



OYEZ!

June 2016

News from your Town Council

Mr. Evan Hughes

Council noted the sad news of the death of Mr Evan Hughes. Mr Hughes had served Axbridge not only as a former Mayor of the town, but also its local beat officer.

Fun Day

The annual Fun Day will take place on Saturday 9th July on the Furlong. There will not be a Freecycle event there this year.

Town Trust

A joint Town Council/Town Trust meeting will consider the possible installation of security cameras and internet access in the Town Hall.

100 Club latest winners:

- First winning number £100 - 19
- Second winning number £50 - 37
- Third winning number £25 - 60

Other Town Trust items:

- Tests have shown there would be little benefit from soundproofing screens in the Town Hall
- LED wall lights are to be installed shortly in the Hall
- Summer planting in the Square has been done. Gradual replacement of the planters themselves is to be considered
- A catalogue of the Axbridge Historical Archive, owned by the Town Trust but kept at the Taunton Record Office, can now be found under 'South West Heritage Trust' and can be used by the public.

Major development consultations

The Council considered the process for dealing with planning applications for large developments within Axbridge and decided on the following procedure:

- A public meeting would be held for which seven days notice must be given
- The developer would be invited to attend to display plans.
- People unable to attend would be able to submit views in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting.
- This public meeting would be immediately followed by a meeting of the Town Council at which its recommendation to the planning authority would be decided.

The law on fireworks

Council noted that there had been complaints about recent incidents of fireworks being set off very late at night, and wishes to clarify the legal position:

- It is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, with the following exceptions only:
- On Bonfire Night the cut-off is midnight
- On New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year the cut-off is 1am
- Complaints about breaches of these restrictions can be made to the Environmental Health Department and the Police

The Queen's birthday

A family tea party event was held on the afternoon of Sunday 12th June and music in the early evening, to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. This was a lovely day and the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, passed on his appreciation to the Sports and Social Community Association for their hard work in organising this special event.

Dog bin at Townsend

Council agreed to the purchase of a dog waste bin to be sited at Townsend at a position to be confirmed. In addition to the cost of the bin there will be a continuing cost for emptying it three times a week.

Public conveniences

Improvements to the public conveniences are ongoing. A quote has been received for the replacement of a door and it was suggested that the ladies door should also be replaced. This work would be undertaken within the allocated budget.

Furlong & play area

New stile - The installation of the new stile in the play area was unsatisfactory but the supplier is returning to rectify the problem.

Aerial runway - A reduction in the additional cost of the aerial runway has been negotiated and Axbridge Parochial Charities had kindly met this additional cost. It is hoped that the aerial runway will be in place in time for the summer holidays.

Works to Football Pitches - the first stage of the additional works to the pitches organised by the footballers has been carried out, with the remainder of the works to take place in the Autumn. The costs will be recharged to the football clubs.

Damaged wall

A dangerously damaged wall by the path between Moor Green and Millstream Close was noted last month. A land registry search has been completed and had indicated that the land had not been registered. In the meantime, building control at Sedgemoor District Council had removed the damaged section of wall.

Cross Lane

It was reported that a feasibility study is to be carried out into the possibility of creating a footpath on the grass verge at the lower end of Cross Lane.

Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 17 hours during April/May -

- 9 hours working at the allotments,
- 5 hours in the furlong and car parks, mainly removing litter
- 2 hours at the cemetery
- 1 hour on the boundary post

Allotments

Two vacant allotments have now been re-let, and another has been offered to a potential tenant.

Council has accepted a quote for cutting the paths on the allotments, and will give further consideration to regular cutting of the paths and hedges there.

The Showcase

This year's Showcase will be held on Saturday 3rd September. Local organisations will be invited to contribute to the entertainment by providing items especially with an arts theme. Their costs will be re-imbursed.

The museum

Council noted a report from the Axbridge & District Museum Trust:

- The Trustees are working on succession planning, formalising officers' job descriptions
- They are considering saving their data to the Cloud, making it accessible to others
- A recent visit from the finds officer was successful and she has agreed to come back when her visit would be more widely advertised
- Attendance for April was more than double compared with April 2015

Other matters . . .

Other matters which were raised or discussed at Council meetings this month include:

- Repainting of fingerpost sign in the Square
- Proposal for a traffic management review
- Review and renewal of insurance policies
- New broadband & telephone contract
- Approval of payment methods
- Purchase of office consumables
- Financial monthly report
- Financial reserves policy
- Play area & Furlong safety check log
- Public convenience log
- Flooding in Jubilee Road/Cheddar Road
- Nettles under benches in cemetery
- Drain covers in Houlgate Way near surgery
- Iron grilles in roadway outside Chemist

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 18th July

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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