

OYEZ,! OYEZ! OYEZ!

READ THE NEWS FROM AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FEBRUARY MEETING



BUDGETS

County and District Councillor Dawn Hill reported that Somerset County Council would set a budget with no increase over last year; Sedgemoor District would be increased by 3%; Avon and Somerset Police 4.7% increase and Fire and Rescue a 3.7% increase.

EXTRA FUNDING

There would be no Community Initiative Grant this year (money distributed by local County Councillors). However the Aggregates Levy Fund was still available to parishes directly affected by quarrying activities.

MUSEUM FUNDING

District Councillor Dawn Hill was unable to confirm what level of funding might be made available to the Museum Trust from the Sedgemoor Budget. The Friends of the Museum group is still seeking volunteers and members. The contact is Kate Browne 733208.

POLICING CHANGES

Council was told that there were plans to re-site some of the police functions in the Burnham Division and that these may have a knock-on effect for the Cheddar-Axbridge area.

FIRST SCHOOL HEADTEACHER

Members were told that interviews for a new Headteacher at Axbridge First School would take place in March with a view to appointing in time for the Autumn Term.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Members were told that there was no further progress in the matter of Affordable Housing on any of the sites in town.

CARNIVAL PLEA

No decision about an Axbridge Carnival for 2010 was yet known but in order to be well prepared volunteers to join the organizing committee would be welcome. Contact Pauline Ham 732062 if you can help.

TOWN DESIGN STATEMENT

The volunteer group continues to work on this document which will act as extra advice for Sedgemoor planners when considering new developments in the town.

WELCOME PACK

It was agreed that an up-to-date "Welcome Pack" setting out useful information for existing residents and for newcomers to the town would be a valuable resource.

SPORTS WALL ON THE FURLONG

Council agreed to support a proposal from the Leisure and Recreation Advisory Group that an application should be made for a grant towards buying and installing a sports wall on the Furlong. This would involve the council in no capital expenditure.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

The Council is seeking tenders for cutting grass on and around the Furlong. Anyone interested in taking on this work should contact the Town Clerk in the first instance.

STREETS AND PARKING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

It was agreed that the council should be represented on a Steering Committee being set up by Axbridge Action Group to promote aspects of the Streets and Parking Improvement Plan which AAG commissioned from Mike Haire. Other groups to be represented are the Town Trust and the Axbridge Chamber of Commerce.

TOWN BAILIFF - VACANCY

The current Town Bailiff, James MacKay has announced his intention to resign and the Council would be pleased to receive expressions of interest from anyone interested in filling this entirely ceremonial role. Exact details of what is involved may be had from the Town Clerk.

MEADOW STREET CAR PARK

Members heard the case for and against imposing parking charges at the Meadow Street car park when the Council takes full control. The following resolution was passed:

That, from the date that the Town Council takes over responsibility for the management of the car park, no charge be made for parking for an experimental period of 18 months as long as there is support for this decision from the electors of the Town at the Annual Assembly; and that, following agreement that no charges be made for parking, the council aims to take responsibility for the Car Park from April 1st 2011.

CRICKET NETS

Members were told that all works connected with the cricket nest on the Furlong should be completed by the end of the month.

FIRE SAFETY

Avon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service offers to make visits to your home to offer advice and guidance on how to make your home safer. If you think this may be useful to you or to a relative, friend or neighbour the contact is 0800 7311 822 or email firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

NSPCC HELPLINE

The NSPCC Helpline is a free 24-hour service that offers support and advice by phone or email to any adult worried about a child. Contact details 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk.

A38 CROSSROADS AT CROSS

The Joint Parishes A38 Group will meet at Cross on 23rd March to discuss the most recent suggestions from Somerset Highways to improve the situation at the A38 at the New Inn Cross.

NEW COUNCILLOR

There were 3 applicants from residents wishing to be considered as a co-opted councillor to replace Andy Matthews who had resigned. Councillors voted to co-opt Mr. Ian Laken and he will take his place at the March meeting of Council.

TOWN ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Council's Annual Assembly Meeting will be on March 8th at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall. This will be a chance to hear what your council has been doing during the past 12 months and for residents to question councillors. Other groups such as the Town Trust will also be represented.

Residents are urged to attend if they have any questions, suggestions or views that they wish to put to Council.

Remember that the future charging, or otherwise, of the Meadow Street car park will be put to the 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**