

OYEZ,! OYEZ! OYEZ!
READ THE NEWS FROM
AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S
SEPTEMBER MEETING



**OLD BUTCHER'S YARD
FOOTWAY**

The Members made it clear to the two District and County Councillors that there was extreme frustration at the failure of both their authorities' officers to ensure that the footpath outside Old Butcher's Yard is completed in compliance with the planning permission granted to the developer.

Each organisation seemed to be laying the blame at the door of the other. The Clerk was instructed to write in the strongest possible terms to all concerned and to request a meeting with Sedgemoor District Council's Development Control officer at the earliest opportunity, with copies to other relevant parties.

**ACCESS TO CHEDDAR POLICE
STATION**

It was reported that members of the public had been having some difficulty in gaining access to the police at Cheddar Police Station; that even when it was advertised as being "open" – no-one was at home.

AXBRIDGE FARMERS' MARKET

The Somerset Farmers' Market (SFM) manager would like to thank all Axbridge residents who remove their cars from the Square early on the first Saturday of every month to allow the stalls to be set out.

SFM is to be asked for a policy to cover charity collections for non-local charities within the market, as the Council's own Community Stall is for

Axbridge groups only.

There will be a free draw ticket for a Christmas Hamper, available to anyone who attends the next two Farmers' Markets. This will include a questionnaire, which would give an opportunity for customers to provide feedback on the market. The draw will be made at the December Market.

**REVIEW OF CLASS "A" AND "B"
ROADS**

Somerset County Council is undertaking a review of speed limits on all class "A" and "B" roads in the county. The Town Council is to be consulted on those that affect the parish.

TOWN TRUST

The new Secretary to the Town Trust is Mr Francis Rabbitts, 10 High Street, Axbridge.

COUNTY REVIEW OF SCHOOLS

County Councillor Dawn Hill assured members that the County Council had no plans to re-organise any schools within the Cheddar Valley area.

BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

Councillors were dismayed to learn that the proposed expansion to Bristol Airport would create an estimated extra 9% of traffic on the A38, without any clear plans by Somerset Council to alleviate this; junctions on A38 at Cross and Shute Shelve were seen as potential problem spots.

AXBRIDGE BUDGET PREPARATION

Councillors were asked to bring to the October meeting any estimates for proposed projects or general expenditure for 2010/11. The budget will be set at the November meeting and the Precept (Council Tax) agreed then.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillors expressed concern that the process to find a site and to initiate the building of Affordable Housing in the town seemed to have proceeded without an acceptable degree of consultation with the Town Council. The promoters of the scheme would be invited to address Council at the earliest opportunity.

CAR PARK MANAGEMENT

Now that the Meadow Street car-park is owned by the Council, a group of councillors has been charged with producing a plan for its future management. This will include making recommendations about charging, signage and general maintenance. Sedgemoor District Council is expected to continue running the car-park in the usual way for at least 18 months. There will be no change to charges for the next 12 months.

AXBRIDGE ACTION GROUP

Axbridge Action Group members will make a presentation to the Council's Highways Advisory Group and seek support for temporary changes to traffic management within the town, in line with the report commissioned by the group last year.

PAGEANT

The Axbridge Pageant 2010 committee is looking for more volunteers to help with sewing costumes (contact Jackie Fowler 733077).

The Council would have no objection to a semi-permanent sign being attached to signs at each end of the town advertising the pageant.

If any group within the town would be willing to organise a fund-raising event for the Pageant, they should contact Pauline Ham 732062.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

After an inspection by SCC Highways officers there will be no wholesale repair work to the pavements (blocks) in the Square. Work will take place in the next financial year.

All yellow restrictive parking lines within the town are to be reviewed in November.

Construction work to change bus-stop layouts is likely to take place in late September/early October.

MAYOR'S BANQUET

Members discussed the traditional means of funding and organising the annual Mayor's Banquet; this is usually organised by the Mayor as a self-funding event with some part of his/her annual allowance possibly being used to meet costs. The Personnel and Protocol Advisory Group was asked to come forward to the next meeting with recommendations for possible changes to this arrangement.

TOWN CRIER'S FUND

Members agreed that the Town Crier's Fund could be used for the repair and cleaning of the official robes.

CLERK'S TRAINING

Council agreed to fund a training course for the Clerk and approved a sliding scale of repayment of the costs should the clerk leave the council's employment within a given time scale. The estimated cost for the course would be £4,125.00.

**RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND MEETINGS (3RD MONDAY EACH MONTH), TO RAISE ISSUES OR JUST TO LISTEN. MATTERS MAY BE BROUGHT TO COUNCIL'S ATTENTION VIA THE TOWN CLERK MRS VICKY BRICE
07884 264033**