



OYEZ!

May 2016

News from your Town Council

Correction - Fun Day

Apologies for an error in last month's Oyez. The date for this year's Axbridge Fun Day on the Furlong should have been shown as Saturday 9th July

The Queen's birthday celebration

A family tea party event will be held in The Square on the afternoon of Sunday 12th June, with music in the early evening - watch out for further details. The road will be closed to facilitate this event.

Speed on Cross Lane

District Councillor Mrs. Scott confirmed to Council that the planned speed limit of 40 mph on Cross Lane will be implemented shortly.

Axbridge Museum

The official opening of the Museum went well this year, and good activity was reported at the start of the season. Training of new custodians went well, but the Museum still needs to recruit more custodians. The museum is continuing to make savings, including the replacing of old light bulbs with LEDs. The financial position has been made more difficult by the National Trust reducing the amount it refunds for visits by its members.

Axbridge tea towels are now available from the museum at a reasonable price and are a great way to support the museum.

- Anyone interested in becoming a custodian should contact Robin Goodfellow on 01934-732874
- Anyone interested in becoming a Friend of the Museum please contact Alan Wells on 01934-733779 or pick up a leaflet from the museum.

Bristol Water pipeline project

Council considered a detailed planning application from Bristol Water for its Southern Strategic Support Main Pipeline. This will involve construction of new underground trunk water main along the top of Cross Lane, Townsend and Axbridge By-pass, together with temporary compounds and Laydown Areas, implementation of protected species mitigation, construction of associated control kiosk, manhole inspection covers and marker points, temporary highway and Public Right of Way diversions as required and site restoration.

Members considered and discussed the above application. Council recognised that these works

would be disruptive, but were essential. It was noted that a representative from Bristol Water would liaise with the Council as the work progressed, particularly in terms of traffic management.

Council advised Sedgemoor District Council that it has no observations to make on the application.

Solar Farm proposal

The Council had previously objected to the planning application for a solar farm, which had subsequently been refused by Sedgemoor District Council. The applicant had appealed and the Town Council's initial comments would be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Council decided to submit a further response reiterating the Council's earlier objection and furthermore supporting the views expressed by Mendip Hills AONB which also objected to the application.

Other interested parties can make representations - go to <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> and register, then enter 3141866 under 'Search for a case'

Somerset Association of Local Councils

Council agreed to renew membership of this organisation which provides it with support, advice and training.

Town Hall grant

The Town Council had received requests from the Town Trust for a grant towards the upkeep of the Town Hall and the planters. It agreed that a grant of £3,640 be paid to the Town Trust towards the upkeep of the Town Hall - half to be paid now and half in October, and that the grant for the planters in the sum of £300 be made.

Aerial Runway

Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase of a new aerial runway for the play area in The Furlong. The Axbridge Parochial Charities had kindly made a donation to help meet the cost, and further funding and grant aid would be sought. It was hoped that the aerial runway could be installed in time for the summer.

Moorland Street Car Park

- Following creation of an additional parking space it will be necessary to re-position the car park sign, and further repair a wall.
- The car park bins will be added to the Council's bin emptying contract and emptied 3 times a week
- Council decided not to go ahead with its option to purchase additional land adjoining the car park at this time.

Damaged wall

Council's attention was drawn to a wall by the path between Moor Green and Millstream Close. It was noted that this wall was falling into disrepair and it was agreed that a land registry search be undertaken to establish ownership.

Allotments

The Clerk is endeavouring to re-let vacant plots. Allotment plot 5D, currently vacant, is of poorer quality and will be offered at half price.

Axbridge First School Academy

The Council has provided a letter of support for expansion work taking place over the summer. The work is to meet the increased demand for places for two year olds as a result of the government's paid places policy. The letter is intended to demonstrate community support for the project and facilitate grant funding.

Broadband Voucher scheme

Connecting Devon and Somerset has launched a scheme to provide subsidies to install alternative broadband technology to premises across Devon and Somerset. Vouchers worth up to £500 are now available for residents and businesses across the entire programme area who experience broadband speeds below 2Mbps. Further information on the scheme can be found at:

www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme

Council Annual Report

Council considered and approved its annual report for 2015-16. This will be distributed with the June edition of Oyez!

Other matters

Some other items mentioned or discussed at council in May included . . .

- Replacement of a bin in the Square
- End of year accounts
- Cheque signatories & bank reconciliation checkers
- Renewal of our *axbridge-tc.gov.uk* web domain name
- Monthly Financial Report
- Maintenance of public conveniences
- Street light near 47 West Street
- Road closure for the Queen's birthday event
- Updating of Axbridge emergency plan
- Fly-tipping
- Internal & external audits
- Membership of council committees & advisory groups
- Purchase of a picnic bench for the lay-by

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 next meeting will be on Monday 20th June

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

If you would like to respond to anything published in Oyez! you can do this by letter or e-mail to the Town Clerk or by going to the Council website and clicking on the 'Contact us' button in the left-hand menu