

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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DOCUMENT	MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
VENUE	North Warwickshire Borough Council, Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1DE
DATE AND TIME	Monday 19th October 2022 7.00pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: Jordan, P Gurney, Spencer, Bishop, Barnett, D Clews, Pickard, Chambers, Wright, Jones, Singh. Police: PC Lloyd Walton, PCSO Molly Snape Borough and County Councillors: None Public: G Chamberlain, M Short, C Evans Allotment prize winners: Mrs Chetwynd, Mr & Mrs Ford, Mr Wright Press: None
APOLOGIES	Councillors: T Clews, Wightman, Jarvis,
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jordan
CLERK	Odette Ghent – Town Clerk also present Sally Oldham Deputy Clerk

Item		Actions	Notes
	The chairman announced the meeting will be recorded. Cllr Jordan announced the sad news that ex Councillor Richard Freer has passed away. Councillors paid tribute to Richard who was well respected and remembered for being intensely interested in promoting the Town, he will be sadly missed, and condolences go out to his family. A one-minute silence was observed in his memory.		
1.	APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASON OF ABSENCE These were noted.		
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY. It was agreed these would be taken as and when. Cllr Jordan declared an interest in planning and licencing.		
3.	PUBLIC SESSION (maximum 30 minutes) a) ALLOTMENT AWARDS The annual allotment awards were presented by the Chairman, see winners below. Cllr D Clews thanked the Deputy Clerk for all her hard work looking after the allotment sites. P166 10/22		

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List of Winners Merevale Allotments:

First Prize Full Plot – Mrs Ellen Chetwynd Plot 32
Second Prize Full Plot – Mr Stephen Ford Plot 15
First Prize Half Plot – Mrs Kiteley Plot 33a
Second Prize Half Plot – Christine Lamond Plot 39a

List of Winners Gypsy Lane Allotments:

First Prize Full Plot – Mr and Mrs Hart Plot
Second Prize Full Plot – Mr K Knight Plot 8
First Prize Half Plot – Mr J Ford Plot 23b
Second Prize Half Plot – Mr and Mrs Ranson Plot 36a
Best Newcomer – Mrs V J Harrison Plot 34

b) **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER** – did not attend the meeting.

c) OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Gary Chamberlain gave an update on behalf of Atherstone Partnership that the Christmas Market plans for 17/18th December 2022 are going well.

Bus Station area – thanks given to all involved WCC/NWBC and ATC, both officers and councillors - the refurbishment has vastly improved it.

Gary relayed a conversation he had with WCC regarding the recently installed Art Project (Husly) now renamed the Queen Elizabeth bench.

WCC suggested that objections have been voiced by ATC regarding the involvement of Atherstone Partnership (AP) and their promotion of this project including attempt to belittle their work and promote out of town businesses on social media.

It was confirmed that ATC were pleased that AP had taken a local lead in the project and that no objections have been made by the Town Council, if individual Councillor's had done so their opinions are not a reflection of the Town Council as a whole and any issues with individual Councillors that may be in conflict, with their Code of Conduct can be reported to the monitoring officer.

ATC confirmed they only rejected the initial suggested location of the Art Project being the Market Square as not suitable.

Since then, there was limited engagement and involvement with WCC, at the last Zoom meeting with WCC, ATC were told by a WCC officer that ultimately WCC could site the Art Project where they chose on WCC owned land.

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<p>4.</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM POLICE, COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS as per written reports.</p> <p><u>Police reports</u></p> <p>PCSO Molly Snape reported in the last 4 weeks the following incidents.</p> <p>9 x antisocial behaviour including neighbours disputes and intoxicated males in town 9 x domestic 2 x mental health, both visited and given support 10 x suspicious – incl drug use, dealing from vehicles 11 x road related 1 x damage to property 2 x residential burglaries 6 x Violence 1 x damage to property 1 abandoned vehicle</p> <p>Also reported relating to County Lines, 2 warrants conducted in two separate properties where drug use was found, and arrests made. Eviction carried out with NWBC where two individuals resided who were involved in county lines.</p> <p>Atherstone SNT have been working with NWBC licencing carrying out test purchase operations.</p> <p>PC Lloyd Walton reported the Boxing Club has been running for 3.5 years and he fears that their funding may be cut after March 2023 and he is looking for ideas to raise money, or to find an alternative venue.</p> <p>Official figures confirm the success of the Boxing Club with the vulnerable young people that attend resulting in a 53% reduction in youth crime and 56% reduction in retail crime in North Warwickshire</p> <p>ATC and Cllr Singh confirmed that they forward all relevant funding emails to the police, the Clerk will contact WCAVA and ask if they can assist the Boxing Club in applying.</p> <p>Cllr Wright declared an interest as chair of the Boxing Club.</p> <p>Cllr Singh reported the recent problem with the homeless guy sleeping rough in the bus shelter, PCSO Molly Snape reported he has now been offered accommodation.</p> <p>P168 10/22</p>		
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	<p><u>County Councillor Report</u></p> <p>Cllr Singh confirmed he has forwarded the information regarding the Cost-of-Living grants and urged it be shared with the public.</p> <p><u>NWBC Councillor Reports</u></p> <p>Cllr D Clews reported she had recently attended a Social Inclusion meeting at NWBC that was very informative.</p>		
5.	<p>TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 26th September 2022</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the minutes Proposed Cllr Barnett seconded Cllr Jordan</p>		
6.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF 26th September 2022.</p> <p>P161 Cllr Bishop reminded Councillors that there are grants available from the Warwickshire Rural Community Council</p>		
7.	<p>CASUAL VACANCY</p> <p>A casual vacancy has occurred due to nonattendance of a Councillor for 6 months.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed the Casual Vacancy notice went up Thursday 13th October 2022, if by 2nd November 2022 a request for an election is not made the vacancy can be filled by co-option. Should an election be called, it will take place no later than 5th January 2023.</p> <p>It was noted that the cost of an election could cost around £3-4k</p> <p>It was indicated by some members that they will not be calling an election.</p>		
8.	<p>COUNCILLORS APOLOGIES</p> <p>Conflicting advice has been given by WALC and the NWBC monitoring office relating to apologies at meetings. Both parties are in communication and the clerks are awaiting a definitive answer. We have been advised that 'noting' of apologies is acceptable.</p> <p>Cllr Bishop pointed out that in appendix e of the Good Councillor Guide that all Councillors are given as part of their induction pack there are acceptable reasons for nonattendance at meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Wright pointed out that if a councillor is going to be absent from meetings for a period in excess of 6 months they can apply for a dispensation.</p> <p>P169 10/22</p>		

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9.	<p>INVOICES FOR APPROVAL AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE</p> <p>The following cheques were presented for approval: 108830 – 108861 Cllr Singh declared an interest in 108841 It was resolved to approve these cheques Proposed Cllr Wright seconded by Cllr D Clews</p> <p>Cheques over £500 listed below</p> <p>Wages £3,907.74 WCC £1,248.94 BNP Paribas £541.20 Atherstone Common plots £837.45 Harvey Pointon £1,950.00 NWBC £8,365.09 Perennial Landscapes Ltd £1,670.40 Servicom £783.00 Synectics Security £2,314.80 Atherstone Partnership £1,000.00 Piper and Meeks £680.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP £960.00</p>		
	<p>Cllrs Wright and Spencer left the meeting at 8:20pm</p>		
10.	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning Lists – 37,38,39 inclusive</p> <p>b) Consultations PAP/2022/0512 – Lloyds Bank Listed building application for removal of external signage and an external ATM</p> <p>There was no objection to the above.</p> <p>c) Decisions: - See attached weekly lists decisions highlighted – 37,38,39</p> <p>d) Other Planning Matters – None</p>		
11.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.</p> <p>E9 A5 National Highways Dordon to Atherstone Cllr Chambers explained the proposed changes to the A5 between Dordon roundabout and Atherstone. This will affect anyone that travels between Atherstone and the M42</p> <p>There is a Public Consultation meeting is being held on Thursday 20th October 2022 3-8pm at Grendon Community Centre 3-8pm, the Clerk confirmed she will attend to obtain more information. Closing date for comments Thursday 27th October 2022</p> <p>P170 10/22</p>		

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	<p>E15 Queens Green Canopy</p> <p>Cllr Bishop highlighted that schools can apply for free trees from the Woodland Trust. Conservation volunteers also have access to free trees for publicly accessible land.</p>		
12.	<p>MARKET SQUARE</p> <p>a. Atherstone Partnership (AP) have requested they change the date for the 2023 Beer Festival to 4th May to 8th May 2023 (Coronation weekend)</p> <p>Cllr Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest. The suggestion was that AP work together with other organisations should they want to arrange other Coronation events that weekend The change of date was approved which should include the event being broadened to include other celebrations, if need be, proposed Cllr Chambers seconded Cllr Bishop Cllr Jordan abstained.</p> <p>b. Electricity supply to bollards</p> <p>CCTV have alerted ATC that individuals are opening the bollards on the Market Square that house an electricity supply to charge mobile phones and plug in equipment. The Clerk will contact street lighting to see if the bollards can be fitted with a more secure lock.</p>		
13.	<p>COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS</p> <p>a. Atherstone Ball Game</p> <p>The Ball Game committee have indicated they will be asking ATC to fund the road closures for the Ball Game, this was noted awaiting the completed grant application form.</p> <p>b. Dickens Fireworks</p> <p>Cllr Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest. A grant application has been received for the Dickens Event Fireworks This was approved subject to written confirmation from Jubilee Fireworks confirming the email the Dickens committee have received advising that the invoice for the 2021 invoice will be credited. The Dickens Committee to liaise with Jubilee Fireworks. The Dickens Event to place the order for the 2022 Fireworks. Proposed Cllr Singh seconded Cllr Barnett</p>		
	<p>Cllr Bishop left the meeting at 8:40pm and Cllr Singh left the meeting at 8:50pm</p> <p>P171 10/22</p>		

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14.	<p>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2022.</p> <p>For information only it was confirmed there will be a rehearsal on Friday 11th November 2022 at 7pm at St Mary’s Church.</p>		
15.	<p>CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE</p> <p>This is an initiative by NALC, One Voice Wales and the SLCC who are urging all Councils to sign the Civility and Respect pledge which points out that Civility and Respect should be at the heart of public life, and good governance is fundamental to ensuring an effective and well-functioning democracy at all levels and commitment to working together to promote civility and respect in public life, good governance, positive debate and supporting the well-being of councillors, professional officers and staff.</p> <p>The Clerk asked the Councillors to read and consider the documentation provided by NALC, this will be added to the December 2022 agenda.</p>		
16.	<p>OUR SPACES ATHERSTONE – Project update</p> <p>An email from Audrey Brown at WCC advising that the ongoing maintenance of the bus shelter will now be undertaken by WCC whilst NWBC will continue to look after the cleaning elements. They are awaiting handover files from the delivery partner for the art installation in order to establish any maintenance requirements.</p> <p>WCC have asked if the Town Council would like to look at incorporating the Art Project Husly it into the current maintenance regime for any other street furniture in the town.</p> <p>This was discussed and concluded that the Town Council cannot commit until the cost of the materials and labour are established.</p>		
17.	<p>THE QUEENS GREEN CANOPY TREES</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the funding has been received and the order placed for the trees to be delivered at the end October. Publicity/posters to be done regarding the free trees for residents.</p>		
	<p>WRITTEN REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Town Clerk’s Report - This was noted. b. Deputy Clerk’s Report - This was noted. c. Finance (Town Clerk) this was noted. d. Annual Audit 2021-22 this was discussed and noted. <p>P172 10/22</p>		

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	<p>e. Town Councillors Reports - None this month.</p> <p>f. Cemetery Reports (Deputy Clerk)</p> <p>i) Recent Burials in Atherstone Cemetery</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Peter John Eaton</td> <td>B76 Re open to double depth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gerald Barsby</td> <td>A564 preselect ash plot</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Richard Hall</td> <td>A558 new ash plot</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gwendoline Smith</td> <td>A402 Re open for ashes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leslie Payne</td> <td>E1115 Re-open to single depth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaret Mitchell</td> <td>A397 Re-open for ashes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Janet Kent</td> <td>A583 New ash plot</td> </tr> </table> <p>ii) Recent Memorials</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A583 Janet Kent</td> <td>Headstone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baby Eva Meads – Tallis</td> <td>Headstone</td> </tr> </table> <p>iii) General Cemetery Report</p> <p>The water leak and toilet blocking are ongoing awaiting further investigations.</p> <p>g. Allotment Report (Deputy Clerk)</p> <p>The Tenant on Merevale Plot 3 has requested they incorporate the redundant allotment association shed into their plot this was approved subject to leaving access to the brook clear.</p> <p>It was noted that Merevale Estates have now cleared the fallen tree from the brook.</p> <p>h. Play Areas Report (Deputy Clerk) this was noted</p> <p>It was reported that the new palisade gate at Westwood Road has been fitted providing extra security to the play area.</p> <p>There was a discussion about promoting that the CCTV at the play areas is actively monitored in particular so children understand the implications of damaging play equipment. For example, the continuous damage to the wetpour that is not just wear and tear, but it is also willfully dug up.</p> <p>i. Arcade report – (Town Clerk) nothing to report.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the fire alarm panel intermittently bleeps showing a fault the engineers are due to service the Fire Alarm system which will hopefully rectify the fault.</p>	Peter John Eaton	B76 Re open to double depth	Gerald Barsby	A564 preselect ash plot	John Richard Hall	A558 new ash plot	Gwendoline Smith	A402 Re open for ashes	Leslie Payne	E1115 Re-open to single depth	Margaret Mitchell	A397 Re-open for ashes	Janet Kent	A583 New ash plot	A583 Janet Kent	Headstone	Baby Eva Meads – Tallis	Headstone		
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19.	<p>CEMETERY EXTENSION</p> <p>A Zoom meeting has been arranged with the landscape consultant on Thursday 20th October 2022</p> <p>P173 10/22</p>																				

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20.	<p>Christmas Office Closure</p> <p>The office will close midday 22nd December 2022 and reopen 9am Tuesday 3rd January 2023 Proposed Cllr Jordan seconded Cllr D Clews</p>		
	<p>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 being.</p> <p>2. Accommodation, services or financial assistance provided by the Council to an individual.</p> <p>3. Details of the terms of contracts for the acquisition or disposal of property, or for the supply of goods and services.</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 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 D Clews seconded Cllr Jordan</p>		
21	<p>QUOTATIONS</p> <p>i) Water leak repair Cemetery</p> <p>It was reported that more quotations were awaited.</p> <p>ii) <u>Internal Audit 2022-23</u></p> <p>It was reported that more quotations were awaited.</p> <p>iii) EPC Old Mortuary</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the quotation from Anstey Energy Proposed Cllr Barnett seconded Cllr D Clews</p> <p>iv) Replace plants in Ashes scattering area</p> <p>Some of the ashes scattering area shrubs have died and need replacing, this may possibly be covered by one maybe two families sharing the cost to re plant, if this doesn't materialise the full cost to replace them is £155 Cllr D Clews declared an interest.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the quotation. Proposed Cllr Jordan seconded Cllr Chambers</p> <p>P174 10/22</p>		

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	<p>v) Market Square bench slats One of the slats on the bench opposite the Angel Pub on the market square has been removed due to wear and tear.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the quotation subject to getting a further quote from a local timber company. Proposed Cllr Barnett seconded Cllr Jones.</p>		
	<p>vi) Westwood Road Zip Wire</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the quotation. Proposed Cllr d Clews seconded Cllr Barnett</p>		
	<p>It was agreed to continue the meeting past 9:30pm proposed Cllr Barnett seconded Cllr Jordan</p>		
2.	<p><u>ACCOMMODATION</u></p> <p>a. Old Mortuary</p> <p>It was agreed to get quotes for the marketing of the Old Mortuary proposed Cllr Chambers seconded Cllr Pickard.</p>		
25.	<p>CCTV</p> <p>Nothing to report, the next CCTV Partnership meeting is Thursday 10th November 2022.</p>		
	<p>The meeting closed at 9:40pm the next meeting is Wednesday 16th November 2022</p>		

Signed M.R. Chairman of Atherstone Town Council

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