



OYEZ!

September 2015

News from your Town Council

Grant requests

Members considered a proposal to allocate grants to various organisations providing a service to local residents. £400 had been included in the budget for allocation of such grants. The following grants were agreed:

- Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance £200
- Life Education Wessex £50
- Mendip Community Transport £50
- Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau £100

Picnic Area

The Town Council considered whether it should spend town council funds on maintaining the picnic area or whether it should be allowed to grow wild. Only limited maintenance is undertaken by Somerset Highways and the area needs attention and on-going maintenance if it is to remain. Quotes for regular grass cutting had been received and would be considered at the Budget and Strategy meeting. Members felt it would be a shame to lose the picnic area.

It was decided that, in principle, the Council agree to maintain the area, and would investigate how best to achieve this, including the possibility of working with other organisations.

Road closures at Mark

Wessex Water are undertaking a flood alleviation scheme in Mark, which will involve closure of:

- Dutch Road
28 September to 25 October, 2015
- Mark Causeway
26 October 2015 to 29 February 2016.

Diversions will be signposted during these periods.

Parking enforcement

Council noted that there have been an increasing number of incidents of vehicles parked on double yellow lines and on pavements, and of vehicles which were too long for the parking spaces in The Square and car parks. The Clerk would contact Parking Services to request both daytime and evening enforcement of the parking restrictions.

Streets of Axbridge

Council noted that the Streets of Axbridge Group are making a number of minor adjustments to improve the experimental new layout of The Square, and that they have started their programme of community engagement to gain feedback with discussions with individuals and groups in the town. They intend to set up four focus groups to cover all areas of the town.

Neighbourhood Plan

A government grant has now been approved for the development of the neighbourhood plan. This will enable the neighbourhood planning group to proceed with plans for consultation across the community on the

Voices of Axbridge

The aim of Voices is 'To record our community past, present and future'. We have recordings of people who have lived here a while, representatives from local clubs, those who have been Mayor etc. Some of the group conduct interviews, some type them up and some support in other ways. We meet about once a month to discuss our projects. Meetings are 'to-the-point' and usually last an hour. It would be very nice to have some new faces with new ideas. If you are interested in local oral history please contact Maggie Tur on -

Telephone: 01934 732855 or

Email: maggie.tur@btinternet.com.

Sedgemoor local plan

Sedgemoor's Local Plan is under review and a new draft will soon be out for public consultation, for responses before the end of the year. The Local Plan is the list of local policies which the planning authority must bear in mind when considering planning applications.

Carnival & Fair clean up

A clean-up of the Furlong was held on Sunday 20th September, the morning after the fair and carnival. The council wishes to thank those who helped with this or took waste to the recycling site. Members also passed on their appreciation to both the Police for their presence and to the gentleman who cleaned the Square very thoroughly the following morning.

Affordable housing

Following a recommendation from the Planning & Licensing Committee the Council is to undertake a Housing Needs Survey for Axbridge and is to seek assistance from Sedgemoor District Council with this.

Solar Farm proposal

Developers recently held an exhibition, not very well advertised, in the Church Rooms, as a local consultation over a proposal to create a solar farm on the north bank of the River Yeo, on land belonging to Townsend Farm. They have since given a presentation to councillors. It is understood that an application is to be made for planning permission for this project but this has not yet been received.

future development of the town with professional consultants. A neighbourhood plan, when completed, and approved by the community as a whole, provides a set of locally devised policies which must be considered by the planning authority when examining applications for planning permission.

The budget

The council has begun discussions prior to beginning the process of planning next year's budget. Sedgemoor District Council has stated that the council tax support grant will be reduced next year which means that the town council precept will need to be increased if we wish to maintain the level of services.

Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 4½ hours in August. Work completed included:

- Litter picking in the Furlong and car park
- Putting up the new car park signs

Council has asked the contractor to:

- Remove broken glass left in Houlgate Way

- Repaint the pointer sign in The Square
- Cut back nettles & overhanging branches on The Furlong
- Remove brambles obstructing the cemetery gate

Other matters

Some other matters mentioned, noted or discussed at Council in September include:

- matters affecting Sedgemoor:
 - Progress with the Hinkley Point project
 - Future use of the old BAe site at Puriton
- footpath improvement in Houlgate Way
- condition of the Axbridge signs on the by-pass
- installation of memorial bench on The Furlong
- contract for annual cut of the main Furlong hedges
- completion of minor maintenance on the public toilets
- overgrown vegetation at Moor Green
- that there had been another accident at Townsend
- calendar of meetings for 2015/16
- agreement on the use of noticeboards in The Square

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 October meeting will be on Monday 19th October

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

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

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