



## OYEZ!

The latest news from  
Axbridge Town Council  
MAY 2009



### POLICE REPORT

PCSO Sam Haydon attended the meeting and reported that the proposed "Restorative Justice" process in respect of the damage done to the Youth Shelter on the Furlong was reaching its conclusion. It was her intention to re-establish a "Beat Surgery" at the Town Hall shortly. She would also continue to make the monitoring of illegal parking a priority.

### MUSEUM FUNDING

A new group to support the Axbridge Museum – Friends of Axbridge Museum – will be launched on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Oak House, with a talk on "The History of Time". Tickets will be available at the usual outlets.

### PARKING SURVEY

Members approved a proposal from the Highways Advisory Group that a sample survey should be carried out at the June Farmers' Market to establish what reasons motorists residents offered either for using, or not using, the Meadow Street car-park. This information may guide the council in its future policy towards the management of the car-park and the cost of parking there.

### PAGEANT COMMITTEE

The main officers of the 2010 Axbridge Pageant Committee are:

Chair	Roy Fisher	732048
Secretary	Pauline Ham	732062
Fundraising	Paul Hughes	732429

### TOWN DESIGN STATEMENT

The group working on the Town Design Statement hopes to be able to make a public presentation of their first draft ideas in September.

### SIGNS IN THE SQUARE

Members agreed to request that Somerset Highways puts a second "finger-post" in the Square to indicate the whereabouts of the two car parks more precisely for the benefit of visitors to the town.

### MAYOR MAKING



At the annual Mayor-Making session on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Cllr. Mrs. Jennifer Trotman was elected Mayor and publicly took her oath of office. Her charity for the year will be **Action Medical Research** and to that end she will be undertaking several sponsored cycling events. The details may be found at [www.thecyclingmayor.com](http://www.thecyclingmayor.com).

Cllr. Jeremy Gall was elected Deputy-Mayor for the year.

### ALLOTMENT RENTS

Somerset County Council has agreed to a lower increase in the annual rent for the allotments at Hillside as proposed by the Town Council following last month's meeting.

### ANNUAL AUDIT

Members approved figures presented by the Clerk showing income and expenditure details for the year 2008/9, which had also been approved by the council's internal auditor. Financial papers may be inspected by electors of the parish on application to the Town Clerk.

### **MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE**

Members approved the Mayor's annual allowance in the sum of £1250. There was comment that the Mayor should not be "out-of-pocket" in meeting the demands of mayoral duties. The Admin and Finance Advisory Group will be considering the matter of the size of the allowance and how it is spent and making recommendations to Council.

### **CRICKET NET INSURANCE**

As it is intended that the new cricket nets on the Furlong shall be for public use when not required by the Cricket Club, members agreed that "all-risks" insurance cover should be obtained by the council.

### **CARERS' PAYMENTS**

By a majority vote, members agreed that the council should take legal advice about a proposed scheme to allow council to fund payments for carers when members, who have responsibility for dependants, are required to undertake activities on behalf of the council.

### **POSSIBLE NEW FOOTPATHS**

Council was advised that the possible creation of "permissive paths" across parts of the parish would best be achieved by initially contacting the landowner and leaving Somerset County Council out of the discussions at this stage.

### **STANDING ORDERS**

Members approved new Standing Orders giving clearer guidance to the Clerk as to how different categories of correspondence are to be presented to councillors.

### **MAYOR'S XI V. RECTOR'S XI**

The traditional cricket match between Mayor's and Rector's teams is planned for **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July**. The time and venue will be announced later.

### **CYCLE RACKS**

Members agreed to make enquiries about the possibility of obtaining free cycle racks for placing in the Square, assuming a satisfactory location can be found for them.

### **FURLONG REPAIRS**

Repairs have been carried out on the safety surfaces by the roundabout and the 'baboon' climbing frame on the children's play area. The initial cause of the damage

to the youth shelter has been accepted by the supplier to be as a result of the system of delivery of the unit which caused stress fractures to the Perspex.

Councillors were told that work would shortly begin to re-seed considerable parts of the football pitches at the Furlong at the football clubs' expense. Protective fences would be erected.

### **AXBRIDGE CARNIVAL & CIVIC LUNCH**

Discussions are being held with the Axbridge Blackberry Carnival Committee about the possibility of inviting civic dignitaries to a lunch on Carnival Day rather than on the Showcase Day. The carnival this year is on **26<sup>th</sup> September** and the theme is "The Swinging Sixties"

### **FENCE REPAIRS AT BARNABAS CLOSE**

Members were told that the Residents' Group at Barnabas Close would be seeking to have repaired the fence surrounding the green space at the east end of the close.

### **RECYCLING SCHEME**

Councillors were told that a proportion of properties in the town were not yet part of the Somerset Waste Partnership "Sort-It Plus" recycling scheme and that the trial scheme would continue until next year. Residents concerned at their non-involvement should contact Sedgemoor Direct (0845 4082540) in the first instance.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUS STOPS**

Residents from Houlgate Way addressed the council during the public participation session and expressed their concerns at proposals that a temporary experimental bus-stop should be created at the west end of Houlgate Way just north of the entrance to Starrs Close. They foresaw traffic movement problems and the possibility of a "temporary" scheme becoming permanent by default.

Any resident wishing to see the plans and/or to make comment should contact the Town Clerk.

### **Issues for the Town Council?**

Come to Council Meetings (3rd. Monday each month 19.30) or contact Mrs. Vicky Brice, the Town Clerk on 07884 264033 or email [vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk](mailto:vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk)