

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



FOUND - CAMERA

A digital camera was left in the Town Hall after Showcase. Please contact Town Clerk if you are the owner – or know whose it is.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) is revising plans for housing and other developments in the District. There are specific comments about how it sees Axbridge developing in future. If you would like to know more, ask questions or make comments there are exhibitions planned in the area as follows:

NOVEMBER 6th & 7th HIGHBRIDGE
ASDA 10.00 - 4.00

Or visit www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf

PCSO

PCSO Sam Haydon has returned to regular duty and will be carrying out "Beat Surgeries" again in Axbridge. She pointed out that Cheddar Police Station has limited opening times and suggested that a phone call to Somerset and Avon Police on 0845 456 7000 might avoid a wasted journey.

If residents wish to report Anti-Social Behaviour the number to ring is 0800 585 360

FLYERS WITH "OYEZ"

Councillors were happy to arrange delivery of A5 flyers with "Oyez" for local non-commercial groups but ask that such a service is recognised with a donation (suggested £10) in advance of the flyers being distributed.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Currently Cllr. Mrs. Browne serves as the Council's representative on the Axbridge First School Governing Body. Recent legislation has re-designated this role as "Community Governor" and should her term of office end then any local person, recommended by the Town Council and appointed by the Governing Body could become the "Community Governor".

BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS

The two new bus stops at Jubilee Road are now finished. The proposed re-siting of the stop in the Barnabas Close area, approved by both Town and Somerset County Councils (SCC), has been delayed by a formal complaint by local residents to SCC. The matter is now in the hands of the County Council

COUNCIL GRANT TO TOWN TRUST

Members agreed to pay £1,820.00 to the Town Trust, the remaining second half of the annual grant, towards Town Hall management, maintenance and general running costs.

TOWN HALL RENTAL

The Council also agreed to approve payment of its annual rental of £1,450.00 to the Town Trust.

DRAFT BUDGET

Councillors considered a draft budget setting out predicted income and expenditure in the next financial year (2010/11). Some minor changes were proposed and a final document will be presented and agreed at the November meeting. Council will decide then how much Council Tax ("the Precept") it will ask SDC to collect on its behalf.

MEADOW STREET CAR PARK

The members agreed that a request should be made to County Councillor Mrs. Hill for a sum of £3,000 from her Members' Initiative Grant to help defray costs of the car park. Members also approved changing the name of the car park to "Axbridge Town Car Park" once its management is transferred from SDC to the Town Council.

STREETS/PARKING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Axbridge Action Group will ask for the support of the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Trust for its bid to implement, on a trial basis some of the aspects of Michael Haire's proposals for improving traffic and pedestrian areas of Axbridge. Subject to positive responses and a review of its own Parking Policy, the Town Council will then re-consider its position on supporting these proposals.

The three aspects would be to pedestrianise the space in front of the Museum and Co-Op (trial), to extend the pavements from the Square into Meadow Street and to set "gateways" on the through-routes of Cheddar Road to West Street. These "gateways" would be designed to give motorists a "feel" of entering a calmer, more pedestrian oriented area and thus encourage speed reduction.

MAYOR'S BANQUET

Guidelines for the financing, purpose and style of future Mayors' Banquets were agreed. The mayoral allowance would be increased by £100 per annum to reflect the new expectations.

The current Mayor's Banquet will be held next on 27th February 2010 and will be a Masquerade Ball.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

This project is still being pursued. If a suitable site can be found a Public Presentation will be made by SDC for residents to give their views.

TREE PLANTING

Cllr Passey was authorised to find out if SDC has any policy about planting trees in the open spaces that it maintains in and around the town.

FOOTWAY AT OLD BUTCHER'S YARD

Councillors are to meet officers from both SDC and SCC early in November to seek a resolution to the problem of the unfinished footway in at the Old Butcher's Yard development. The completion of this work is a matter for these two authorities appear to be blaming each other for the inaction in ensuring that the work is done satisfactorily.

A38 JUNCTION AT CROSS

Councillors agreed to support a proposal produced by Compton Bishop Parish Council which set out an alternative plan for improving the junctions at the end of Cross Lane. Members had reservations about a suggestion that all right turns from A38 into Cross Lane should be banned and the turn at Shute Shelve to be the route into Axbridge and Cheddar. It was agreed that some proposal had to be made to SCC Highways to keep the discussions "live".

**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**