

OYEZ!

News from the October Town Council Meeting



POLICE REPORT

The PCSO reported that the number of parking tickets issued in the Square had fallen from around 50 per month to around 2 per month. The Council expressed thanks for the effective and efficient way in which the non-compliance with the parking regulations was being dealt with. Another parking issue that is being addressed is the parking of vehicles on grass verges.

Dog Warden powers are now also a matter for police enforcement with an on-the-spot fine of £30 for owners failing to clear up mess left by their dogs and for allowing dogs to be off the lead on the public highway.

SHIPHAM QUARRY

Council was told that there was no certainty yet that materials for the construction of the Hinkley Point "C" nuclear power station would be supplied from the local quarry. The quarry owners had become aware of geological conditions at the quarry that would limit the amount of stone available for use and therefore the quarry may close at an earlier than anticipated date. The quarry owners had been approached with a view to allowing two wind-turbines to be erected on their land - in Shipham parish.

AXBRIDGE CARNIVAL

The annual Blackberry Carnival was well-supported this year. The committee is looking for helpers for next year so if you are interested please ring Robin Mace on 734603. The small profit the carnival made this year will be used towards the cost of funding the 2011 carnival but other funds will be needed.

FARMERS' MARKET

The full number of pitches are now taken and the attendances have been good during the year.

There will be an additional Pre-Christmas Market on **Sunday 19th December** between 10.30 and 14.30 when almost all of the usual stall-holders are expected to attend. It is hoped that this will assist people with their Christmas buying. There is NO MARKET in January.

CHRISTMAS TREES AND SANTA IN THE SQUARE

Axbridge Sports and Social reported a small profit from the July Fun Day. The Christmas trees are being erected on **Saturday 4th December**; if you would like to help please come along or contact Pauline Ham, **732062**. The cost for the trees this year is £1,175 and the committee is hoping start a programme of replacement lights with the purchase of LED lights for the big tree. Father Christmas Night is **Saturday 18th December**. Make sure your child's name is on the list for a present from Father Christmas.

DOG BINS

The Council agreed to amalgamate all its dog-bin emptying agreements with Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) and to budget for this activity a sum of £1400 for 2010/12.

GRANTS

It was agreed to make grants as follows :
Age Concern Somerset (£50), Cheddar Valley Railway Walk (£50), Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance (£150), Life Education Wessex (£50), Victim Support Somerset (£50). Playmates (Axbridge) had been given a grant of £200 in May to help meet premises costs and the Cycleway group had received £100 in February 2010.

WEBMASTER

Kevin Browne had agreed to take on the role of Website organiser in place of Jeremy Gall. He will be making one or two adjustments to the way in which the site is organised and updated. (www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk).

DRAFT CORE STRATEGY

This document produced by SDC purports to lay out the basic strategy for planning development in the district up to the year 2026. Members were concerned that there were clear figures for housing growth given (200 in Cheddar) and forecasts of extra jobs to be created but there was no clear explanation about what infrastructure improvements could be expected to cope with the extra numbers of vehicle movements.

TOWN CRIER

The Council agreed to renew our Town Crier's membership of the Honourable Guild of Town Criers.

YOUTH SHELTER REPAIRS

A quote for replacement Perspex has been received and is being considered. Plans to strengthen the shelter, with extra struts, has been approved.

PLAY AREA RISK ASSESSMENT

The Play Area Risk Assessment had been carried out and council formally approved it. There were no issues for immediate attention.

ROAD SALTING

It was not yet clear if the 126 bus-route through town was on the list of roads to be salted by Somerset Highways in the event of severe weather. Council therefore approved a sum of £300 to be put in the budget to meet the cost of bins should the Council wish to purchase them at a later date—to be installed near each end of town.

ALLOTMENTS

Council agreed that 4 allotment holders who were not cultivating their plots in accordance with their tenancy agreement should be given until February 2011 to meet the conditions of their agreements or the tenancy would be terminated by council as there is currently a waiting list.

LAY-BY VIEW POINT

The Town Lengthsman would be asked to repair a picnic table at the view point on the by-pass.

POTHOLES

Councillors were reminded that potholes requiring filling may be reported on the website www.fillthathole.org.uk.

PROVISION OF PUBLIC LAVATORIES

One of the suggested ways in which SDC would try to reduce its expenditure was to cease to maintain public conveniences. The ones in Moorland Street cost between £12,000 and £14,000 per annum to run. Councillors agreed to allocate a sum in the draft budget for 2011/12 that might be offered in part payment of costs to SDC should it decide to close the conveniences in the next 18 months.

MAYOR'S CHARITY RIDE

Town Mayor, Cllr. Jeremy Gall successfully completed his charity cycle ride and would be happy to receive any further donations towards Weston Hospice Care.

CRICKET NETS

The Cricket Club proposes to take down the nets for the winter period.

AXBRIDGE TOWN CAR PARK

The council heard that there is a possibility of the Town Car Park being monitored by a private company if the council makes its own arrangements to inform them of "over-stayers" and inappropriate parking generally. This system is known as "self-ticketing" – by the owner of the land!

DRAFT BUDGET

Members considered a draft budget and possible precept (Council Tax request) for 2011/12. Several possible adjustments were discussed and a final draft will be presented for approval at the meeting on **Monday 15th. November**. The draft precept figure indicated an increase in between 15% and 20% and might, if approved result in a typical Band "D" Council Tax element from the Town Council of £95.00 per annum.

TOWN HALL

From Sarah Emery, Town Hall Manager



There are several events planned at the Town Hall for November such as Remembrance Day Service, Yoga, Tai Chi, W.I., and birthday parties. A full schedule of events can be found on the notice board.

For those organised people starting to think about what to do for a Christmas party this year, there are still a few dates available in the Town Hall. I can also help provide you with details of local businesses who can help make your festive celebrations fun and hassle free.

Many thanks to everyone who contacted Sarah with suggestions of activities you'd like to see at the Town Hall. Popular contenders are Pilates and Salsa for the evenings. Sing and Sign in the mornings for the little ones, and after school activities for the family, such as; family Tae Kwon-Do and "Wake and Shake" sessions. To register your interest for any of these activities, contact Sarah on **732459** or email sarah@emerybs26.fsnet.co.uk.

**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**