



# OYEZ!

August 2015

*News from your Town Council*

## Dates for your diary . . .

The dates have now been fixed for a number of events which are due to be held over the next few months:

*Axbridge Showcase & Farmers' Market*  
Saturday 5th September

*The Carnival & Fair*  
Saturday 19th September

*Harvest Service*  
Sunday 13th September, 6.30 pm in Axbridge  
Methodist Church

*Remembrance Service*  
Sunday 8th November at 11.00 am

*Christmas Trees will be put up on*  
Saturday 28th November

*Father Christmas in The Square*  
Saturday 19th December

*Axbridge Civic Service*  
Sunday 28th February 2016 at 3.00 pm

## Council Tax Support Scheme consultation

District Councillor Scott drew attention to a consultation on the Council Tax Support Scheme and encouraged residents to respond online.

Council Tax Support replaced the national scheme known as Council Tax Benefit in April 2013. Council Tax Support is a means-tested discount scheme to help council tax payers on a low income to pay their council tax. The scheme is decided each year by Sedgemoor District Council.

The Council Tax Support scheme is paid for by all council tax payers in Sedgemoor. It is therefore important to get the views of all council tax payers regardless of whether you receive Council Tax Support or not.

If you would like to take part in this consultation go to [www.sedgemoor.gov.uk](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk) and click on the link on the home page, or telephone 0845-408 2540

The consultation period ends on 18th September.

## Litter picking on main roads

It was also reported that a recent safety audit had led Sedgemoor to stop litter picking along main roads

- this will affect Axbridge along the by-pass. Council expressed disappointment at this, but hoped that the use of machinery or warning vehicles would be considered as a solution. The district councillor would pursue this matter.

It was noted that the discarding of litter is an offence.

## Ragwort

Council was advised that Somerset County Council had been contacted about the problem of ragwort on roadside verges, and it is believed that clearance work has begun.

## Axbridge Showcase

To enable the showcase to take place on Saturday 5th September:

- the regulations for Moorland Street car park (*see item below*) will not be enforced on that day.
- Road closures will be in place affecting The Square, St. Mary's Street & High Street

## The Carnival

To enable the Carnival to take place on Saturday 19th September the usual road closures will take place in the afternoon, affecting St. Mary Street, The Square, High Street and West Street.

A clean-up of the Furlong will be held at 8.30 am on Sunday 20th September (the morning after the Carnival and Fair) - volunteers to help with this would be welcome.

## Axbridge Museum

It was reported to Council that the Museum is now required by the National Trust, which owns the building, to give free admission to National Trust members. This will have a significant impact on the museum's income. Friends of Axbridge Museum also have free admission, but the admission charge to the general public remains at £2.50 (children free).

## Moorland Street car park

Moorland Street car park has now become the property of the Town Council. The former owner, Sedgemoor District Council has removed its ticket machine, and the car park will now be free to use, subject to new regulations. The car park will be patrolled to ensure compliance with the conditions of use. This car park will continue to be a short-stay park, with a 2 hour limit.

New signs listing the regulations for the car park will be put in place as soon as possible.

## Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance contractor worked 7 hours in July, including the following tasks:

- Litter picking (4¾ hours)
- Works in the Furlong, Cemetery & car park
- Strimming in Starrs Close
- Strimming in Marron Close

## Other matters

Other matters reported to or considered at Council in August include:

- VAT training for the Town Clerk
- Monthly financial report
- Town Trust minutes
- Public convenience maintenance work
- Missing lamp-post in Houlgate Way
- Passing place signs in Houlgate Way
- Lighting problem in High Street
- Policy on livestock on allotments
- Completion of RoSPA inspection of Furlong & play area
- Parking issues in Chestnut Avenue
- Council noted recent use of a police speed camera on the by-pass
- Foundation bases in the cemetery
- Allotments boundary fence
- Security & working conditions in the Town Hall
- Administrative support for the Town Clerk
- Staff employment contracts

## Honorary Officer positions

The Town Council wishes to make appointments to the following vacant posts:

### Sergeant at Mace:

This honorary post is a ceremonial one. The post holder takes part in a number of formal and ceremonial occasions during the year wearing robes of office, and on some occasions carries one of the town's ancient maces in procession. The post has become available following the retirement of Richard Cottis who has been Sergeant at Mace for several years.

### Town Crier:

The position of Town Crier carries a small annual honorarium. It is a ceremonial post, held in high esteem, which offers opportunities to represent Axbridge in other towns as well as taking part in ceremonial occasions here. This post was held by Vonnie Chamberlain for 40 years until her retirement this year.

If either of these unique opportunities appeals to you and you wish to find out more contact the Town Clerk (*contact details below*) for a job description and information on how to apply.

**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 of each month at 7.30 pm.**

***The September meeting will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September***

**The agenda is displayed in advance outside the Town Hall and on the website**

**The Town Clerk, Vicky Brice, can be contacted by phone or e-mail:**

**07884 264033    [vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk)**

**or by post to PO Box 1184, Axbridge, BS26 2WJ**

**The Town Council's website is at:    [www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)**