



OYEZ!

September 2016

News from your Town Council

Major planning application

Sedgemoor District Council has received an application from Hannick Homes and Developments for outline planning permission for the erection of 80 dwellings (40% of them affordable) and creation of access on land to the south of Houlgate Way. Details of the application can be found by going to Sedgemoor's website at:

www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/planning_online

and entering the planning application number 02/16/00030.

Comments on the application can be made directly to Sedgemoor by Thursday 27th October 2016.

Public meeting:

A public meeting will be held on Monday 10th October at 6.30pm in Axbridge Town Hall, followed by a meeting of Council at 8.15pm to consider the Town Council's response to this application.

The developer has been invited to attend the public meeting to make a small presentation.

This public meeting will be the main opportunity for the public to give their opinion on the application - there will be no opportunity for public participation at the Council meeting that follows, at which the Council will decide its recommendation to Sedgemoor on the application presented and discussed at the public meeting.

Written comments from residents are encouraged and will be accepted prior to the public meeting. Written comments may be sent to the Town Clerk (*address overleaf*).

Bristol Water road works

Construction work on Bristol Water's Southern Resilience Scheme is, at present, scheduled to start after mid October. This is a major, but necessary, scheme which will affect both the by-pass and Cross Lane, and will cause disruption to traffic during the period of the works. The Town Council is actively discussing ways to minimise the traffic impact of the work and to reduce the disruption to travel as far as possible. We are trying hard to make the flow of traffic as easy as possible, and will communicate information on this, as soon as possible, via Oyez. Please be patient during these works and allow greater time for travel.

Dangerous junctions

District & County Councillor Mrs Dawn Hill had arranged for highways consultants to look at the *Magic Roundabout* at the Shipham Hill/A371 junction, and is hoping that funding can be found for improvements.

Council is also concerned about the junction at Townsend, which it considers to be dangerous given its layout, speed of traffic and its considerable use by lorries, and has asked Mrs Hill to endeavour to obtain consultants' opinion on this junction as well.

Playing field award

The Furlong has been recognised as the second best playing field in Somerset! Council has won a silver award for The Furlong from the Somerset Playing Fields Association as part of its Playing Field of the Year Competition. Council received a certificate and a cheque for £50.

Allotments

It is expected that some allotments will become available in the near future. Anyone interested in renting an allotment should contact the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*).

Dogs & livestock

There have been recent incidents of sheep being attacked by dogs. Dog owners are reminded that it is illegal to have a dog not under proper control, and that farmers have the right to shoot dogs which are worrying livestock.

Any information regarding recent attacks would be appreciated.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The contractor worked 8 hours in August, including the following work:

- Works to the hedge & shrubs in the car park & Furlong
- Removing litter at the cemetery
- strimming a path at the allotments
- Removing litter from the car park & Furlong

Play area maintenance

Council has approved maintenance and remedial work at the play area. This will include repair of the safety surface by the slide, and shortening the chain links on the adventure trail.

Community Project

The Senior Section of The Guides has offered to carry out some work to tidy up the cemetery as part of their community project, and has also offered to plant the bulbs which the council should receive in the autumn.

Santa in The Square

The date for this year's Christmas festivities in The Square has now been confirmed as Saturday 17th December.

Civic Awards

Nominations for Civic Awards, to be presented at the annual Civic Service on 26th February, will be called for soon. Nomination forms will be sent out with next month's Oyez and will need to be returned by Friday 16th December.

Town Hall portable stage

With the support of the Town Trust, Axbridge Community Theatre has raised funds for the provision of a portable stage in the Town Hall. This consists of 6 one metre square platforms which are about the same height as the existing small stage and which can be arranged as a 3x2 metre platform or in other configurations.

The stage is intended for community use, and is available to any group booking the Town Hall without pre-arrangement. It is very easy to set up - 1 or 2 people can build it in 10 minutes. The parts are stored on a special trolley mounted rack, and full instructions are in the hall.

At present this stage can be used to extend the present stage or be placed free-standing anywhere in the hall. In the long term it is hoped to remove the existing stage which is badly placed visually and acoustically, and provide a storage area for the

trolley under the stairs. This will give more flexibility in using the new stage, but this will depend on further fund-raising.

Callow Rock Quarry

Aggregate Industries are preparing to submit a planning application for an extension to Callow Rock Quarry in Shipham Gorge. If granted this would enable an extension of the quarry by 11.7 hectares, an area currently consisting of 3 fields, adding another 38 years to the life of the quarry.

Other matters . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council this month include:

- The Streets of Axbridge Project
- Churchyard maintenance
- Purchase of a replacement laptop for the clerk
- Purchase of the current edition of the clerk's reference book
- Public conveniences door repairs
- Play area & Furlong safety check log
- Status of Axbridge Moor Drove
- Water supply for the allotments
- Faulty street light near 47 West Street
- Missing name plate in Houlgate Way
- Marking out of graves in the cemetery

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 normally held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30 pm.

This October there will be an additional meeting at 8.15pm on Monday 10th October following a public meeting (see information above)

The next ordinary monthly meeting will be on Monday 17th October at 7.30pm

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

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