



OYEZ MARCH 2010

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

8th March

Reports

The Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Trotman gave details of the council's work over the past year and invited questions and comments from the electors in attendance. There were short presentations from the chairman of the Blackberry Carnival Committee, Axbridge Action Group, Axbridge Pageant, School Governing Body and the Axbridge Chamber of Commerce. The accounts of the Town Trust were also available for inspection.

Car park management

There was a period of discussion about the management of the Axbridge Town Car-Park (aka Meadow Street). By 21 votes to 2 electors present recommended that from April 1st 2011 the car-park would be free to use during an initial trial period of 18 months within certain time limits and other regulations yet to be decided.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

15th March

New Councillor

Co-opted councillor Ian Laken was welcomed to the council table. There is now another vacancy for a councillor, to be filled by co-option. Details of this are on the Town Council notice board, with 12th April as the deadline for applicants. Anyone wishing to know more detail should contact the Town Clerk.

Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Cllr. Jeremy Gall has been nominated as Mayor for 2011 and Cllr. Baz Hamblin as Deputy Mayor. Mayor-making this year will be on 10th May when the formal voting and installation takes place. This ancient ceremony takes place in the Town Hall and is an open public meeting.

New notice boards

Two replacement notice boards will be fixed to the Town Hall before the end of the month. The Town Council board will be for the exclusive use of the Town Clerk who will hold the key. The other board will be for the Town Trust to use and manage. Local events may also be displayed as before, with the Town Trust having the right to remove inappropriate material as previously. A key for this board will be available, on request, from the Post Office.



Award for Councillor Jim Lukins

To mark his 50 years service to the town as a Councillor, Jim Lukins has been awarded Somerset County Council's Chairman's Award for Service to the Community.

Fair Trade certificate

The certificate that records Axbridge as a Fair Trade town is to be displayed at the Town Hall.

Starr's Close land ownership

The area of open space left within the Starr's Close development has been cleared by the lengths-man and will be left in a tidy state. There is uncertainty about the ownership of the area which the Town Council is investigating.

Youth shelter

The shelter has been repaired and a concrete base will be installed soon.

Town Design Statement

This document, produced to aid in the planning process in the town, is now in its draft stage and will be presented to both Sedgemoor and Axbridge Councils for comment before being formally adopted.

Voices of Axbridge

The Modern Town Archivist and leader of the "Voices of Axbridge Project", Mrs. Maggie Tur would like to thank Mrs Pat Filer for donating two filing cabinets for storage of the archives. She also thanks all those other residents who offered cabinets.

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is to run a Cheese and Wine event at The Parsonage Cheddar Road on Friday 23rd. April. The proceeds will be donated to the Axbridge Pageant fund.

War Memorial cleaning

Cllr. Bratt has agreed to obtain quotations for cleaning the War Memorial in time for this year's Remembrance Day.

Sports Wall on the Furlong

Council has made asked for funding from SDC's RLT2 fund (which is made up from developers' contributions) towards the cost of a sports wall on the Furlong. The Sports and Social Club already has offered £500. Axbridge Action Group has a fund available for "youth support" and has been asked if it could donate the balance (about £250) towards the project.

Cricket nets

The public nets are almost complete. The carpet has to settle before being permanently fixed to the base but this will be in the very near future. The nets are intended for use by residents both old and young as well as Axbridge Cricket Club.

Severe Weather Action Plan

The Highways Advisory Group is drawing up a plan of action to be followed in the event of the kind of disruption caused by snow as experienced this year. Information would be advertised in "Oyez" at the start of each winter and would explain such things as how salt for roads/paths might be obtained in the community.

Welcome Packs

Members asked the council's Promotion Advisory Group to re-convene and to produce a draft "Welcome Pack" for

newcomers to Axbridge and to act as a reminder of contacts and information for established residents.

Cross Lane/A38 junction

The Joint Parishes Group (Compton Bishop, Cheddar, Weare and Axbridge) is to meet Somerset Highways officers at the end of March to see what suggestions they have, if any, for improving the cross-roads at "The New Inn".

Parking restrictions in the Square

Somerset County Council is currently reviewing all yellow-line and other parking restrictions in the town. The Town Council's Highways Advisory Group is to discuss with the police and SCC Highways a suggestion that the time currently allowed for free parking in the Square should be reduced. This proposal is seen as first step towards more effective policing of the Square and so making more spaces available for shoppers.

Town Hall matters

Councillors held a liaison meeting with Town Trustees when acoustic hangings and a hearing loop for the Town Hall were discussed. A suggestion for a "user group" to be set up to raise funds for specific Town Hall improvement projects was not adopted. The Trust reported that this year's Burn's Night had been both enjoyable and a successful fund-raiser. Any booking of the Town Hall should be made with the Town Hall Manager, Mr. Dennis Bratt (732352).

Warning: Until recently the local police's policy has been to put warning notices on cars which are parked more than 1 hour in the Square. This is no longer the case. Parking tickets now will be issued to offending drivers, with the support of the Town Council.

**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**