



OYEZ!

MAY 2012

News from your Town Council

such as land use and design of future development and, once adopted, is a formal document that must be taken into account by the Planning Authority when deciding on planning applications. The Town Council agreed to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan, and the Planning and Licenses Committee will be taking the project forward. The community will be involved in formulating the plan, which will be led by the Town Council.

Mayor Making

At the recent annual Mayor Making ceremony on Monday 14th May, Councillor Ian Laken was elected as Mayor, and he signed his declaration of office as Mayor of Axbridge. Councillor John Albone was elected as Deputy Mayor. The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Baz Hamblin, was thanked for his hard work during his mayoral year.

Annual Assembly

At the recent Annual Assembly meeting of the Town Council, the members of the public who attended voted 33 to 3 in favour of purchasing the land at the top of Moorland Street – which includes the car park, substation, Busy Bees Nursery and Children's Centre. Of the two options for borrowing the money to do this, 22 voted in favour of the borrowing the money over a longer term, and 14 in favour of short term. The Facilities Advisory Group will be continuing to investigate this over the coming months.

Standing Orders

Members felt that the Council should act in a professional manner and that it is not appropriate for members of the Council to eat and drink during council meetings, meetings of standing committees or at meetings held in the Town Hall. A small packet of mints/throats sweets and a small bottle of still water was considered acceptable. Standing orders will be amended to reflect this. A protocol for email use is to be drafted for approval, now that all town councillors have a Town Council email address. It was noted that all councillors should abide by the protocol and that whilst email was a useful tool, it is open to misinterpretation and it is not suitable for use to make decisions outside of the committee and council process.

Neighbourhood Plan

Communities can decide whether to have a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan covers issues

Dog Mess

Members noted that there had been no improvement regarding the level of dog mess in the Town and on the Furlong. This matter has also been raised by the contractor cutting the grass. Members discussed the possibility of banning dogs from the Furlong. Although this would be costly to achieve, as it would involve fencing the footpath around the perimeter of the Furlong, it may be that the Council has no choice if the problem continues. Also the footpath only runs across the top and down the east side of the field. Residents are welcome to report offenders to the members of the Council or the Clerk so that action can be taken where possible.



Community First Responders

Could you be a Community First Responder? Community First Responders are volunteers working for the ambulance service. At the moment there are only two of them and at least one more member is needed, primarily to cover Mondays and Tuesdays on a regular basis. They are trained by the Ambulance service to respond quickly to 999 calls in the Axbridge area, as it can take up to half an hour for an ambulance to get here. If you think this might be for you, then please call Michael Dearden, the CFR coordinator on 733876 to find out more about it.

Axbridge Church

No sooner had the recent work to improve the lighting and wiring in the Church been completed, than the elderly boiler finally failed and now needs replacing. The Church will be applying for funding towards the work and the Council agreed to write a letter of support of this application as the Church is a valuable building, and venue, to the town and its community.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 21.5 hours this month – 15 hours at the cemetery (tree felling, tidying up), 1.5 hours in the Square (weeding and tidying up), 3 hour in the car park (removing brash), 1 hour in the Furlong (removing litter) and 1 hour around the church steps (removing litter).

Oyez fliers

Fliers can be delivered with Oyez, for local non-profit making community organisations, for a suggested donation of £10, made in advance. Fliers must be either A5 or A4 (folded in half) to easily fit in Oyez. No more than two fliers can go out with Oyez each month, and two fliers from the same organisation can only be distributed if no other fliers are forthcoming that month. To cover the town requires 930 fliers, in bundles of 20. If your organisation would like to send fliers out with Oyez, please contact the editor Councillor Trotman on 01934 733306, not the Town Clerk. A thank you event for Oyez distributors and other volunteers in the Town (including those locking the Furlong gate) will be held on 29th October 2012

Warm Streets

The Warm Streets loft and cavity wall insulation funding scheme has been extended so that it is now free to ALL applicants (not just the elderly and people on various benefits). Around 50% of homes in the area that are suitable for better loft insulation probably do not have the recommended depth of 270mm or 10.5 inches. The Town has a lot of solid wall dwellings, but there are possibly still plenty of more modern houses that are suitable for cavity wall insulation. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please phone David Parkin on 01934 733762.

Axbridge Chamber of Commerce

The Axbridge Chamber of Commerce was pleased with the successful Somerset Showcase held on Saturday 5th May, thanks to the hard work of the Showcase team. Feedback from residents and visitors indicates that a good time was had by all. Their next event is the annual barbeque in July, with details to be announced soon.

Cemetery

The bench in the Cemetery, which is beyond repair, is to be replaced. Councillor and Mrs Laken were thanked for their offer to donate a new bench, and given permission to place a small inscribed memorial plaque on it when it is installed

Open Gardens

The Friends of Axbridge Church are again holding a weekend of Open Gardens in Axbridge on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June. This is a great way to see some of the hidden gardens of Axbridge. Please contact Penny Cooke 01934 733304 or Priscilla Chard on 01934 732834 for further information.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Axbridge's Diamond Jubilee celebrations take place on Monday 4th June, in the Square, Town Hall, Church and beyond, from 1.00pm to 11.00pm. Tables and chairs will be put out in the Square for you to use, but you can also bring your own. Although the Square will be closed to traffic, emergency access must be maintained, so please be careful where you set up. Details of the day's events are on posters around town.



Jubilee Medals

All Axbridge children up to school Year 8 will receive a Jubilee medal from Axbridge Town Council. If your child/children do not attend either Axbridge 1st School or Fairlands please add their name, age and address to a list in either the school office, Axbridge Butchers or Axbridge Chemist. The Axbridge baby born in June, closest to the 4th, will be Axbridge's Diamond Jubilee Baby and will receive an engraved silver spoon. Please contact Pauline Ham 01934 732062.

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 vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk