

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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DOCUMENT	MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
VENUE	Town Council Chamber, North Street
DATE AND TIME	Wednesday 7 th . October 2009 7.00pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: Wright, Hopkins, M Davis, G Davis, Barker, Jarvis, Shaw, Macchi, Chambers, Freer and Vickers County and Borough Councillors Pickard, L & N Dirveiks, Press Mr G Wilding Members of the public: Mrs Clay, Mrs Wrigley, Mr Reynolds, R Taylor (solicitor)
APOLOGIES	Town Cllrs Sweet, Clews, Peat, Singh County Cllr Fox
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jarvis
CLERK	Mr G Day

Item		Actions	Notes
1.	<p>APOLOGIES As listed above. It was resolved to accept the Town Councillor's apologies as offered. Proposed Cllr G Davis, seconded Cllr Wright</p>		
2.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To be taken as and when.</p>		
3.	<p>PUBLIC SESSION The Chairman read out a letter received by Mrs Clay regarding contact details for the RSPCA The Chairman welcomed Rachel Taylor (Garner Canning) who had come to explain the details regarding the purchase of the land at Gypsy Lane. A discussion took place concerning the conditions of the uplift provision. It was explained that this applied for 21 years and would be 50% of the enhanced value at the start of development or further sale. It was explained that no covenant could be put on the land to prevent sale in the future, but if planning permission were needed for any development, community use could be included as a condition. Rachel Taylor left the meeting at 7.25pm. Mr Reynolds asked what happened if anyone moved onto the site, Cllr Barker stated that it took 21 days to obtain a court order and a further 28 days for people to leave. Borough Cllr Pickard stated that he thought there was a lack of public penetration for the recent Fire Service consultation meeting, Borough Cllr N Dirveiks said he had only found out by being a Cllr. Cllr Jarvis stated that there were questionnaires available to return to the Fire Service. Mr Wilding stated that the Recorder was now back online with audio facility, if any Cllr wished to be interviewed they should contact him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P63 10/09</p>		

4.	<p>REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS</p> <p>A report from Borough Cllrs Dirveiks was discussed, Cllr Freer said she had asked NWBC to include quadbikes in the leaflets about motorcycles.</p> <p>Cllr Freer reported that several possibilities had been given to the boxing club although no accommodation was available. The clerk was asked to write to the boxing club and suggest they made enquiries about the "Worx"</p> <p>Cllr Shaw reported that the County were looking at costings for a local bus service, as requested by the Town Council, which would be called the "cloverleaf" service.</p>		
5	<p>TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS OF 2nd. September 2009</p> <p>Cllr Vickers stated that his name had not been included in the apologies It was resolved to accept the amended minutes as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr G Davis, abstained Cllr Macchi.</p>		
6.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS OF 2nd. September 2009.</p> <p>Item 6.</p> <p>P34 item 5 from 5th. August 2009, Complaint re. Taverners Lane, sent to NWBC. Letter sent to complainant.</p>		
7.	<p>INVOICES FOR APPROVAL AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE</p> <p>There were 3 cheques for ratification, 105018/9/20 and 37 new cheques, 105021 to 105057. Cllr Jarvis declared an interest in cheque number 105054. It was agreed that cheque number 105056 be held over until agenda item 11. It was resolved to sign all other cheques as listed, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Freer.</p>		
8	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>Item 4, Councillor Training, Cllr Wright to attend.</p> <p>Item 12, Annual Meeting Borough & Parish Councils, Cllr Shaw urged everyone to attend.</p> <p>Item 15, Change to Planning Applications, investigate training.</p> <p>Item 19, HMRC, VAT payments online. Alison Hodge to be contacted.</p> <p>E28, Oil Buying Consortium, put in noticeboard, sent e-mail "thanks"</p> <p>E30, waiting for verification from R Fildes.</p> <p>E31, salary award, noted.</p> <p>E36, Allotment committee to view plot, reply to be sent, matter in hand, new cultivation notice to be sent.</p> <p>E55, reply to NWBC, ask for details of contract, problem time is Saturday night, Sunday morning cleaning required.</p> <p>E61, Unauthorised memorial in cemetery, it was resolved to write to the plot owner and ask for slabs to be removed. Proposed Cllr M Davis, seconded Cllr Barker.</p>		
9	<p>CORRESPONDENCE ISSUED</p> <p>Filed in office</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P64 10/09</p>		

<p>10.</p>	<p>REPORTS</p> <p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>The clerk presented a budget report for the period April to September (6 months), with the overall spend running at 52% of total precept but including the equipment for St Mary's Road.</p> <p>Bank reconciliations were presented for August and September.</p> <p>VAT claim for the second quarter was presented.</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the documents as presented, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr G Davis.</p> <p><u>Clerk's Report</u></p> <p>The clerk reported that a complaint had been received that a memorial bench in the cemetery had been sanded down but not re-treated, under investigation.</p> <p>The clerk reported that he had received a verbal complaint, while in the cemetery, regarding earth and litter dumped by the fence in the ashes section. Most of the earth was from turf which was removed to install memorials. It was resolved to ask M G Evans to remove the earth and not to leave any more there. Proposed Cllr G Davis, seconded Cllr Barker.</p> <p>The clerk presented a quote for the repair of the support wires for the Christmas lights some of the anchor bolts, it was agreed to discuss this in Private & Confidential.</p> <p>An e-mail was circulated detailing the closure of Long Street for emergency sewer repairs.</p> <p>An e-mail from Alistair Rigby, Warks CC, regarding Gypsy Lane Allotments Association, it was resolved to recommend deferring a decision for a start up grant until after the purchase of the land was complete. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr M Davis, abstained Cllr Shaw.</p> <p>An e-mail from John Bird regarding a query with the County Council, over the Market Square was circulated.</p> <p>The clerk reported that he had received a complaint from Mr Ball at Merevale Allotments that he had stopped driving on the pathways but other people were still doing it. It was agreed to ask the association when posts would be fitted.</p> <p><u>Representative's Reports</u></p> <p>Cllr Jarvis reported that the person from British Waterways was unable to speak at the dinner. He had made some enquiries and found the correct address to contact HMS Atherstone, a draft invitation letter was discussed and it was resolved to send the letter, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Wright. Cllr Hopkins suggested as a back up the principal from North Warks College could be invited.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis stated that flu jabs were now available at Atherstone Surgery.</p> <p>Cllr Shaw stated that markers had been put on the Arden Trail but it was not known who had done it.</p>		
<p>11.</p>	<p>GYPSY LANE WASTE LAND AND ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the contract conditions as explained by Rachel Taylor in the Public Session, it was resolved to accept the contract as explained and to sign cheque number 105056, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Chambers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P65 10/09</p>		

	<p>It was resolved that Cllr Shaw and Cllr G Davis would sign the contract on behalf of the Council, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Wright. The clerk was asked to contact Dugdale Estates and ask if they were willing to sell the Merevale allotment site.</p>		
12.	<p>REPLIES TO EXTERNAL AUDITOR The clerk presented the reply he had sent to the external auditor and the documents that had been requested. It was resolved to accept this information, proposed Cllr Freer, seconded Cllr Vickers.</p>		
13.	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL RETURN The clerk presented the completed return from the external auditor, which was designated an unqualified audit opinion. It was resolved to accept the annual return and to display the statutory notice as required, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr M Davis.</p>		
14.	<p>REVIEW OF ASSETS The external audit had raised a query on asset levels on the register were lower than the insurance values. This had been explained to the auditor as asset levels were as purchased by the Council but insurance levels reflected replacement costs. Some items such as CCTV cameras had been provided by grants and had not been purchased by the Council, but were now owned by them and thus insured. It was agreed to seek further guidance on asset levels and refer to a future Policy meeting for review.</p>		
15.	<p>MEMORIAL STABILITY TESTING It was resolved to contact the insurance company to see if the ICCM training course would be recognised by them, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Freer. It was also resolved that the working group should convene again asap, proposed Cllr M Davis, seconded Cllr Barker.</p>		
16.	<p>CCTV, Provision for St Mary's Road The clerk reported that he had asked the Police if a temporary camera could be sited at St Mary's Road, but nothing was available. It was resolved that costs be obtained from Quadrant for a new camera in the St Mary's Road area, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr M Davis. It was resolved that the next partnership meeting be arranged for early December and accordingly the agreement be extended by another 3 months, proposed Cllr M Davis, seconded Cllr Barker. CCTV working group meeting to be arranged for early November. The clerk reported that he had spoken to Quadrant regarding the outstanding invoice for the camera at Old Bank House, this was referred to Private & Confidential.</p>		

	<p>It was resolved that, under Section 100A of the local Government Act 1972, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (namely the details of the terms of contracts for the supply of goods and services), it is advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Macchi.</p>		
17.	<p>ALLOTMENTS Referred from 2nd. September, Cllr Wright reported that he had asked the PCSOs to carry out extra visits to the sites. It was resolved to urge people to report any break ins or thefts to the Police, proposed Cllr Macchi, seconded Cllr Wright.</p>		
	<p>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Referred from item 10, Clerk's Report. It was resolved to accept the quote from Merlin Lighting for the replacement of the support wires and the failed anchor bolts, proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr M Davis. Clerk to determine what guarantees were given with the work.</p>		
	<p>OUTSTANDING QUADRANT INVOICE Referred from item 16, it was resolved to accept the Quadrant offer to pay half the bill to close the matter, proposed Cllr M Davis, seconded Cllr Barker.</p>		
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.24pm.</p>		

Signed

Chairman of Atherstone Town Council.