



OYEZ!

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COUNCIL NEWS
APRIL 2007

Council was told that thirteen candidates had put themselves forward for the thirteen seats on the Town Council for the next 4 year period. This would mean **no Town Council election on May 3rd.** but with a full Council this would meet one of the requirements of Quality Parish Council status. **There will be an election for District Councillor - please use your vote.**

The following Axbridge residents will be the **elected unopposed councillors** after May 3rd.: Mike Taylor, Kate Browne, Baz Hamblin, Jennifer Trotman, Dennis Bratt, Jeremy Gall, Pauline Ham, Val Isaac, Jim Lukins, Andrew Matthews, Paul Passey, Liz-Scott. Chris Byrne, from our neighbouring parish of Compton Bishop, will also become a Town Councillor. He is qualified to stand as he lives within 3 miles of the Axbridge boundary.

The **Mayor Making ceremony** will take place on May 14th. All are welcome to attend. Doors open 19.30 for **PROMPT** start at 20.00.

Before the April Meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Mr. Felix Marsh, the Rural Housing Enabler from Somerset Community Council. He explained how Axbridge might be surveyed to discover what need there is in the community for **affordable housing for local people**. Any such housing project in the town would depend upon proven need and the availability of development land close to town facilities.

It was reported that **Axbridge Action Group** is intending to commission an independent Traffic Management Survey for the town. Councillors were reminded that any changes to traffic flow in Axbridge were subject to Somerset Highways agreement and budget.

The Town Trust has obtained descriptive labels for the **portraits** and other pictures on display in the Council Chamber. These will be in place shortly.

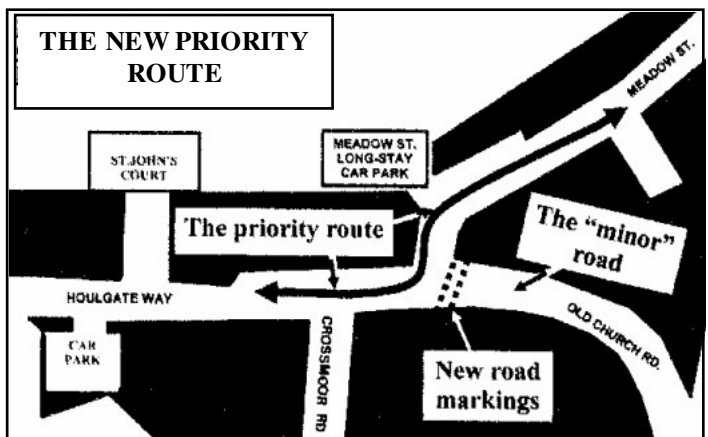
The Trust is also arranging for the repair of the grandfather clock from the Chamber.

The Police reported the theft of two motor cars in Axbridge over the past month. It was reported that PCSO Julie Lewis is now allocated solely to the Axbridge "beat".

The **ancient fire-engine**, once housed on the first floor of the Town Hall is now on display at the Axbridge Museum. Other changes have been made to the displays for the new season. Entry to King John's Hunting Lodge is free.

The District Councils in Somerset are to arrange a **referendum** on the proposal that the county might be a **Unitary Authority**. This will be in early June and will be a "one person, one vote" survey. The results, though not binding, will be fed into the Government's decision-making process.

Councillors were concerned that the **priority change in Old Church Road** had been poorly signed by Somerset Highways. No warning signs had been erected. Below is a diagram showing that **traffic from the Square to Houlgate Way now has priority**.



The Council resolved that the sum of money that remains unspent from the production of **the Parish Plan** should be allocated to the purchase and erection of the Youth Shelter for the Furlong. The members of the Parish Plan Steering Group will be asked to agree.

This project was one of several recommended as a result of the Parish Plan survey and was in the subsequent Report.

