



OYEZ!

October 2013

News from your Town Council

Civic awards

The council will soon be calling for nominations for next year's civic awards, which will be presented at the Civic Ceremony on Sunday 2nd March. Nomination forms and details of eligibility will be made available next month in the Post Office and with Oyez. The awards are made for outstanding contribution to the community. The deadline for nominations is 31st December.

Hinkley Point

The government had given permission for Hinkley Point C nuclear power station to go ahead, though this decision is still subject to a judicial review in December. The project would increase local employment, and there will be a substantial Community Impact Mitigation Scheme, being administered by Somerset Community Foundation, which would enable communities affected by the development to apply for grants.

The new reservoir project

Bristol Water provided the council with an update on this project. They had made a number of changes to the proposals as a result of public consultations. In particular the site of the new reservoir has been adjusted slightly to widen the planned green corridor between it and the existing one, which will save more mature trees and hedgerows. Material for building the embankments will be excavated from the site itself, and stone facings will use only stone from local quarries, reducing traffic problems.

The construction period will be 2018-2020, and it will be 2025 before it is fully operational.

The Blackberry Carnival

A successful and enjoyable Carnival took place on 21st September. The carnival committee reported that only a small loss was made, and that funding for next year's event is secure.

On the down side PC Wills reported that the evening was marred by drinking by young people, and consequent problems with broken glass on The Furlong and on Moorland Street. Some teenagers involved have written letters of apology.

A meeting is to be held between key organisations to establish responsibility for clearing up after the fair and carnival.

Deputy Town Crier

No applications have yet been received for the post of Deputy Town Crier to work with the Town Crier with a view to taking over her post when she retires in 2015. The council would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in the post - details and an application form can be obtained from the Town Clerk (contact details overleaf).

Dog Warden

Because of the continued problem with dog fouling around the town the council is looking into the possibility of employing a dog warden for Axbridge. This is still under discussion, but the council has made financial provision in next year's budget.

Town Trust

Town Trust 100 Club

There are still a few places left on Axbridge Town Trust's 100 Club. All proceeds go towards Axbridge Town Hall and the preservation of Axbridge's antiquities and its archive of historical documents.

Contact Mike Anderson on 07968 028062 to book your ticket.

New chairs for Town Hall

It was noted that the Town Trust has purchased new padded chairs for the Town Hall.

Mayor's charity barn dance

The Mayor's barn dance raised £120 for the Axbridge and District Museum Trust. This brings the total raised by the Mayor and Mayoress for the Trust to £300.

The Mayor and Mayoress will now concentrate their charity efforts on the creation of a food bank for the Cheddar Valley. Activity on fundraising and premises are progressing well, and they hope to have a full update in the next edition of Oyez.

Chamber of Commerce

The Somerset Showcase was a successful day, with the net cost being far less than predicted.

A networking evening will be held on 28th November 2013 at Cheddar Woods.

Burglaries

PC Wills reported on 8 burglaries since August, 2 of which had been in Axbridge, 1 in Compton Bishop and 5 in Cheddar. He emphasised the need for residents to be particularly aware of the need for safely securing homes and vehicles.

The Dreamscheme

Dreamscheme is a positive way of working with young people in their community. It's based on a simple concept of WORK = POINTS = TRIPS.

Children and young people aged 8 to 16+ do tasks that make a difference in their community. They earn points and exchange these for trips and activities which they choose together. There are many proven benefits for the young people and their communities.

The Network provides information, training and support to enable more local people and agencies to start up and run dreamschemes in the south west.

Anyone interested in starting a group, or getting involved in one can find more information by going to www.dreamschemesw.org.uk or by phoning Brian Smith on 0117 325 2535.

Grant applications

£400 had been included in the budget for allocation of grants to various organisations providing a service to local residents, and the council resolved that grants for 2013/14 be awarded as follows:-

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| • Axbridge Active Living | £50 |
| • Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance | £150 |
| • Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau | £75 |
| • Somerset Age UK (<i>formerly Age Concern</i>) | £50 |
| • Voices of Axbridge | £75 |

Culverts in the Square

An initial study of the culvert beneath the Square has been carried out and has shown that although the culvert is operational, there were some areas that require maintenance works to ensure it can run at capacity. These maintenance works are now planned to be carried out during the 2014/15 financial year. The Clerk is to request a map and details regarding the extent of the survey.

Speed Indicator Device

The device to be positioned on the A371, at the Cheddar end of the by-pass, is not yet in place due to a shortage of cameras, which is being addressed.

Road Closed signs

Council noted that for some events the road closure sign was positioned too late to stop drivers approaching from Cheddar from driving down Cheddar Road and having to turn around by Chestnut Avenue. This should be considered when responding to future road closure applications.

Old Church Road

The often muddy grass verges on the south side of Old Church Road have now been replaced by tarmac.

Axbridge Parochial Charities Trustees

Dr G Miles and Mr J Chard had completed their current terms of office as trustees of Axbridge Parochial Charities. The Town Council has re-elected them for a further four year term.

Father Christmas in the Square

This event will be on Saturday 21st December. Lists to put children's names on Santa's present list will be in shops soon, or can be registered by email to Axbridgesportsandsocialclub@gmail.com. Children at Axbridge school and Busy Bees will automatically be registered. Lists are not kept from previous years.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor had worked 13 hours in September including:

- 4.25 hours on the Furlong
- 4 hours at the allotments
- 2.75 hours in the car park,
- 1 hour in the cemetery and
- 1 hour removing graffiti

Next council meeting

The next meeting of the council will be at 7.30pm on Monday 18th November in the Town Hall. As usual the agenda will be published beforehand in the noticeboard outside the Town Hall and on the council website.

Meetings begin with a public participation session when residents may address the council on matters of local concern for up to 3 minutes.

Residents are invited to attend Town Council meetings to raise issues or just to listen. Matters may be brought to the Council's attention via the Town Clerk.

**Meetings are held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday each month at 7.30 pm
The agenda is displayed in advance outside the Town Hall and on the website**

**The Town Clerk, Mrs Vicky Brice, can be contacted by phone or e-mail:
07884 264033 vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk**

The Town Council's website is at: www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk