

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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DOCUMENT	MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
VENUE	Virtual Meeting held via ZOOM.
DATE AND TIME	Wednesday 20 th January 2021 7.00pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: D Clews, T Clews, Gurney, Jarvis, Jordan, Bishop, Singh, Chamberlain, Wright, Chambers, Police: None. Borough and County Councillors: Cllr N Dirveiks Public: Martin Short, Gwyneth Short, Craig Bird, Carol Evans, Press: None
APOLOGIES	Henney, Spencer, Downes
CHAIRMAN	Cllr D Clews
CLERK	Clerk Odette Ghent also present Deputy Clerk Sally Oldham

Item		Action by	Notes
1.	APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASON OF ABSENCE Proposed Cllr T Clews seconded Cllr Gurney		
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY Cllrs Jarvis declared an interest on all items relating to licencing and planning. Cllr T Clews declared an interest in all matters relating to planning and a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to the NHS Cllr D Clews declared an interest on all items relating to licencing Cllr Chamberlain declared an interest in all items relating to the arcade. It was agreed any others would be taken as and when.		
3.	PUBLIC SESSION (maximum 30 minutes) Carol Evans from the Angel Public House Market Square reported she will be putting in an application to use the Market square on an ad hoc basis once the government restrictions are lifted for the purposes of serving on the public. There were no objections in principle and the application will be reviewed accordingly when submitted. P108 01/21		

	<p>Craig Bird from Restore Collective sent in a report prior to the meeting which was distributed to all Councillors.</p> <p>He gave an overview of the project which is at a stage now that needs a base to operate from. The project over the past five and a half years has supported 54 families in Atherstone and Mancetter. They became a registered (CIO) charity about 18 months ago. He has viewed the upstairs of the Arcade and although there is work required to bring it up to standard they were interested in the space.</p> <p>He asked members for their feelings about the project and their views towards opening up discussions about the Arcade.</p> <p>Their vision statement is Enabling Families and Communities to Thrive.</p> <p>Councillors asked questions around what the project does, how much of the upstairs Arcade would be required and what is the sustainability of the project.</p> <p>Craig explained activities which are currently privately funded include trips out, events, food parcels at Christmas and outdoor activities. If the space at the Arcade was an option, they would require it all.</p> <p>They have historical links with Nuneaton where Craig was the Youth director of the Sycamore Tree Trust for nine years. Whilst this charity is about to fold it owns an asset which gives an income.</p> <p>The project is very much about working with family units and he can provide testimonials from families they have worked with.</p> <p>This item will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.</p>		
4.	<p>REPORTS FROM POLICE, COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.</p> <p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>There has a difficult start to the year with the lock down and increased enforcement, also vehicle crime, this has stretched from Bedworth all the way to Coleshill and everywhere in-between. This has meant alteration to shifts to fit the pattern of offending.</p> <p>There have been fewer arrests than normal, 5 since the turn of the year and these have included assaults and burglary.</p> <p>We have acted on several incidents reported by the ATC and some of these are still under investigation.</p> <p>Incidents attended since 1st January 2021</p> <p>Domestics- 8 Anti-Social Behaviour (All neighbour disputes) – 9 Abandoned Vehicle – 1 Concern – 13</p> <p>P109 01/21</p>		

	<p>Damage – 6 Firearms – 1 Hate Incident – 1 Illness/Injury – 2 Missing Persons – 1 (Covid breaches) – 18 Road Related Incidents – 9 Road Traffic Collisions – 1 Sudden Death – 1 Suspicious Incidents 11 Vehicle related – 2 Burglary – 1</p> <p>County and Borough Councillors. - None</p>		
5.	<p>TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 9th December 2020</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the minutes proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Singh</p>		
6.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 9th December 2020</p> <p>P95 Signage – Cllr Singh asked if there was any update on the signage/speed restriction notices regarding the lorries entering the Market Square. The Clerk to chase this up.</p> <p>P101 Item 14 – Annual Dinner an update on this will be on February 2021 agenda</p>		
7.	<p>INVOICES FOR APPROVAL AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE</p> <p>Cheque number 108978 for ratification to S Reay £1,000 A list was circulated prior to the meeting. Approval requested for all cheques 108979-108994 It was resolved to approve the list proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr T Clews Cllr Chamberlain declared an interest in cheque no 108990</p> <p>Cheques over £500 listed below</p> <p>Wages £3,947.62 WCC £1,260.14 NWBC £14,422.22 Smithy Farm Shop £7,119 S Reay £1,000.00 BNP Paribas £541.20 Turnock £7,629.60</p> <p>P110 01/21</p>		

8.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>a. Freedom of Information request A new FOI request received on 7th January 2021 deadline to respond is 5th February 2021</p> <p>E56 Footfall Training, Cllr Singh would like to attend this.</p> <p>E55 WALC Community Grants Fund Good Councillors Guide to Community Business, Cllr Singh requested a copy.</p> <p>E55 Community Grants Funds, Cllr Bishop referred to the WALC Community Grant Fund available.</p>		
9.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>a) Planning Lists – 49,50,51</p> <p>b) <u>Consultations</u></p> <p>PAP/2020/0689 7, Oakfield Gardens, Atherstone Rear extension and new link to detached garage The Town Council wished it to be noted that is in an area where there are TPO's in case any trees are affected.</p> <p>PAP/2021/0004 25, Tudor Crescent, Atherstone Proposed single and two storey rear extension No comments.</p> <p>c) Decisions:-</p> <p>See attached weekly lists decisions highlighted – 49,50,51</p> <p>d) Other Planning Matters –</p>		
10.	<p>MARKET SQUARE</p> <p>a. Conifer Tree</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis commented on the response from County Highways that stated their concern would be the tree obstructing the footway. There are bollards situated at the edge of the carriageway and if a tree species, with a large basal area, was planted in the tree pit, it would restrict the footway width and we need to ensure pedestrians can pass and repass without hinderance. The Clerk to contact Andy Watkins the Tree Officer for his advice.</p> <p>P111 01/21</p>		

11.	<p>OLD MORTUARY REBUILD PROJECT</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>		
12.	<p>REPORTS</p> <p>a. Clerks Report</p> <p>Cllr D Clews proposed the date for the EGM relating to the budget is set for Wednesday 27th January 2021 seconded Cllr T Clews.</p> <p>The Roller shutter doors on the Bin Store at the Arcade are problematic. Cllr Jarvis proposed the clerk to contact manufacturers for both repair and replace options seconded Cllr Chamberlain.</p> <p>b. Deputy Clerk Report</p> <p>Honorary Citizen and Sports award presentations are on hold due to government restrictions and a draft press release has been done. Cllr Jarvis proposed the date for the 2021-22 award nominations is the 17th March 2021 seconded Cllr Singh.</p> <p>Cllr D Clews reported the display board will be purchased from her Mayors fund for the new Sports Awards.</p> <p>The draft newsletter has been done, Cllr Bishop asked where the Newsletter will be available from. The Deputy Clerk confirmed previously they are distributed to the Library, NWBC, Surgeries and on the ATC Website. Cllr Bishop asked if some of the spare wall space in the Arcade can be used to display the Newsletters.</p> <p>c. Finance</p> <p>These were noted. Some questions were asked about the draft budget, it was decided to have a working group meeting prior to the budget EGM. The clerk urged all Councillors to contact her with any questions.</p> <p>d. Town Councillors Reports</p>		
13.	<p>CEMETERY MATTERS</p> <p>a) <u>Recent Burials</u></p> <p>Garry John Dykes A534 New ash Plot Gary Michael Rollason E1454 Re open for ashes Ann McEwan A550 New Ash Plot Donald Turner B234 Preselect to triple depth John David James Ashes Scattering Jean Ann Neville B270 New triple Grave</p> <p>P112 01/21</p>		

	<p>Francis Joseph O'Hare RCE910Re open to double depth Lilian May Fielder RCE461Re open for ashes James Stevenson A441 Re open for ashes Frederick Frank Baddeley A415 Preselect ash plot Clifford Roy Wood E1571 Re open to double depth Rose Rickett A532 Re open for ashes</p> <p>b) <u>Memorials</u></p> <p>Terence and Gwendoline Mackie RCE234 Inscription Alan And Theresa Cook B284 Headstone Bertie Billingham B48 Headstone Kerbs and Vase</p> <p>c) Cemetery Administration report. – this was noted</p> <p>d) General Cemetery Report</p> <p>The company that are looking at the extension of the Cemetery into the Old Allotment Gardens have requested some ground clearance work is carried out to enable them to access it. The Clerks are in the process of doing some cemetery analysis of graves which will be required to plan any future development. Cllr Jordan Proposed three quotes to be obtained and brought back to the February meeting seconded Cllr Singh.</p>		
14.	<p>ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>An allotment report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Deputy Clerk confirmed the tenant that was going to take on the very derelict allotment at Merevale has since declined and asked if we get a quote to have this area cleared, this was approved proposed Cllr D Clews seconded Cllr Jarvis.</p>		
15.	<p>PLAY AREAS</p> <p>a. Westwood Road b. St Mary's Road</p> <p>The report was noted and confirmed all remedials have been carried out</p>		
16.	<p>ARCADE</p> <p>a. Arcade Availability and waiting list.</p> <p>One unit is currently available in the Arcade, two new tenants have moved in recently Fruit and Veg and Household items.</p> <p>b. Update from Working group</p> <p>Cllr Bishop referred to correspondence items E6 and E11 relating to remedials asking if these items can be added to the list of Arcade Schedule of Maintenance.</p> <p>P113 01/21</p>		

	<p>Cllr Bishop asked if a press release can go out advising that there is available space in the upstairs of the Arcade. Cllr Chambers preferred the press release goes out in addition to the letter this was proposed Cllr Bishop seconded Cllr Chambers</p> <p>Cllr Chambers proposed the arcade responses are put back to April seconded Cllr Jarvis.</p> <p>The list of potential interested groups to be complete within 10 days with the letters to be sent out mid-February.</p> <p>The clerk to circulate the current list.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c. Arcade Fire Action Plan</p> <p>No update this month.</p>		
17.	<p>ATHERSTONE COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM REVIEW</p> <p>Following the third lockdown the volunteers have been contacted again to ascertain their availability. There has been a good response and the support group is up and running again as required.</p>		
18.	<p>VACANCIES/ORGANISATIONS & COMMITTEES UPDATE</p> <p>An election has been called for the Central Ward vacancy which will be 6th May 2021, with the County and Police and Crime Commissioners Elections.</p> <p>The elections manager has arranged a Teams meeting with the Clerk to go through this on 28th January 2021.</p> <p>The South ward vacancy can be filled by co option as no election was called.</p> <p>There is still a vacancy on the WCR 250 Rail group, Cllr Jarvis mentioned Atherstone are represented on the Atherstone Rail Users Group (ARUG) and suggested there is no need for a representative on WCR250. The clerk to contact ARUG and ask for updates to be sent to ATC.</p> <p>Cllr Jordan asked to be removed from the Dickens committee Cllr Wright offered to replace him.</p> <p>Cllr Gurney requested he is removed from the Employment Committee, Cllr Chamberlain offered to replace him.</p>		

	<p>PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>Atherstone Town Council recognises that the reasons for exemptions as laid out under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 apply to principal councils only but are making use of them as good practice guidance and in accordance with their Standing Orders.</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 as below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation, services or financial assistance provided by the Council to an individual. • Details of the terms of contracts for the acquisition or disposal of Property, or for the supply of goods and service. • Employment matters. <p>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 paragraph 5 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 Jarvis seconded Cllr Wright.</p>		
19.	<p>QUOTATIONS</p> <p>Arcade Signage</p> <p>Cllr Chamberlain declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting, as this was a Zoom meeting the clerk put him in the waiting room where he had no access to the discussion.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the two quotes received (three quotes were requested but only two returned) to replace the signage at the back and front of the Arcade which is out of date due to the change over of tenants.</p> <p>The quotation from the Printing Shed was accepted proposed Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Wright.</p> <p>Cllr Chamberlain returned to the meeting.</p> <p>Wet Pour</p> <p>The quotation was approved for the Wet Pour at St Marys Play Area proposed Cllr Jarvis seconded Cllr Singh</p>		
20	<p>EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>This was deferred to the EGM 27th January 2021</p>		
21.	<p>ARCADE</p> <p>The Clerk reported one of the tenants has defaulted on their December 2020 rent, they have promised to pay it this week.</p> <p>P115 01/21</p>		

	An expression of interest from an existing tenant has been made for the vacant unit. The Council confirmed they prefer to encourage and offer the units to new business start ups Cllr Wright proposed we wait until seconded Cllr Singh.		
22.	CEMETERY There was a discussion about a special request for internment of Ashes, having taken advice from the ICCM the council were unable to approve this. The family we be notified. An item from Correspondence was discussed regarding ongoing thefts from a grave. Cllr D Clews requested an email be sent to the Police asking about surveillance. The Deputy Clerk reported some irregularity regarding memorial paperwork which is being investigated with the Memorial Mason.		
	Cllr D Clews informed the meeting that it was 21:30 hours and in line with Standing Orders if the meeting was to continue after 21:30 hours a vote was required. It was proposed by Cllr Singh to continue the meeting proposed seconded Cllr Gurney		
23.	PHOTOCOPIER In hand with our solicitor. In December meeting Cllr Chamberlain asked the Clerk to confirm the VAT element on the payment schedule, BNP Paribas confirmed that it is no longer liable to VAT		
24.	ALLOTMENT COMPLAINT UPDATE Advice has been taken from NWBC Monitoring Officer who has advised the notice was correctly served and that the tenancy was properly terminated.		
26.	MEREVALE ALLOTMENT LEASE This is in hand with our Solicitor.		
27.	CCTV UPDATE – no further update this month, CCTV meeting is Thursday 25 th February 2021		
	The meeting closed at 9:40pm the next ATC full meeting is 17th February 2021		

Signed  Chairman of Atherstone Town Council

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