

OYEZ!
AUGUST Town Council
Meeting NEWS



TOWN CRIER:

Axbridge Town Crier, Yvonne Chamberlain, had represented the town at a regional event at Lyme Regis. Fifteen other Town Criers and Vonnies all decked out in their costumes gave cries in praise of the RNLI on the seafront at Lyme. Even the Mayor and Town Crier of Saint George's Bermuda were there!

Pictures are on the Town Crier page of the Town Council website axbridge-tc.gov.uk.

BACK LANE/CHURCH STEPS

LIGHTING: Members were told that a site meeting to progress the lighting scheme for Church Steps and the path to Back Lane was being organised by County Councillor Dawn Hill at which SCC officers would be present and at which they would be urged to reach a decision about part night-time lighting.

HINKLEY POINT NUCLEAR POWER

STATION: The consultation process has now reached Stage 2 in relation to the power station and associated development. The planned reactor will be the first of its kind to be built in this country. The planning process will be overseen not by SDC but by a branch of central Government. The council has also been invited to indicate whether it would wish to join a group of interested local authorities to consider and share information on National Grid's proposal for a new transmission line from Bridgwater to Avonmouth. Members considered there should be representation at parish/town council level, with those parishes most directly affected attending those meetings. The Town Council wished to receive the notes of such meetings.

FARMERS' MARKET PARKING:

Despite some confusion with SDC's car-park warden at the August Farmers' Market, members were reassured that there is an agreement with SDC that the Meadow Street car-park will be **free** to motorists between 09.00 and 13.00 on each 1st. Saturday of the month.

TOWN HALL MANAGER/ CLEANER:

Council was told that the Town Trust had appointed a new Town Hall Manager/Cleaner who would take up duties shortly. The number for booking/contacting the Town Hall management remains the same.

AXBRIDGE HARVEST HOME:

Last year's Harvest Home had raised a sum of £700 which had been distributed to a number of local community groups. This year's event will be on 12th September. Tickets are available from the Axbridge Pharmacy (Chemist's) - £12 and £6 (under 10's)

AXBRIDGE BLACKBERRY CARNIVAL:

This year's carnival with the theme "Mardi Gras" will take place on **Saturday 25th September**.

The Square, St Mary's Street, High Street and West Street, Meadow Street, Moorland Street and Houlgate Way will all be closed to traffic during the afternoon (1pm - 6pm) with the slip road from the bypass (west bound) will be closed from 2.30pm until 3.30pm.

FURLONG DRAINAGE:

The council was told that in order to improve the drainage at the southern end of the field it would be advisable to level the area between the field proper and the adjoining ditch. It was agreed that this material should be removed at a cost of less than £600.

CAR PARKING CHARGES:

SDC had put forward its proposals for new charges in its car-parks in 2011. Since the Meadow Street car-park will not be subject to SDC charges after April 2011 and the charges proposed for Moorland Street short stay appeared to remain the same, council agreed that there was no need to comment.

WINTER ROADS MAINTENANCE: Cllr Taylor agreed to attend a meeting with officers from SCC Highways at Dunball to discuss the gritting and salting of main roads last winter and to make suggestions for improvements. The Town Council would urge SCC to grit/salt the 126 bus route in town.

BUS STOP – CHEDDAR ROAD: Members noted that the bus stop sign in the slip road at the eastern end of Cheddar Road had been removed, although the concrete post still remained. The new stop at Barnabas Close would be labelled "*both directions*" as is the case with the next stop in Jubilee Road. The clerk would ask if yellow "Bus Stop" road markings would now be painted on the south side of the road, again as is the case at Jubilee Road.

REPAIRS TO THE SQUARE: SCC Highways had informed the council that it was intended to make repairs to areas of the Square starting 25th. October after both the Pageant and the Blackberry Carnival have taken place.

Road Closure – The High Street would be closed for 6 days, starting from **13th September** to enable Somerset Highways to relay areas of block paving in this road. This would directly affect a small section of the High Street, towards The Square, with the alternative route being the remainder of the High Street, Houlgate Way, Old Church Road, Meadow Street, and The Square.

DISEASED TREES IN CHESTNUT AVENUE: SDC would be asked to come and inspect once again the Horse Chestnut trees in Chestnut Avenue, which appear to be diseased. Members felt that any decision to replace these trees should be taken sooner rather than later. It was suggested that planting

replacement trees of a different variety between the existing mature ones may be a way forward.

CALLOW DROVE: A new kissing gate had been erected at the eastern end of Callow Drove close to the quarry.

"CIRCLING THE SQUARE": The responsibility for the walk guide "*Circling the Square*", produced by the council some years ago, is to be offered to the "Friends of Axbridge Museum" as the Museum is the only outlet for this leaflet.

CONTINGENCY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING: The Advisory Group was proposing to follow the format of planning adopted by Cheddar Parish Council and the data previously collected and managed by Cllr. Bratt would be incorporated in the final plan.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY: Following the resignation of Cllr. Isaac the procedure for finding a replacement councillor was underway. The deadline for this would be 13th. September. Residents who had previously expressed interest in being co-opted to the council would not automatically be reconsidered. The council strongly urges anyone who may be interested in filling this vacancy to contact the Town Clerk.

HARVEST SERVICE: The council, as the civic body, had been invited to attend the Methodist Church's annual Harvest Festival on 12th September.

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