

**OYEZ!**  
**JUNE**  
**News from your Town**  
**Council**



**New Councillors**

Three new councillors were co-opted onto the Town Council: Mr John Kendall, Mr Craig Walkling and Mr Peter Yusen. A list of current councillors and their contact details will be available shortly. It was also agreed that the Town Council would pay for all new councillors be able to attend the "new councillor" training course that is currently running, at a cost of £25 per councillor.

**Bristol Water Reservoir Plans**

Concerns regarding Bristol Water's plans for a second reservoir were discussed. The link to the most current update can be found on their website at <http://www.bristolwater.co.uk/news/mainNews.asp?newsID=857>. If you have any concerns or comments regarding the proposed new reservoir, please contact a member of the Town Council or come along to a one of our meetings, held on the third Monday of the month.

**HGVs**

Large HGVs are still coming into Axbridge from the Cheddar road. The current signage was discussed, and it was suggested that these signs could be cleaned and any vegetation cleared back from them. It was thought that lorries were often directed mistakenly through The Square due to Sat. Nav. error. Somerset County Council would be asked to contact the appropriate body to address this.

**Chamber of Commerce**

Following hosting the Sedgemoor Business Forum and a successful AGM, the Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual BBQ at The Old Parsonage on Saturday 23rd July. Tickets will be £7.50 to include a burger and salads, and are available from Chamber members. Other dates for the diary include a networking event on 29th September, a Dinner on 29th October and a Race Night on 18th February 2012 to raise funds for the Showcase.

**St John's Church**

It is planned to rewire and relight the Church this Autumn. So far £51,000 has been raised towards the total cost of £79,000. It is hoped that the Church will then be able to be used more widely by the community, for exhibitions and concerts etc.

The Church Fete was very successful and raised £2700. Finally, the Church Bellringers had come second in the County Competition and were congratulated.

**Grit Bins**

It was agreed that the Town Council would purchase three new 400ltr green grit bins, at a cost of £149.65 each, for the top of Houlgate Way, the end of Cheddar Road, and the bottom of Chestnut Avenue, subject to Somerset County Council (SCC) agreeing the locations. These bins would be kept filled by SCC.

**Mendip Hills AONB**

Two representatives from the Mendip Hills AONB gave a presentation to the Council on their current work, plans for the future, and the Young Rangers Scheme. More information can be found at [www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk).

### **Audit**

The internal auditor had found everything completed in order and was pleased to see that the Council was addressing its level of reserves.

### **Annual Report**

The Mayor's Annual Report for the year 2010-2011 was presented to Council and approved. A summary of the Annual Report is being distributed with this edition of Oyez. This is a report on the activities of the council over the last full financial year.

### **Allotments**

The Town Council rejected an application for a polytunnel on one of the allotment plots. Any structures erected on the allotments must have Council permission and it was felt that as the allotments are near the AONB and visible from the road, such structures would not be suitable. The new water trough has been successfully installed. Tenants who are not cultivating their allotments to the required standards will be contacted and warned that their tenancy may be terminated if this situation is not rectified shortly.

### **Shelter—Walking Bus**

This project is progressing and the school hopes to provide details of the design and exact location shortly. It was agreed that the Town Council would be responsible for its maintenance and insurance, as it will be installed on Axbridge Town Car Park (now owned by the Council).

### **Back Lane Lighting Project**

A quote had been received from Somerset County Council for the work on the lighting in Back Lane for £8,547.78 and it was agreed that this be accepted on the understanding that it

this is a fixed price. It is hoped that this work will be completed by this winter.

### **Mayor's Regalia**

When a suitable gap in the Mayor's schedule allows, the Mayor's Chain will be sent off to have the latest names engraved upon it and some minor repair work carried out.

### **Town Trust**

The Council agreed to pay the Town Trust's application towards the upkeep up the Town Hall (£3640 paid in two installments) as in previous years.

### **Extraction of Gas on the Mendips**

Members expressed concern at this proposal, which had been raised in a local news report and mentioned after the presentation on the work of Mendip Hills ANOB unit. The Clerk is to write to Tessa Munt MP to find out more about these proposals and also why Central Government had issued licenses to carry out this work without informing/consulting local councils in the areas concerned

### **Cheddar Waste/Recycling Centre**

The Council would like to discuss this matter further and resolved that a representative from Somerset Waste Partnership and from Viridor be requested to attend a meeting with councillors (which is open to the public) just prior to the usual council meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

### **Furlong Fun Day**

**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**