



OYEZ!

January 2016

News from your Town Council

Civic Service

The annual Civic Service will be held at 3.00pm on Sunday 28th February in St. John the Baptist Church, Axbridge and afterwards in the Town Hall. All residents are invited to this celebration of the community.

A Civic Award will be presented at this year's Civic Service to Dave Moore for his considerable service to the community.

Axbridge Town Trust

100 Club:

The winning numbers for the December bi-monthly 100 Club tickets were:

- 1st prize £100 ticket - 5
- 2nd prize £50 ticket - 42
- 3rd prize £25 ticket - 8

The Trust would like to thank all those who participated in the 100 Club.

New Town Hall Manager

Sarah Emery will be handing over her duties as Town Hall Manager at the end of January. The new manager will be Rebecca Thomas. Sarah would like to thank residents of Axbridge and surrounding areas for their support of Axbridge Town Hall and for making her time in the role so enjoyable.

For future enquiries regarding Axbridge Town Hall you can

- e-mail axbridgetownhall@gmail.com
- or join the Town Hall group on Facebook
- or contact Rebecca Thomas on 07500 937691

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 9.5 hours in November/December including:

- 4.5 hours at the allotments
- 4.5 hours at the Furlong & car parks
- 0.5 hour at the cemetery

Car parks

Members noted that 30 penalty tickets had been issued during the first 3 months of enforcement.

Dogs

Concern was expressed again at Council at the level of dog fouling in the town, which was described as appalling, and consideration will be given to further steps the Council might take. The proposal previously mentioned for the appointment of a private investigator will be actioned.

A number of incidents have prompted the Council to remind dog owners that it is a legal requirement that dogs be kept on a lead when in public places. Owners are responsible for the behaviour of their dogs, and could be prosecuted for incidents of nuisance or injury.

Litter

Somerset Highways has now cut back vegetation on the by-pass verges, so Sedgemoor is now able to resume litter picking there, which was suspended last summer for safety reasons.

It was reported in Council that there has been an accumulation of litter dropping incidents elsewhere in the town. It was noted that litter dropping is an offence which can result in a heavy fine.

Father Christmas Night in The Square

Father Christmas Night in The Square was enjoyed by the many families that attended. Although the weather stayed fairly dry, Santa's Grotto was in the church with refreshments, as more rain had been expected. It is anticipated that the event will break even. The new lights on the big tree looked good and new ones for the small trees are on order for next year. Thanks to the Parochial Charities for their donation towards the cost of the lights. Also, the Acutabove raffle raised £360 and donations, totalling £81.50, were collected from the free tree shredding service, provided by Richard Tilley, A1 Gardening. The Council thanked the members of the Sports and Social Community Association for their hard work.

Local Plan consultation

Members considered an updated response to the Local Plan consultation which had been expanded following the presentation in December 2015. The response has been submitted to Sedgemoor District Council.

Solar farm application

The application for planning permission for a solar farm south of Houlgate Way was turned down by Sedgemoor, but the applicant has appealed against this decision. No information has been received about the appeal yet, but it is anticipated that the Council will have a further opportunity to comment at this stage.

Play area project

Members received a first draft of a report showing proposals for the development of the play area and estimated costings. Three new pieces of equipment were suggested. A survey will be going to local children and parents for opinions and suggestions. A further quote is being sought for an extension to the car park. The plan is intended to support grant bids for the improvement and extension of the play area. Members expressed support in principle for the project.

Public convenience refurbishment

Maintenance work was agreed to ensure one of the doors closes properly and to alter the disabled toilet to be a joint disabled/ladies toilet. Improved signage is needed and, whilst signs which screwed on to the door could be provided, stencil work would be considered first.

Allotments

There is a vacant allotment now available. If you are interested in having an allotment contact the Town Clerk for more information (*contact details overleaf*)

Problem of deliveries in The Square

A property in St Mary's Street has been damaged by a vehicle parking on the pavement while making deliveries. It was noted that large vehicles parked on the pavement and close to the houses also put pedestrians in danger by forcing them to walk in the middle of a busy road. Council will be consulting further about this problem, including businesses receiving deliveries.

Axbridge Parochial Charities

Mr Lukins wished to stand down as a trustee after over 40 years of service and members wished to appoint Mr Richard Helps as the new trustee. Mrs Priscilla Chard would be completing her four year term of office and wished to be re-elected for a further four year period. Members expressed support for these appointments.

Housing Needs survey

Housing Needs Survey questionnaires have been sent to all households in the town. This survey is needed, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, to try to assess the level of future housing need in the Town. We need to know our future housing needs in Axbridge - please make every effort to complete and return the survey if you haven't done so already. The deadline has been extended to 7th February.

Libraries consultation

Somerset County Council is consulting about the way residents use public services, including libraries.

The way people use libraries is changing and the County Council has a plan for the future of the service, which sets out how it will do everything it can to keep all libraries in Somerset open. This may involve a change in library opening hours.

It is creating a number of hubs, which will reduce building running and maintenance costs, making financial savings and helping to make services more sustainable and fit for future use.

The first hub will open at Orchard Court (Glastonbury Library) in autumn 2016, with services including the library, children's centre, Citizens Advice, registration services, Mendip District Council and a nursery.

For more information on the consultation, on plans for hubs and libraries, and to see what the Glastonbury hub will look like please visit:

www.somerset.gov.uk/hubsandlibraries.

Anti-social behaviour hotline

Sedgemoor District Council has a 24-hour, non-emergency Anti-social Behaviour Hotline. The number is 0800 298 2009. It can be used to record incidents of anti-social behaviour, which can also include litter, noise and dog fouling.

Other matters . . .

Some other matters mentioned, noted or discussed at council in December and January included . . .

- Tourist signs
- Membership of Society of Local Council Clerks
- Membership of Somerset Playing Fields Association
- Donation of £1500 to Axbridge Sports & Social Community Association towards the cost of Christmas trees
- Axbridge First School admissions policy consultation
- Revision of Clerk's employment contract and job description
- Possible repositioning of the Changing Rooms defibrillator to be located in
- Passing places markings in Houlgate Way
- Location of Moorland Street 'No Access to the Reservoir' sign
- Procedure for enforcing the 20mph speed limit following recent use of a Speed Indicator Device.
- Concerns about the Webberbus service and strategic thinking on transport problems

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 February meeting will be on Monday 15th February

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

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