

Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2019 / 2020



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
CV9 1JN

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 11am

Outside of these hours appointments are necessary.

Phone Number	01827 720829
Mobile	07928 974576 Town Clerk
Mobile	07541 946062 Deputy Town Clerk

Postal Address	Atherstone Town Council, P.O. Box 2000, Atherstone, CV9 1YN.
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Web Site Address	www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk
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E-mail	clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk
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Meetings Structure 2019/20

Chairman Cllr D Wright
Vice-Chairman Cllr D Clews
Mayor 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 2020

Sara Bishop	01827 717480	Labour North
Tony Clews	01827 711340	Conservative North
Carl Gurney	01827 713976	Conservative North
Brian Henney	07931 588218	Labour North
Mejar Singh	01827 712305	Conservative North
David Wright	07711 330040	Conservative North
Susan Allan-Stubbs	07817 914690	Labour South
Denise Clews	07477 607255	Conservative South
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534	Conservative South
Jacky Chambers	07966 425052	Labour Central
Lorna Dirveiks	01827 713191	Labour Central
Dawn Downes	07805 545937	Labour Central
Mark Jordan	07775 987866	Conservative Central
Angie Spencer	07974 302910	Conservative Central
Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

The Town Council said farewell and thanks to all the departed councillors in the May 2019 elections.

Cllr M Davis, Cllr G Davis, Cllr R Barker, Cllr J Barnard, Cllr L John, Cllr J John all stood down and Cllr Freer stood but was not elected.

New Councillors to join the Town Council in May 2019

Central Ward:

Cllr J Chambers, Cllr D Downes, Cllr I Driver, Cllr M Jordan, Cllr A Spencer

South Ward:

Cllr S Allan- Stubbs, Cllr D Clews.

Cllr Ian Driver resigned in December 2019

What has the Town Council done in 2019/20

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 2019.

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 opened the Ashes Scattering Area on 28th April 2019.

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.

An upgrade to the CCTV system began but was temporarily put on hold due to Covid 19..

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.

The electrical infrastructure was replaced in the autumn of 2019 and there were new Christmas light displays for December 2019.

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

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

Summer in the Square
Atherstone Ball Game
Women's Cycle Race
Badgers 10K
Morris Men
School Choirs

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 2019/20 the Town Council also supported via Community Grants

Atherstone Cricket Club
Adders Hockey
Friends of the Market Square
HAT – Heritage Atherstone Team
St Marys church
Summer in the Square
Atherstone Motor Show
Atherstone Ball Game
Atherstone Pony Club
Atherstone Beer Festival
Dickens
Boxing Club
Atherstone Partnership
ATC Football Club
Atherstone Guides
Phantom Knights

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 there were two awards made to Yvonne Stone and Eddie Stephenson in recognition of their commendable contribution and service to the Community of Atherstone.

This year there were also special achievement awards for two local individuals Dave Wardle and Dave Piper that deserve recognition for their work in the community.

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. A new website went live in March 2020.

13. Local Council Award Scheme (formerly Quality Council)

The Town Council is working towards re-accreditation of the Foundation Level.

14. Market Square

The Town Council has an agreement with North Warwickshire Borough Council, to manage events on the Market Square. The Town Council continued to manage 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 2019 the first Christmas Market took place in the Market Square organised by The Atherstone Partnership.

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.

During 2019/20 there were some changes of tenants and two existing tenants moved to bigger units. 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.

17. Covid 19

March 2020 saw the country face unprecedented times and go into Lockdown following the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

In conjunction with Atherstone Partnership the Town Council set up **The Atherstone Community Support Team** with over 80 volunteers covering every street in Atherstone offering support to local residents with shopping collecting prescriptions etc.

Also working alongside the local pharmacy they sourced dedicated drivers delivering prescriptions, and also helping Edible Links delivering Food Parcel referrals.

**STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1ST 2019
TO MARCH 31ST 2020**

Bank Balances at 1 April 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>

Bank Balances at 31 March 2020

CCTV Account	£111,884.60
Precept Account	£63,985.86
Business Current Account	£32,830.36
Reserve Account	£35,368.18
TOTAL	<u>£244,069.00</u>



ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL 2020/21
Budget information

<u>2019/20</u>		<u>2020/21</u>
£260,049	Gross Expenditure	£268,922
£191,799	Net Expenditure	£197,477
£68,250	Income	£71,475
£142,449	Precept	£145,447
£49,350	Amount from reserves	£52,000

The Town Council has finalised its budget for 2020-21 and has set a Precept of **£145,447**

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 £53.76 with an increase in the charge for a Band "D" property **of 2.61%** giving an actual increase of **£1.37** for each property.