



OYEZ!

NEWS FROM
YOUR NEW
TOWN COUNCIL

MAY 2007



The Annual Mayor-making ceremony took place on May 14th. at which Cllr. Mike Taylor (MT) took the historic Oath of Office. Cllr. Kate Browne (KB) is to be Deputy Mayor

At the **May monthly meeting** the Mayor welcomed the 4 new Town Councillors - Liz Scott (LS), Val Isaac (VI), Chris Byrne (CB) and Andy Matthews (AM) and 6 members of the public.

Also present were 8 other councillors - Kate Browne, Dennis Bratt (DB), Jim Lukins (JL), Jennifer Trotman (JT), Jeremy Gall (JG), Pauline Ham (PH), Paul Passey (PP), Baz Hamblin (BH).

Before the meeting a one minute silence was observed in memory of **Megan Baker**, a long-time resident of the town, whose work in the community had been greatly valued.

Barbara Myerson from **Axbridge Action Group** asked for advice from the Council, since the group has been granted £1000 by the Somerset and Avon Police to support Youth Activities in the town. A joint meeting will be arranged with the Council's Youth Partnership Committee.

Peter Harding also spoke on behalf of the group. He asked that the Council support an independent **Traffic Management Survey** for the town. The Council's Highways Advisory Committee will discuss this and report back.

Appointments were made to Standing Committees (SC), which meet in public, and to Advisory Committees (AC) which do not. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are *ex-officio* members of all committees. Representatives (R) were also appointed to a number of outside agencies.

All appointments are listed below:

Planning (SC)	BH-VI-PH
Showcase (SC)	BH-JT-DB-LS-AM
Grievance/Disciplinary (SC)	KB-PP-PH
Appeals Panel (SC)	JT-JL-DB
Admin/Finance (AC)	JG & Clerk
Axbridge Promotion (AC)	PP-JG-JT-BH-JL
Youth Partnership (AC)	DB-PP-JT-BH
Cemetery/Allotments (AC)	JL
Highways (AC)	JG-PP-BH-LS-VI
Leisure & Recreation (AC)	PH-DB-AM
Personnel & Protocol (AC)	PH-VI-PP
Emergency Planning (R)	DB
Public Rights of Way (R)	JL
Axbridge Action Group (R)	BH
Chamber of Commerce (R)	BH
Farmers' Market (R)	LS
Help Make Poverty History (R)	BH
Axbridge Museum (R)	BH
Mendip Hills AONB (R)	JT-LS
Quarry Liaison (R)	JL-LS
Somerset Assn. Local Councils (R)	MT-PP-Clerk
Market Towns' Forum (R)	JT-BH
Sports & Social Cttee. (R)	PH-DB-AM
Town Twinning (R)	JT
Sedgemoor Area Working Panel (R)	BH-PP-KB-MT
Somerset Youth Dervice (R)	DB
Town Trust/Council Joint Cttee.	MT-PH-LS-PP

The following **Honorary Officers** were confirmed:

Sergeant-at-Mace	Mike Day
Town Bailiff	James McKay
Town Crier	Vonnie Chamberlain
Keeper of the Bells	Dave Callow
Modern Town Archivist	Maggie Tur

Margaret Crawford (Parochial Church Council) explained that the **church clock** was still not working because of problems with the automatic winding mechanism. She asked that the Council consider making a grant to help with costs for a replacement.

The **newly-elected District Councillor, Liz Scott**, reported that the turnout for the District Election on May 3rd. had been just over 37% - one of the highest in Sedgemoor.

The Cheddar Valley Gazette had withdrawn its **sponsorship of planters** in the Square. The Town Trust would endeavour to meet the shortfall from elsewhere.

Councillors agreed that a **housing needs survey** should be distributed to every household with the May issue of "Oyez". The information gathered could lead to the building of affordable housing for local people.

The **police** had recorded just two incidents over the past month - a car theft and damage to a vehicle wing-mirror.

The Council voted not to display a **petition** being organised by Sedgemoor District Council against the proposed Unitary Authority for Somerset. It was felt that this issue was too "political" for the Council as a body to support.

The Youth Open Doors event (May 5th.) had highlighted the many activities available to Axbridge youth and had been well received by those who visited and those who exhibited. The **directory of activities** published for the event will be available in public places in town and on the website (www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)

Axbridge First School would be happy to hear from anyone who could offer time and expertise to teach pupils aspects of Country Dance - including Maypole dancing. Contact the school on 732391

A planning application concerning a **mediaeval wall** at the rear of the Manor House is still under close scrutiny.

Council approved the **Annual Accounts** and these may be inspected by arrangement with the Town Clerk.

Council was told that once the extension work to **Axbridge Surgery** is finished, there will be more parking spaces for visitors than previously existed.

Members were told that additional notices to indicate the **priority change** at Old Church Road now had been put in place.

Concerns were expressed by councillors about troublesome dogs on droves and other public areas in the town. Livestock were being disturbed and small children frightened. **Residents are asked always to keep their dogs on leads or under close control and to "scoop the poop"**

A "walker friendly" gate is to be put across the **Wood Lane footpath** north of the by-pass - to prevent cattle wandering onto the road whilst being moved between pastures.

Councillors commended the degree of information provided by the contractors at the Reservoir. Check out the Council's award-winning **website** at www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk

The Council will ask if the sum of money paid to Sedgemoor District Council by a Chestnut Avenue resident for a **right of access across Council property** may be used to fund improvements to open space at the west end of the avenue. Axbridge Council has asked Sedgemoor about the possibility of levelling and re-seeding the area, together with some grass protection measures.

Are you entitled to **help with your Council Tax and Rent?** Unsure? Contact Sedgemoor District Council and ask Steve Trunks - 01278 435412.

On benefits? Over 60? Disabled? **Need help with your garden?** Somerset County Home Improvement Programme may be able to help. Phone 01278 444815 for more information or to **volunteer as a gardener**.

Do you have **views about Health Care** in Somerset? You can have your say at a Patient and Public Involvement Forum. Phone 0845 1207111

St. Margaret's Hospice is keen to set up a support group in the area. Interested? Phone 0845 345 9671

Issues for the Town Council? Come to Council Meetings (3rd. Monday each month 19.30 at Town Hall) **or** contact Mrs. Vicky Brice, the Town Clerk on 07884 264033 or email vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk

**FUN DAY 7TH. JULY with "Live Earth" theme
SOMERSET SHOWCASE 1ST. SEPTEMBER**