

ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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DOCUMENT	MINUTES OF THE EGM OF ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
VENUE	North Warwickshire Borough Council, Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1DE
DATE AND TIME	Thursday 1st June 2023 7.00pm
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Councillors: Chambers, Jones, Barnett, Wright, Pickard, Wilkinson, A Wickham-Young, Forwood, Evans, Smith and Braithwaite. Police: None Borough Councillors: Cllr N Dirveiks, Cllr D Clews, Cllr R Jarvis, Cllr R Taylor Public: G Chamberlain, R Kelly, P Clamp, T Clews, S Bishop, J Thomas,
APOLOGIES	Town Councillors: M Short, G Short, R Collins
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Barnett
CLERK	Deputy Clerk Sally Oldham

Item		Notes
1.	APOLOGIES Cllrs M Short, G Short and Collins. Noted	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, DISPENSATIONS FOR DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST, DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY Cllr Wright declared an interest in the petition on overspill parking and parking permits as Leader of NWBC. Cllr Barnett declared a similar interest as an NWBC Councillor. Cllr Barnett explained that Atherstone Town Council has no direct control of parking. NWBC control off road parking, enforcement is by WCC and other matters are for the police. Atherstone Town Council can however help to manage the impact of parking matters.	
3.	PUBLIC SESSION (maximum 30 minutes) Cllr Chambers spoke on the report she had submitted to Atherstone Town Council which prompted this meeting. Cllr Chambers started the discussion to look at the extent to which parking has been a success in Town and also the issues of overspill parking and the extent to which it is becoming a problem and the provision and cost of longer stay parking in NWBC car parks. P12 06/23	

m. h. Paul

Although noting her report was a little negative there are positives from the introduction of parking charges and enforcement, such as reduced congestion on Long Street. Cllr Chambers felt that the meeting being held is to find out where overspill parking is a problem and what can be done to make parking affordable for residents and workers.

Cllr Chambers raised a number of points:

- A resident on Innage Terrace has reported they are pleased with new arrangement as they can now access the rear of their property more easily from the Cattle Market Car Park.
- However, others for example Tenter Street find it almost impossible to park outside their own home and it has become a daily stressful situation and often they have to park in NWBC car park or the Coop overnight.
- Many of those parking outside the homes in Tenter Street are working in the town.
- Overspill parking has increased significantly since parking charges were introduced and extended to other parts of the town.
- The new arrangement does not suit people who want to park all day every day.
- Residents want low-cost parking permits.
- NWBC car parks are only half full.
- Innage Terrace resident asked for parking permits in February 2022 but instead a £600 season ticket was available instead.
- People are considering moving out of Atherstone as they cannot pay £600 a year.
- In other parts of Warwickshire there are resident schemes but the residents of Atherstone are yet to be contacted.
- Atherstone Town Council should urge NWBC to move this process forward as a lower cost alternative is needed.

Cllr Wright

In response to Cllr Chambers. Cllr Wright challenged some facts.

- Throughout the election campaign it was said that NWBC had the most expensive residents parking scheme in the country outside London.
- Cllr Wright stated that was not true.
- NWBC do not currently have a residents parking scheme and NWBC are not even the most expensive in Warwickshire for off street parking permits. NWBC charge £600 for off street parking permit per annum – Nuneaton and Bedworth charge £770 and Rugby £650 for the same annual permit in their car parks.

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M. G. Ford

- Cllr Wright refuted the claim that there is not a willingness on the part of NWBC to address residents parking permits. Cllr Wright said NWBC had made it clear at the start when car parking charges and enforcement were brought in that residents parking would be looked at. WCC are the Highways Authority responsible for changing Traffic Regulation Orders and any changes to TRO's require Civil Enforcement to be in place first before for example residents parking permits can be implemented. This is the law. NWBC are in regular discussions with WCC and this is exactly what is being looked at. Overspill parking was always going to be a problem until a residents parking scheme could be introduced. Resident Parking Permits can be £40 per annum. There are other areas that require residents permits such as off Coleshill Rd.
- NWBC is a lot bigger than just Atherstone. NWBC does not have a responsibility to provide free car parking in their car parks and £600 is reasonable compared to other districts.
- Atherstone has 300 off street spaces. Coleshill has 18 and there are no complaints from Coleshill residents. It is a problem and NWBC has done it to reduce costs not to make money. Atherstone has benefitted from free parking for many years / parking on yellow lines. The problem has arisen due to conflicting statements made by the Labour Party.

Cllr Wright called upon Cllr Chambers to withdraw her comments and apologise to NWBC and the public for misleading by not comparing like with like regards Residents Parking Schemes (£40 where they operate in WCC Area) v Season Tickets £600 in Atherstone which is cheaper than other local areas.

Cllr Chambers residents want a low-cost parking permit and NWBC is no further forward.

Cllr Evans – having a parking permit still doe does not give you the right to park outside your own house.

Cllr Taylor (NWBC) as someone who lives near the centre of town it is noticeable that since parking enforcement was introduced a lot of cars are coming and parking across driveways or half on/ half off the pathways. Schemes in other parts of the country such as North Norfolk (£240 a year) offer more affordable solutions for residents and workers. Lots of properties there do not have parking – very similar to Atherstone. NWBC could make more money introducing a scheme that is affordable rather than one that is not affordable.

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m. h. Taylor

Richard Kelly

Displacement is a serious issue, but it is the figure of £600 that creates such a massive cost burden having previously had no charge.

Cllr Jones going back to election leaflets accuracy – if you follow the QR Code it says Atherstone is the most expensive – just as Cllr Wright queried earlier - as being incorrect.

Gary Chamberlain

The parking scheme has made a good difference to the town and to local businesses. Mr Chamberlain was unclear what the meeting was about and what the objectives are - whether it was for public opinion or just for debating with a pre-ordained outcome. NWBC are having meetings about it and Atherstone Town Council does not have the power to act. The facts needed to be clear and comparisons on a like for like basis. Mr Chamberlain felt the petition was not really a petition as it gave no alternative options in the question format.

Jo Thomas

A resident from Long Street for 10 years stated that £600 was too much to pay and she must park elsewhere.

Cllr Forwood

Cllr Forwood read out an email from residents Mr and Mrs Clamp. Adding to the list of affected roads Windmill Road, Holte Road and Florence Close which they felt will get worse when double yellow lines are introduced on Sheepy Rd. Vehicles have already been trying to park on the green area near Florence Close. Cllr Forwood had site visited and from the Cemetery Gates she counted 19 cars mostly associated with the NWBC Depot. Meanwhile in town 26 empty spaces could be counted and other spaces around town. Croft Road was full of cars and Cllr Forwood felt this area is an accident waiting to happen when you try to join the main Sheepy Road.

Cllr Clews (NWBC)

Despite businesses moaning at first, they can now get spaces and it is working. Pensioners cannot shop for more than three hours. Residents in Atherstone South and Mancetter who have signed the petition are now worried what they have signed – worried that all streets will get permits and costs. As Atherstone gets bigger the problem will still be there.

Cllr Dirveiks (NWBC)

Whilst it is noted people cannot expect to park outside their own houses people are being prevented access to their own homes. Hairdressers are parking in Croft Road. There have been four occasions recently when an ambulance couldn't get down Croft

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Road if it needed to and there is no excuse for that and NWBC need to do something about that. There is no evidence of residents being consulted and the Town Council could push for that.

Paul Clamp

Speaking as a resident of 30 years and as someone who has served on the police in Atherstone for a number of years – not political. When decision was made the incidents being talked about are not only a throughfare for residents and schools crossing to swimming pool but also for emergency services. Mr Clamp reported an incident he witnessed where a fire engine was blocked in due to parking issues. The problem has just been moved elsewhere and urgent action is needed.

Cllr Jarvis (NWBC)

If people park within 10 metres of a junction the police should ticket them.

Cllr Pickard

Raised the problem for people like him, a mobility scooter user. A concentration of traffic in areas such as Sheepy Road and other places makes it difficult to calculate journeys. Someone needs to look at the obvious strategic places people will park instead of town and how traffic displacement will affect others to then determine for example where dropped kerbs might be needed.

Cllr Jones

There are limited things that the Town Council can do but we can listen. We can send in questions or a letter to NWBC or contact NWBC officers.

(Cllr Dirveiks left the meeting.)

Sara Bishop

Houses are constantly under construction, for example behind the Angel Alehouse, without parking. As Atherstone Town Council is a planning consultee I would urge the Town Council to object to planning for applications without parking provision.

Cllr Jarvis (NWBC)

A statutory red line is drawn in the town and planning within that red line does not require provision of parking. Such an objection would be overruled by the planning inspectorate. If anything the red ring needs removing.

Jo Thomas

It needs a survey to find out who these people are that are parking on the streets – are they residents or workers or visitors.

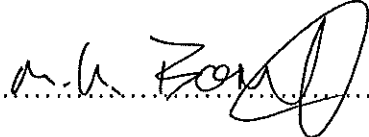
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	<p>Cllr Chambers In response to Cllr Wright saying NWBC car parks cannot be used she asked why can we not use NWBC Parking? WCC rent 12 spaces to NWBC in Woolpack Way.</p> <p>Cllr Wright It is not the responsibility of NWBC and WCC pay for them based on £600 a year, and we cannot rent them out twice.</p> <p>Paul Clamp Urged a site visit by officers and members of WCC and NWBC.</p> <p>Cllr Wright Replied that the Parking Working group is well aware of the issues. It is made up of members of NWBC along with WCC and NWBC officers. As explained earlier we knew there would displacement issues but are working closely with WCC to offer an affordable residents scheme in the near future in many areas, not just those raised already.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor (NWBC) The problem is around choices people make and it is important to help to direct choices by making different decisions on costs. The car parks are empty and the streets are dangerous – the balance is wrong. The evidence is needed within NWBC for the occupancy rates of its car parks.</p>		
<p>4.</p>	<p>PETITION ON OVERSPILL PARKING AND PARKING PERMITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Report from Cllr Chambers – from Full Council 16.5.23 - see appendix 1. b. Correspondence from Richard Kelly see appendix 2. c. Associated information. <p>It was resolved to write the letter as drafted and read out at the meeting (see attached) to Steve Maxey of NWBC. Proposed Cllr Chambers seconded Cllr Forwood.</p>	<p>Letter signed and ready to go with approved minutes</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>P17 06/23</p>		



	<p>1. Employees, former employees and prospective employees, for eg salary of Clerk and Conditions and Terms of Employment.</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 Jones seconded Wright.</p>		
5.	<p>QUOTATIONS</p> <p>a. Mayoral Consort collarette replacement.</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the quotation. Proposed Cllr Pickard seconded Cllr Wickham-Young.</p> <p>b. CCTV - Camera 3 Long Street.</p> <p>It was resolved to request the Clerk to give a written report on the following for the next meeting;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Obtain a quotation for a pole. 2) Feedback from the Town Council Insurers regarding the claim. 3) Chase the owner of the buildings. <p>Proposed Cllr Pickard seconded Cllr Chambers.</p>	<p>Order to place</p> <p>Odette to do for 21.6.23</p>	
6.	<p>EMPLOYMENT – to receive recommendations from Employment Committee working group 23.5.23.</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the recommendations as outlined below 1-10 - documents provided to drop box for members only:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To approve the attached job description and person specification for the role of clerk and RFO 2) To simultaneously advertise for both a permanent position and a locum 3) To approve the advertising of this job in suitable locations such as, the town councils Facebook page, WALC and similar organisations for neighbouring counties, and other relevant locations as the clerks see fit. 4) To approve an advertising budget of £300 5) To approve the following proposed timescales for recruitment 6) Publication of job adverts - ASAP 7) Closing date for applications - 30th June <p>P18 06/23</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

	<p>8) Shortlisting - w/c 3rd July 9) Interviews - w/c 10th July 10) Selection and offer w/c 17th July Proposed Cllr Pickard seconded Cllr Wickham-Young</p> <p>It was further resolved to accept recommendation 11 amended as follows:</p> <p>11) To agree in principle to accept the clerks offer to remain temporarily in an RFO capacity subject to mutual agreement of terms, and to delegate authority to the employment committee to mutually agree to such terms - subject to a clear definition of the work to be done and the timeline within which the work should be delivered. Proposed Cllr Barnett seconded Cllr Braithwaite.</p> <p>It was agreed the Deputy Clerk would work on the administrative paperwork as required on behalf of the Employment Committee.</p>	<p>Ongoing. See draft contract and job description for approval 21.6.23</p> <p>ongoing</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9pm the next meeting is the Town Council meeting on Wednesday 21 June 2023</p>		

Signed  Chairman of Atherstone Town Council