

Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2018 / 2019



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 2018/2019

Chairman Cllr D Wright
Vice-Chairman Cllr C Gurney

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 31st March 2019

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)
Brian Henney	07931 588218	(L 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, Cllr Brian Henney joined the Town Council in July 2018

What has the Town Council done in 2018/19

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 2018.

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. A new grounds maintenance contractor was appointed in March 2019.

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

The Town Council are planning to open the Ashes Scattering Area on 28th April 2018.

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. Investigations continued in 2018/19 regarding updating the cameras and CCTV system.

An upgrade to the CCTV system is scheduled for Summer 2019.

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 again power supply problems with Christmas Lights but the council have resolved to replace the electrical infrastructure and have a new lighting system for 2019. The order will be placed in April 2019.

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

Atherstone Motor Show
Dickens Night
Stonefest
Atherstone Beer Festival
St Marys Church Boot Sales

Summer in the Square
Atherstone Ball Game
Women's Cycle Race
Badgers 10K
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.

During 2018/19 the Town Council also supported via Community Grants

Atherstone Cricket Club
Friends of the Market Square
HAT – Heritage Atherstone Team
Sponsored WW1 planter
Stonefest
St Marys church
Summer in the Square
Badgers 10k
Atherstone Motor Show
Atherstone Ball Game
Atherstone Pony Club
Atherstone Beer Festival

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 Jane Bennett 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. In April 2018 the Town Council took over management of the twice weekly market.

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.

December 2018 the Town Council arranged a Christmas Market in the Market Square in conjunction with NWBC Community Development.

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. 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 2018
TO MARCH 31ST 2019.**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2019

CCTV Account	£111,788.29
Precept Account	£112,687.87
Business Current Account	£32,597.23
Reserve Account	£35,342.80
TOTAL	<u>£292,416.19</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2019/20

<u>2018/19</u>		<u>2019/20</u>
£237,445	Gross Expenditure	£260,049
£158,585	Net Expenditure	£191,799
£78,860	Income	£68,250
£140,585	Precept	£142,449
£18,000	Amount from reserves	£49,350

The Town Council has finalised its budget for 2019-20 and has set a Precept of **£142,449**

This has been achieved by taking funds from the general reserves to support the budget requirements.

The Parish Charge for a Band "D" property of £52.39 with no increase in the charge for a Band "D" property **of 0.91%** giving an actual increase of **£0** for each property.