

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



COUNCIL VACANCY

The Council will need to co-opt a replacement councillor for Cllr. Andy Matthews who has had to resign his post due to work commitments taking him away from Axbridge. Anyone seeking to become a co-opted councillor for the remainder of the present term, until May 2011, should contact the Town Clerk in the first instance.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Susan Venn-Adams has once more taken up her duties as the towns designated PCSO and members noted that she had been active in placing warning notices on cars illegally parked in the Square in particular. It is to be police practice to issue a warning in the form of a note and then to take legal action against illegal parking. She may be contacted on 0845 4567000

PC Tom Pether was made aware of the theft of salt bags from both the Square and Chestnut Avenue. He was also asked to ensure that illegal parking on verges in Old Church Road is added to the PCSO's priorities for action.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

Council warmly congratulated and thanked Axbridge Sports and Social members and volunteers for all their efforts over the Christmas period, especially with the erection of Christmas trees on house fronts and in the Square. It was felt that the "Father Christmas in the Square" event had also been a great success. Such community activities were seen as vital for the town.

COUNCILLOR MRS SCOTT

Members were delighted to hear from Cllr Mrs Scott that following her accident before Christmas she is now feeling much better and is "on the mend".

PROPOSAL TO BUILD AT HOULGATE WAY

Council voted not to support a proposal for possible mixed use development on land to the south of Houlgate Way between the Medical Centre and Prowse's Lane. This proposal was not in compliance with the recent Core Strategy proposals and is outside the agreed development boundaries of the town.

FREE PARKING FOR FARMERS' MARKET

Council agreed to recommend to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) that the Meadow Street car-parking charges should be waived on the first Saturday of every month to encourage greater attendance at Farmers' Markets. Whilst the council now owns the car-park, its management and its "policing" is still being carried out by SDC.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SEDGEMOOR BUDGET

Councillors voted unanimously not to consider any increase in the town's precept in order to help off-set the District Council's perceived shortfall in funding in future years. It had been suggested by the Chief Executive and the Leader of Sedgemoor Council at a meeting in December.

LIGHTING CONCERNS

The council found itself unable to complete the lighting programme agreed for Church Steps and Back Lane due to the inability of Somerset County Council to give clear guidance on "part night time lighting". Since the new railings on the steps are part of the project and funding was granted by SCC for the whole project, there it seemed doubtful that any remaining funds from this project could be transferred to a new "next priority" project. County Councillor Dawn Hill was urged in the strongest terms to take up this matter of delay and indecision with senior officers at Taunton.

CHRISTMAS TREE COSTS

The council agreed to make £750.00 available to Axbridge Sports and Social for the Christmas trees bought to enhance the town. This was the sum budgeted but did not cover the full cost which had been in excess of £1000.00.

SNOW, ICE, SALT AND GENERAL NEIGHBOURLINESS



Councillors wished to put on record their appreciation of the efforts made by the many people within the town who helped to salt, grit and clear areas and to look out for their less active neighbours. A special mention was made of the landlord at the Lamb Inn who not only cleared and salted, but kept a protective eye on the small supply the council was able to obtain.

The Highways group was requested to draw up a plan of action in the event of any future bad weather; this may include priority areas for clearance, obtaining and storing salt, and management of clearances by the town's lengthsman.

The council has urged the highway authority, Somerset County Council to include the 126 bus route through town as a priority for salting/gritting in future.

WALKING-BUS SHELTER

Council agreed in principle to a request from the Headteacher at the First School that a shelter should be erected in the Meadow Street car-park for children waiting for the "walking-bus". The shelter would be provided at the school's expense.

NEW RESERVOIR NEXT STEPS

Members were told that OfWat has made financial provision that will allow Bristol Water during the next five years to undertake a feasibility study for the proposed second reservoir. This will include geological surveys to verify the suitability of the site and the preparation of a planning application. No construction work is expected until 2016 at the earliest.

CLERK'S SALARY

Council approved an incremental pay-rise for the Town Clerk as she had gained extra qualifications during the past 12 months.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS RADIO

The council agreed to write a letter of support for "Pulse Radio" being developed as a local radio station in Cheddar for the benefit of the District. Local volunteers are being sought. The contact is Mark Carney – 01934 743012 (mob. 07515 746069)

mark.carney@pulseradio.org

COUNCIL DISQUALIFICATION

Council was informed that the Adjudication Panel of the Standards Board for England has disqualified Cllr. Chris Byrne from office on all parish and town councils on which he currently sits for a period of 18 months.

MODERN TOWN ARCHIVIST

Members agreed to a request from the Modern Town Archivist, Mrs Maggie Tur, for more storage materials.

Mrs Tur is collecting copies of photographs and documents of Axbridge in the last 100 years. If you are willing to donate or lend such items for copying, please contact her via the Town Clerk.

Can anyone offer her a 3 drawer filing cabinet?

**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**