

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



S E D G E M O O R
DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC)
BUDGET

The Chief Executive, Mr Kerry Rickards and Leader of the Council, Cllr McGinty outlined the District Council's budget concerns for 2010/11. A deficit of some £890,000 was faced and inevitably this would mean cuts in staffing, in level of grants to community groups and cuts to *non-statutory* services to the communities within Sedgemoor. Examples of *non-statutory* services were given as grass-cutting, street cleaning and management of swimming pools. The level of SDC expenditure was limited by Central Government and a larger deficit of perhaps £1.9m was possible in 2011/12. Some extra income may yet be achieved through the sale of SDC assets – buildings, land and even car-parks.

There is no government limit on the level of precept set by parish/town councils and so the Town Council had it suggested that by raising its own precept figure it might help "save" some of the services, or reduce staffing cuts. So it was suggested to the Town Council that it should consider raising an amount in excess of £80,000 as a starting point for discussion.

It was pointed out that the Town Council's own budget and precept for 2010/11 had already been agreed in principle, that such a vast increase in precept would be unacceptable in a community of just 900 households, and that there could be little or no control by the Town Council over how any such "grant" from Axbridge to Sedgemoor was used.

The matter will be discussed more fully at the next Town Council Meeting.

MISSING CAMERA

We can report that the camera found in the Town Hall has now been returned to its owner.

AXBRIDGE TOWN
BUDGET AND
PRECEPT

Councillors approved a precept figure for 2010/11 of £57,000 – an increase of £1,000 over the 2009/10 figure

BOUNDARY REVIEW

There is a possibility that in its review of electoral ward boundaries in Sedgemoor, the Boundary Commission will recommend a reduction in councillors, such that the Axbridge Ward, currently represented by Cllr Mrs. Scott, might be lost and the town area amalgamated with a neighbouring ward. Members resolved to recommend that the Axbridge Ward should remain intact.

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)

The Mendip AONB may be put forward as a candidate for "Geopark" status in view of its unique geological make-up – both above and below ground.

TOWN HALL CLOCK

It was reported that the Town Trust had refurbished the clock facing the Square and that the LED lighting had been donated and put in place by Pace UK (Les Stanley)

CHRISTMAS TREES AND LIGHTS

Axbridge Sports and Social will be putting Christmas trees and lights in place on Saturday 5th December.

FATHER CHRISTMAS NIGHT

The annual visit of Father Christmas to Axbridge will be on Saturday 19th December starting at 5.00 p.m. in the Square – be there!

MODERN TOWN ARCHIVIST—REQUESTS

Mrs Maggie Tur, the Council's Modern Town Archivist collects historical documents from residents and groups. She also leads the "Voices of Axbridge Project" group recording residents' memories of Axbridge times past. The group needs typists to transcribe recordings.

Anyone who can help with material, memories or typing can contact Maggie on 732855.

PLANNING AT JUBILEE ROAD

An application to build 3 houses on land at the rear of Trafalgar Cottage, Jubilee Road had been referred to full Council for decision. Members, whilst pleased to see the proposed low density of housing, recommended that Sedgemoor District Council should refuse the application on the grounds that the proposed access into the site would cause traffic hazards.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Members approved payment for the wreath laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, which together with a donation to the Royal British Legion amounted to £75.00.

DOG BIN

Council approved expenditure of £144.35 for a dog waste bin to be placed at the Cheddar Road end of the cycleway from Cheddar. There would be a small charge by SDC for regular emptying.

BMX TRACK

The disused BMX area at the southern end of the Furlong is to be leveled and the soil spread to improve the level and drainage of that part of the field.

YOUTH SHELTER

Members approved a proposal to create a concrete slab base to the youth shelter in the Furlong.

TREES AT MEADOW STREET CAR PARK

Councillors voted to recommend to SDC that 4 large trees at the southern edge of the Moorland Street car-park should be felled in line with a planning approval instigated by SDC itself. The trees were damaging or were seen as likely to cause damage to walls of neighbouring properties and if not dealt with by SDC the cost and responsibility of any future work or damage would fall upon the new owners of the car-park – Axbridge Town Council. If the work is not done now SDC would want the Town Council to insure against future problems

RESERVOIR BEACH

There is to be discussion with local groups about the possibility of the creation of a beach at the Cheddar reservoir; Axbridge will be involved.

ROAD CLOSURES

The Cheddar to Wells road will be closed at Rodney Stoke for 6 days from 9th December.

The Square will also be closed between 5.00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. on Saturday 19th December

CEMETERY HEADSTONES

A number of headstones in the Axbridge Cemetery had been found to require stabilisation and those responsible for the graves would be informed accordingly.

OLD BUTCHER'S YARD FOOTPATH

Yet another meeting is due to be held between Town Councillors and representatives from SDC and SCC, together with the Old Butcher's Yard developer on 8th December to try to reach a compromise agreement between all parties that would allow the footway in Old Coach Road/Meadow Street to be made tidy and safe.

POLICE WARNING

Residents are reminded that Christmas can also be a time for thieves and burglars to take advantage of slack security in your homes and cars. Do not leave presents on view in either.

FIRE SERVICE OFFER

If you have concerns about your own, or a neighbour's fire safety situation, the Fire Brigade is willing to offer advice. Contact the Town Clerk in the first instance.

PAGEANT RECRUITMENT

The Pageant Recruitment Day is 29th. November, but if you missed it don't despair there will be the chance to join up at Farmers' Market on 5th. December.

PLEASE NOTE

The next Town Council Meeting will be the January 2010 meeting.

**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**