http://atworth.org
Atworth Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15 Jan, 2014
at
Atworth Village Hall, at 7pm

Minutes

Attending – Cllrs, Effie Gale-Sides, Chairman, Maureen Weston, Vice Chairman, Charles Boyle, Juliette de Malpas-Player, Ros Cooper, Arnold Snowball, Alan Bagnell, Ruth Griffin

Cllr Terry Chivers, Wiltshire Council, Mitch Roberts, Parish Clerk

1 **Welcome and Apologies -** Barry Dalton and Cllr William Bird had given their apologies.

2 **Minutes**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Nov 2013 Atworth Parish Council Meeting.

Resolution to approve the minutes – CB, MW

3 **Declarations of Interest** – There were none

4 **Formal closure of the meeting** – The Chairman formally closed the meeting

5 **Public Question Time** – There were no questions, however Terry Chivers gave a report:

- The heavy rains resulted in few problems in the Atworth area. Bradford Lane had drained off quicker than in previous years. If any drains need clearing, please advise him.
- There are still some funds available from the Area Board in the current financial year. Applications for known projects such as a village defibrillator should be made as quickly as possible.
- He has requested that the Melksham apple press be made available to Atworth for one day in October.
- A special meeting of Wilts. Council will be held on Feb 4th to vote again on Councillor's allowances.

6 **Reconvene the meeting** – The meeting was formally reconvened

7 Police Report

In the absence of the Police, the Parish Clerk read out the following report,

Here is a brief Police report for the Parish Council meeting. If you can accept my apologies for not being there and read out the report I would be grateful.

* Firstly we have had further reports of damage being caused to the bus shelter on Bath Road, Atworth where persons have smashed the windows to the shelter in a blatant act of vandalism and we are looking to find out who is responsible. The first reported damage to the bus shelter occurred on the evening of the 20th November but Police got subsequent reports of damage being caused on the 21st December again in the evening where the remaining windows had been smashed. If anyone has any information as to who is responsible then I would urge them to call the Police.

* On the 19th December 2023 we took a report of a fence being damaged by a known adult male in Fleetwood Rise, Atworth. Officers attended and arrested a 26 year old male who was later charged with causing the damage to the fence.

* We took a report for Atworth came in the early hours of the 5th January 2014 when a male reported he had been assaulted on the junction of the A365 and Purlpit around 0310 hours after getting a taxi home from Bath. The male who was only visiting the area and staying with friends had been assaulted stating he had been shoved to the floor and kicked by 4 males. This is an unusual type of crime for the village of Atworth and hopefully this is an isolated one as there is no obvious motive given for the attack. Unfortunately we do not know the identity of these offenders and therefore would ask anyone with information to come forward to the Police.

* On 13th January 2014 we had a report from residents of 2 teenage males seen around 2200 hours staring in to parked cars in Fleetwood Rise. It was not established what they could have been up to and there may have been a legitimate reason but I would advise all residents of Atworth to remove all items of value from their cars. Items such as handbags, purses, mobiles phones and ipads are obviously high value items that will tempt the opportunist thief.

* Further afield in Melksham Town Centre you may have become aware of increasing reports of beggars in the street which has upset a number of shoppers and storeholders. This is a concern that has been brought to the attention of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and we are looking at tackling the issue. On Friday 10th January one adult male was arrested for begging and issued with an adult caution after 6 separate reports that day. Begging is an offence and we therefore

advise people not to give these people money and report the matter to the Police.

Obviously if there are any issues raised at the meeting that I should be made aware of then please forward them on to the Neighbourhood Policing team and we will endeavour to follow up.

8 ATAG report

Ruth Griffin provided the following CATG meeting update

Here's a brief report of the CATG meeting today .
The main items of interest for Atworth were -
1) The Zebra crossing , possible extension of the zig zags .Reporting on the generally negative response of residents following Mitch's survey , Mark Stansby has suggested a meeting with APC to discuss a way forward . Terry Chivers would like to join that meeting as would ATAG . I suggest we contact all concerned and arrange a meeting sooner rather than later.
2) Terry Chivers and myself are planning a "survey" of driver behaviour around the site of the hatching and village gates. We will take the results to CATG with a view to pushing for double white lines in the future.
3) Wiltshire has published its 20mph speed limit & zones policy. The document is available on request from Mark Stansby and / or Alison Sullivan if anyone would like to read it .
4) The "re-launch" of Speedwatch has been successful and the scheme should now continue unhindered by hiccups & slow responses .
The next CATG meeting is 29th April .

9 Parish Plan Review – John Polhill, Parish Plan Steering Group Chairman, provided an update regarding the current review of the plan. A summary of the key objective headings and feedback that is being considered is attached at **Appendix A**

The opportunity to influence plan, will be offered to residents for their consideration, at the Parish Assembly

10 Village Hall and Rec Update – In the absence of Richard Clark, Effie Gale-Sides advised those attending that the Trustees had been busy surveying other village halls. They are now seeking good used kitchen furniture, which could be used in Atworth. At the same time, the grass cutting contactor is now performing well, at the Rec.

11 Matters Arising

- Youth Club Lease Renewal – complete.

- Waiting restriction proposals for Mead Park and Bradford Rd. **Resolution** Mead Park proposals supported CB, RG. Bradford Rd proposals supported CB, MW, coupled to a request to consider some markings on the opposite side of the road to, discourage any displacement of current issues
- Telephone Box Adoption – It was agreed that the box would be formally adopted **Resolution** AS, RG AB opposed, RC abstained, EGS abstained, **ACTION Parish Clerk** to arrange for the transfer documents to be prepared and signed as appropriate and also attempt to get the box refurbished, as part of the transfer of asset package
- Pedestrian Crossing Safety Aspects – returns from residents suggest that there is no appetite for extension of the zig zags. Mark Stansby is to speak directly to members at a future meeting, regarding the way forward**, ACTION Parish Clerk** to arrange a meeting.

12 Agenda Items

- Clock Tower Centenary Aspects – costs to be considered under the precept setting on Jan 22 – other funding to be sought also. Possible funding sources are the War Memorial Trust, English Heritage, Area Board **Resolution** AB, AS to earmark £2000 from the precept, to cover the Parish Council's contribution**. ACTION Parish Clerk** to submit a bid to the Area Board requesting £3000
- Clock Tower lighting proposal – it was suggested that this could be considered and delivered at a future date, in a new financial year, possibly 2015/16
- Members wished it be known that many residents had made favourable comments, regarding the installation of Christmas lights at the clock tower. AS had suggested the proposal and WB and EGS had financially contributed to the decorations.
- Precept 2014/15 – to be considered at the Jan 22nd extraordinary meeting
- Housing – EGS will speak to Sir James Fuller
- Vandalism – vigilance is important and any incidents are to be reported to the Parish Clerk
- Head of Churchfields – Simon Futcher – introductions have been formally made
- Bus stop sign at the Western end of the village. The sign was removed by mistake, by Wiltshire Council. If budgets permit, they will replace the sign
- Bus stop repairs – The smashed glazings are to be replaced, using clear poly carbonate. **Resolution** AB, AS, to appoint the bus shelter provider, Queensbury Shelters, as the service provider and accept the excess charge of £120.00. **Parish Clerk ACTION** – to include the provision of a 'CCTV protected' graphic

13 Correspondence

- CAB funding request
- Community First funding request
- Post Office – Melksham facility relocation to the High St – Terry Chivers advised that the Royal Mail element of the building, may relocate to either Bowerhill or Bumpers Farm

Members considered the requests for funding but the consensus was that we are in austere times, have our own precept issues and improvements to village facilities are required.

14 Planning Applications

Reference	Application details
W/13/05155/FUL	Erection of a single storey extension to house plant, provision of a cycle and motor cycle shelter to the existing industrial unit and provision of internal mezzanine floor and associated works 9 Atworth Business Park, Bath RD, Atworth. SN12 8SB
W/13/05197/FUL	Proposed replacement rear single storey extension, external store and associated works Spring and Mead cottages, 189 Purlpit, Atworth. SN12 8HJ

15 Authorisation of Cheques

• 000927	RBL Wreath	17.00
• 000928	Dry stone wall repair	200.00
• 000929	Rec grass cutting	95.70
• 000930	Youth club lease completion	1158.00
• 000931	Rec grass cutting	95.70
• 000932	Accounts software update	128.40

Resolution required to approve these cheques AS, RC

16 Financial Statement – Dec 31, 2013

Bank Balances

Current Account – Barclays	6835.52	(07/01/2014)
Deposit Account – Santander	4527.61	(06/12/2014)

Add monies owed to Council

VAT Refund Due	327.80	
Parking & gate Fees	319.00	
Monies banked but not shown	00.00	12009.93

Deduct monies owed by Council

Cheques not yet cashed – none	00.00

Total Current Net Cash Assets **12009.93**

Fixed Assets

5 Bus Shelters	13261
7 Wooden Seats	2483
Funeral Bier	1707
Youth Club Premises	268421
War Memorial	43000

Resolution to accept the financial statement CB, MW

17 Any Other Business

- Police Commissioner Consultation – The Parish Clerk will respond **ACTION** Parish Clerk
- The Chairman asked members to give some thought to nominating individuals in the village for recognition awards
- The Chairman also recognised the need for a good PA system for the Parish Assembly **ACTION** Parish Clerk

18 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at the village hall, on March 19, 2014.

The next Councillor Surgery will take place at the village hall, on Feb 19, 2014. Cllr's Effie Gale-Sides, Charles Boyle and Terry Chivers will attend this meeting, as will the Parish Clerk

Date 16 Jan, 2014 **Signed.** *Mitch Roberts* Parish Clerk

APPENDIX A Parish Plan

Homes & Housing					
	ISSUE	**OBJECTIVE**	**ACTION**	**PARTNERSHIP**	**TIMETABLE**
1	Affordable Housing	To provide sufficient and correct mix of dwellings to meet the needs of those living in or with family ties to Atworth.	Approach Wiltshire Council (WC) and relevant Housing Association. Landowners.	Atworth Parish Council (APC), WC and potential providers	5 years
2	Elderly and Family Housing	To provide a balance to the Affordable Housing supply.	Open a debate to identify and encourage a means of more effective use of Affordable Housing and check how this may influence future need of these types of housing stock.	APC, WC, Housing Association, private landlords	2 years
3	Flooding	Remove currently identified 'hotspots' to prevent future flooding episodes.	Approach WC Highways to identify and agree causal locations and pursue a remedial plan with WC and adjacent landowners.	APC , WC and landowners	3 years
4	Wiltshire 2026	Ensure our community is aware of WC vision for Wiltshire in 2026 and the effects this vision may have on our Parish.	Open debate within our Parish. Provide access and contact details to our community for the WC team working on Wiltshire 2026 and encourage community comment through both APC and direct to WC.	APC, WC, Village Magazine, community	Immediate and ongoing

Steering Group members comments for consideration.

HOUSING

- **The core strategy document needs to reflect the recent demand from central government, for even more housing stock**
- **Two plots of land have been offered to Wiltshire Council for possible development, both are adjacent to each other and form part of or adjoin the Dowty site (Prospect paddock)**
- **The effect of the recent bedroom tax has not, as yet, been witnessed. There could be an imbalance within the village, whereby Shell Court, Mount Pleasant and Fleetwood Rise residents are 'living in the wrong place'. This is a sensitive issue, but may have to be addressed at some time, in order to strengthen the parish plan.**

- **Community First need to update their affordable housing requirement estimate figures**

FLOODING

- **There has been some improvement since the appointment of the community coordinators. There is also a closer relationship between landowners and the parish. Wiltshire Council are keen to strengthen these working partnerships.**
- **Emergency Planning procedures are also being reviewed, to embrace potential flooding issues**

WILTSHIRE 2026

- **It has been suggested that 'Wiltshire 2026', from a resident's perspective is a bit of a mystery. It would be useful to seek from Wiltshire Council a concise brief, regarding the concept of Wiltshire 2026 and an up to date snap shot of where we are, regarding its delivery. We can then deliver that message to all of our residents as parts of the parish plan review.**

What Is Wiltshire 2026?

Wiltshire Council came into being on 1st April 2029 and unites the former Districts of North and West Wiltshire, Kennet and Salisbury with the former Wiltshire County Council. The merger of five planning authorities provides the opportunity to bring together their development plans and to prepare a single local development framework (LDF) for the whole of Wiltshire.

The most important component of the LDF is the core strategy. Wiltshire Council has prepared Wiltshire 2026 for public consultation as an important step towards the development of the Wiltshire Core Strategy. It is intended to take forward the work already undertaken by the former Wiltshire District Councils. The present document is not a core draft *policy*. It is however an important stage in the preparation of the core draft strategy which will follow in 2010.

Wiltshire 2026 contains a number of elements which will steer the shape of the core strategy and which will allocate development to individual towns and community areas across Wiltshire. It is therefore most important for Wiltshire Council to engage with its communities, (i.e. us), and stakeholders to ensure that its forthcoming policies and proposals are sound.

How does it affect Atworth?

Atworth is the only large village in the Melksham Community Area. It provides a reasonable level of services and is the focus of some employment. A modest level of development will therefore be appropriate. It is anticipated that Atworth will have

capacity to accommodate modest levels of development, to respond to housing need and support local services, increasing its self containment.

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Environment					
	ISSUE	**OBJECTIVE**	**ACTION**	**PARTNERSHIP**	**TIMETABLE**
1	Improve current recycling facilities	To reinstate within the village the facility of large bins for the public to recycle plastics and cardboard.	Consult the relevant authorities with a view to provide facilities for recycling plastics and cardboard.	APC, AYC, WC and recycling agencies	2 years
2	Replace stiles with kissing gates where appropriate	To encourage the use of footpaths and enable easier maintenance.	Consult the relevant bodies and identify areas of greatest need.	APC, WC, Ramblers Assoc, occupiers and landowners including the National Trust	2 years, ongoing
3	Improve wheelchair access and facilities in recreation ground	To create an easy access to the recreation ground for wheelchair users and provide an all-weather surface path around perimeter.	Discuss with relevant bodies the installation of an easy access gate for wheelchair users and the creation of an all-weather surface path around perimeter for all users.	Rec. Gnd. committee, APC, WC., relevant grant giving bodies, charities	2 years
4	Litter including dog waste	To reduce litter and eliminate dog waste on public areas and footpaths.	Obtain practical advice from WC Dog Warden. Explore options for enforcement	APC, WC, WI, residents and Wilts Police	1 year

			and on-the-spot fines.		

Abbreviations

A.P.C.	Atworth Parish Council
A.P.P.S.G.	Atworth Parish Plan Steering Group
A.Y.C.	Atworth Youth Club
W.C.	Wiltshire Council
W.I.	Women's Institute

Steering group members comments for consideration

ENVIRONMENT

- **Recycling facilities – It has been suggested that the current Wiltshire Council kerbside service seems to suit the vast majority of residents and any consideration for bringing back local recycling containers, could create more problems than perceived benefits**

STILES / KISSING GATES

- **This is an ongoing improvement, 4 have been delivered leaving 2 or 3 to be done, when repairs are required to existing stiles**

RECREATION GROUND, ACCESS AND FACILITIES

- **Disabled Access - This should feature as a Trustee's priority, with external funding being sought**
- **Improved facilities – Work has already commenced to upgrade the facilities, but more enhancements are planned, new seating, floral displays, etc**

LITTER INCLUDING DOG WASTE

- **More litter and dog waste bins are required within the village. Complementary polite notices, should also be considered**

OTHER ISSUES

- **Copse of Pines – to be resolved – confirmation of ownership and management**
- **Wiltshire Council contractual issues, grass cutting / weed clearances standards and frequency of services**
- **Notice board for Chalfield**
- **Periodic review of emergency plan**
- **Clock tower lighting**

Leisure, Sport & Social Activities					
	ISSUE	**OBJECTIVE**	**ACTION**	**PARTNERSHIP**	**TIMETABLE**
1	Improve provision of exercise/sport classes and facilities for all within the Parish.	To provide within the village the opportunity to participate in walking, Pilates, yoga and general keep fit classes for both able and disabled. This will give 'local provision' for such demand and reduce the need to travel for such facilities. Provide contact details for running and cycling clubs in the area.	Assess demand and then identify potential provider organisations. Engage with Village Hall Cttee as indoor facility provider and Recreation Ground Cttee as outdoor facility provider. Identify & publicise existing clubs.	APC as catalyst, external provider organisations, Village Hall Cttee & Recreation Ground Cttee	1 year
2	Provide regular village social events	Make available regular events such as quiz evening, bingo, film/music evening, food & drink event, luncheon club for elders. A regular companionship facility for elders & those living alone.	Better publicise existing events already offered by White Hart P H, Neston Farm Shop & School. Identify providers for events not yet offered.	Current Event providers, Age Concern, APC to identify provider for new events & facilities	1 year
3	Provide an annual Atworth	Have a focal event to bring together	Assess demand and identify a	APC Possible commercial	2 years

	Community Event	people from all parts of our Parish at a social event that will appeal to all and promote the widely expressed wish to increase the sense of community in Atworth.	suitable event and provision format, suggestions include barn dance, barbeque, village fete, 'Party at the Rec'	stakeholders	
4	Publicity for events and resources	The Parish Plan Questionnaire identified demand for many events, facilities and resources that are currently available but clearly need to be better publicised. This will improve take up for the benefit of providers and participants.	Identify 'wishes/wants' and identify providers. Send providers details and encourage greater publicity.	APC, APPSG The Village Magazine, WC publications Commercial providers	1 year

Steering group members comments for consideration

IMPROVE PROVISION OF SPORTS CLASSES

- **Church Hall now offers some classes**
- **Village Hall also offers activities**
- **Definite improvement regarding the general offer**

PROVISION OF SOCIAL EVENTS

- **Many events already take place**
- **The residents need to be formally approached and asked what they wish to see taking place in the village generally, films, tea dances, discos, etc**

- **The over 55's event is now well attended and self funding, which proves that with a few volunteers, much can be achieved**
- **The White Hart is also extremely pro-active, in terms of engaging with the local community**

PROVISION OF AN ANNUAL EVENT

- **A cycling event is scheduled for 2014, which, if managed properly could become an annual event. This event involves local residents, children, youth and adults**
- **Village Hall Centenary Event in 2014**
- **Summer Show still active, but under new management**

PUBLICITY FOR EVENTS

- **We are extremely fortunate in that we have an excellent village website and newsletter**

Traffic, Transport & Highways					
	ISSUE	**OBJECTIVE**	**ACTION**	**PARTNERSHIP**	**TIMETABLE**
1	Measures to reduce speeding traffic	To minimise the risk of harm to pedestrians and other road users by reducing the speed of vehicles a) through the village on A365 b) along Bradford Road/Wiltshire Cycleway.	a) Investigate for a 40 mph zone on A365 to be extended northwards from the village past farm shop and to install an electronic speed reminder. b) To designate the Bradford Rd/Wiltshire Cycleway a 'Quiet Lane'. c) Investigate 'village gates' on entering 30 mph zone.	APC, Box PC, WC, police and landowners	2 years
2	Pedestrian safety	To level and resurface	Identify areas of need and	APC, WC, residents and	2 years

		pavements and install dropped kerbs where necessary.	submit to relevant authorities.	landowners	
3	Flooding of highways	Reduce risk of flooding wherever susceptible.	Improve drainage, enlarge culverts where necessary.	APC, WC, occupiers and landowners	1 year
4	North/South bus routes	To provide a bus service linking Atworth with Bradford-on-Avon, Corsham and Chippenham.	Encourage the public bus company to provide a N/S service.	APC, First Bristol Buses, WC, Area Board new MP Duncan Hames	1 year
5	Street parking	To reduce the hazards of parking along streets.	Identify suitable alternative sites for car parking.	APC, police, landowners	2 years
6	Erosion of grassed area in Market Place	To improve the appearance and definition of the grassed area of the Market Place.	Consult with WC APC planning sub-committee.	APC, WC, and residents	1 year
7	Need for bus shelters	To provide shelters at Shell Court and the Clock Tower.	Investigate the possibility of providing shelter at bus stops.	APC, WC	2 years

Steering group members comments for consideration

MEASURES TO REDUCE SPEEDING TRAFFIC

- **Active Speed watch**
- **New Village gateways**
- **Hatched markings at the Western exit of the village**
- **Further investigate a survey of the traffic between the Farm Shop and Five Ways. This has been suggested by Mark Stansby (Highways), but CATG funding is not in place to support this. Secure the necessary funding. ATAG are actively pursuing these proposals. The overall objective is to secure double white lines and a speed reduction.**

- **SID's should still be pursued, for installation within the village**
- **Cut back vegetation, which obscures traffic speed signs**

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- **Pavement survey has been carried out – ATAG, Cllr Terry Chivers, School Travel PlanSurvey**
- **Bradford Rd/ Wiltshire Cycle way – Designate as a quiet Lane**
- **Pavement widths should comply with national minimum safety standards, to facilitate safe passage of wheelchairs, motorised scooters and buggies**
- **Periodic surveys are carried out by the Parish Chair and Clerk to identify vegetation overgrowth, which spills over onto pavements**

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

- **A recent safety audit identified areas of concern**
- **Households within the immediate area of the crossing point, have been asked for their views regarding an extension of the zig zag road markings**
- **Wiltshire Council Highways are seeking a long term solution**

FLOODING OF HIGHWAYS

- **Ongoing works by the Community Coordinator has reduced areas of concern**

NORTH / SOUTH BUS ROUTES

- **Services are being subjected to ongoing reviews and it is important to maintain a watching brief**

STREET PARKING

- **Access routes to the Recreation ground, will be cleared of vegetation, to permit efficient parking of village hall and recreation ground users vehicles**
- **Consent has also been secured, for out of hours use of parking facilities at the Dowty Industrial Estate**
- **Bradford Rd and Mead Park residents will be consulted upon, regarding the installation of double yellow line road markings**
- **Churchfields school traffic continues to be a concern**

EROSION OF GRASSED AREAS IN THE MARKET PLACE

- **This issue has now been resolved by kerbing the area**

NEED FOR BUS SHELTERS

- **This issue has now been resolved, following the installation of 2 new shelters**