Clews
Vice-Chairman Cllr J Barnard

Monthly meeting, all meetings are Full Council;

Meeting business;

A Public Session at the beginning of the meeting
Reports from other Councils and Police
Approval of invoices and cheques
Correspondence
Planning applications
Financial and internal reports
Memorial applications
Recent burials
Policy matters
Funding Applications
Applications to use the Market Square
Contract matters
Any other scheduled business

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCILLORS

As at 16th May 2018

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	07711 330040	(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	07837 614582	(C-Central)
Currently vacant		(Central)

Key

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

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Cllr Chris Clark resigned in May 2018

What has the Town Council done in 2017/18

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.

Allotment awards were given out for best plots and best newcomer plot at both sites during the summer of 2017.

There is a community plot at Merevale that is run by the Volunteer Centre and a commendation award was presented for this. And not forgetting two younger members who got commendation certificates for the best pumpkins.

The Merevale site has seen the introduction of a Bee Hive on site.

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 grounds maintenance contractor appointed in 2016 continued to carry out the cemetery grounds maintenance.

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

There was the installation of a shelter by the ashes scattering area and the Town Council are working towards opening the area.

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. Part of the fencing was replaced due to damage.

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. Investigations continued in 2017/18 regarding updating the cameras and CCTV 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 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.

Because there have been a number of 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 outside St Mary's Church, and is totally responsible for the purchase, testing, maintenance, erection and dismantling of the lights.

Unfortunately, there were a few power supply problems with Christmas Lights last year but the contractor will be testing the lights and wiring in readiness for the 2018 Christmas lights and looking at additional lights where needed.

8. Support for Local Community Events held in the Market Square

Atherstone Motor Show	Summer in the Square
Dickens Night	Atherstone Ball Game
Stonefest	Womens Cycle Race
Atherstone Beer Festival	Badgers 10K
St Marys Church Boot Sales	Morris Men

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 Cllr T Clews chose to support two local groups as the recipients of the Mayor's Charity. These were Leading Players and Atherstone and District Gateway Club

The Town Council also supported via Community Grants

Phantom Knights

Atherstone Adders Hockey Club

Friends of the Market Square

North Warwickshire Heritage

Volunteer Centre

Atherstone Cricket Club

1st Atherstone Scouts

Atherstone Town Supporters Club

Stonefest

Summer in the Square

Badgers 10k

Motor Show

Atherstone Hunt

Atherstone Ball Game

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 Margaret Wilkins in recognition of her commendable contribution and service to the Community of Atherstone.

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 having achieved Foundation Level 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 managed the twice weekly market until the end of April 2018. The management of the market has been taken over by The Town Council from May 2018.

There is a continuing increase in the usage of the Square. The Town Council owns pop-up stalls and a canopy which cover most of the Square. These are available for the use of community groups, and events,
Details and costs can be obtained from the Town Council office.

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 complete, and costings for the upstairs are now being considered. A previous consultation, held to assess demand for the upstairs space 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 2017
TO MARCH 31ST 2018.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 2017

CCTV Account	£111,788.29
Precept Account	£169,186.87
Business Current Account	£6,165.08
Reserve Account	£35,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£322,483.04</u>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2018

CCTV Account	£111,788.29
Precept Account	£142,052.87
Business Current Account	£36,059.62
Reserve Account	£35,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£325,243.58</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2018/19

<u>2017/18</u>		<u>2018/19</u>
£247,216	Gross Expenditure	£237,445
£166,006	Net Expenditure	£158,585
£81,210	Income	£78,860
£137,877	Precept	£140,585
£13,140	Amount from reserves	£18,000
£14,989	Support Grant	0

The Town Council has finalised its budget for 2018-19 and has set a Precept of **£140,585**

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 0.91%** giving an actual increase of **£0.47** for each property.