

## ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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DOCUMENT	<b>MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</b>
VENUE	Virtual Meeting held via ZOOM.
DATE AND TIME	Thursday 8th April 2021 7.00pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: Jarvis, D Clews, T Clews, Gurney, Jordan, Bishop, Wright, Singh. Police: None. Borough and County Councillors: None. Public: Martin Short, G Chamberlain, Tony Holtom, Carol Evans, Keith Barnett, Laura Donnelly, Jason Jones Press / Social Media: The Stone Channel
APOLOGIES	Cllrs Chambers, Spencer and Henney
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jarvis
CLERK	Deputy Clerk Sally Oldham

Item		Action by	Notes
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASON OF ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Cllrs Henney, Chambers and Spencer.            It was resolved to accept the apologies. Proposed Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Jarvis.</p>		
2.	<p><b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p>Mr Holtom asked what the procedure was once the public session had ended to be allowed to speak again. The Chair explained the Council could agree by vote to suspend the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak again.</p> <p>Mr Short raised a concern about the decision to stop/limit the Lifeline service in its present form run by NWBC and asked if there was anything Atherstone Town Council could do to offset the diminution of the service.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis replied that the Town Council are still in discussions with NWBC.</p> <p>Cllr Wright said the service is run by NWBC, not Atherstone Town Council, and it is being transferred to a different provider. The service may even be enhanced rather than diminished.</p> <p>Carol Evans agreed with Mr Holtom about being allowed to speak later in the meeting if necessary, otherwise she felt it was fairer if questions about the Market Square should be raised in the public session so that they could be answered.</p> <p>Carol Evans also reported that the NWBC Licensing Enforcement Officer - David Dyde - had asked that if the applications are granted</p> <p><b>P146 04/21</b></p>		

	<p>to use the square he wished to see identifiable areas segregated off by individual pubs so that any problems could be dealt with effectively.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis asked if everyone has to sign into a particular area. Carol Evans replied that everyone over 16 has to sign in / use QR app and the publicans are liable to a fine if they do not do it.</p> <p>Gary Chamberlain read out a statement that had been relayed to him. A copy of the statement is attached to these minutes*.</p> <p>Cllr Bishop reported that she had raised the question of an individual councillor's comments towards a member of the public. She had been assured by Cllr Wright that what was being said to the member of the public was not accurate and had upset a group of people.</p> <p>Cllr Wright in response to Cllr Bishop said the Town Council had not made any resolution and therefore the actions of an individual councillor should be ignored. In addition, in response to the statement read out, the Town Council are subject to a Code of Conduct and would take any complaints very seriously. We are governed by the Monitoring Officer at NWBC and if complaints are made they would be investigated and actioned accordingly.</p>		
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that these would be taken as and when.</p> <p>Cllr Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Dickens 2021.</p>		
<p>4</p>	<p><b>MARKET SQUARE BOOKINGS</b></p> <p>Cllr D Clews was pleased to see so many bookings and especially the application for serving food on the Market Square which she thought would compliment the pub bookings.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve all the following six applications subject to three conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Activities already booked such as Dickens, Charity Beer Festival, the Car Show and Badgers 10k and Womens Tour (Cycling) would take priority.</li> <li>ii) There was to be no interference with the Tuesday / Friday Markets Traders and their access to the Square.</li> <li>iii) NWBC Streetscape would be asked to cleanse the Square every Monday morning with the cost to be shared between the pubs.</li> </ul> <p><b>1) Angel Ale House – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 onwards. (Daily- Middy to 11pm)</b></p> <p><b>P147 04/21</b></p>		

	<p>2) Charity Beer Festival from 9am on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July – 6pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</p> <p>3) Dickens 2021 – from 9am on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November – 6pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021.</p> <p>4) The Market Tavern (Ipub Group Ltd) – 12<sup>th</sup> April onwards. (Daily 10am to 9pm)</p> <p>5) The Outdoor Food Company – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 (from Midday to 5pm)</p> <p>6) The Wine Bar – 12<sup>th</sup> April onwards. (Daily - Midday to 10.30pm)</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Singh.</p> <p>A note of thanks was recorded by the Town Council to Steve Maxey and David Dyde at NWBC for sorting the related licensing matters.</p>		
	<p><b>PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL</b></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> <p>Details of the terms of contracts for the acquisition or disposal of Property, or for the supply of goods and service.</p> <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 Singh</p>		
5.	<p><b>ARCADE leases</b></p> <p>It was resolved to permit Unit 4 to add the selling of plants to her lease. Proposed Cllr Jordan seconded Cllr T Clews</p> <p><b>P148 04/21</b></p>		

4.	<p><b>MARKET SQUARE BOOKINGS - continued</b></p> <p><b>Hiring Policy Document for Pop-ups and Canopy</b></p> <p>This draft document was presented including costs for hiring. It was resolved to approve the document subject to confirming the £100 deposit was per booking, checking the insurance /asset value of an individual pop up with weights and adding in a section asking if it was a commercial or “not for profit” booking. “Not for profit organisations” would be asked to supply their accounts as verification. Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Jordan.</p> <p>It was agreed not to include the Canopy at this stage and to put that as an agenda item on a future meeting.</p>		
	The meeting finished at 7:50pm		

Signed ..... Chairman of Atherstone Town Council

**\*Re: P 148 04/21 – Minute Item 2 – Statement read out by Gary Chamberlain**

I just wanted share some concerns that have been raised of late and hope that council members will join me in condemning alleged actions which could be deemed un-democratic and not actions of which ATC would condone.

Members, I’m sure, will agree that actions undertaken by individual councillors, without the resolution of full council is not normal practice. Nor would it condone any form of intimidation or bullying should this take place in order for any individual councillor to gain advantage or the advantage or disadvantage of others.

Should any actions, such as those described, be proven to have taken place then I’m sure the Town council would take the appropriate disciplinary action in accordance current guidelines set out in the Code of conduct.

I would seek assurances from members that this council follows a democratic process that we accustomed, and it is not run as a dictatorship as I’ve seen some members of the public refer of late.

I have full confidence in the democratic process the council should follow but I fear that, of late, many are seeing the actions of individuals are undermining the credibility of the council as a whole.

Finally, I would be grateful, if only for the credibility of the Town Council, if we could have some response to these matters in aim of reassuring the residents this council represents.

**End of statement.**  
**P149 04/21**