



OYEZ!

November 2016

News from your Town Council

Christmas

- A road closure has been confirmed for Father Christmas night on Saturday 17th December
- Sports & Social Club members worked hard on 27th November to put up Christmas trees with new lights.
- Residents would be welcome to bring their trees to the Square before midday on Saturday 6 January 2017 for them to be shredded, for a small donation, thanks to *A1 Gardening and Tree Surgery*

Works to the play area

Council resolved to carry out works to the play area including repairing the safety surface by the slide and shortening the activity trail chain link. A further quote is to be obtained for providing safety surfacing on the aerial runway mound.

Major development proposals

Council noted that no updates had yet been received regarding the progress of development proposals for housing off Houlgate Way, housing at Mendip View or the solar farm.

Bristol Water road works

The Chairman advised that road works were likely to start on 5th December 2016 (with three way traffic lights near the Cheshire Homes). It was also understood that the Strawberry line diversion would be in place from 7th January 2017. Bristol Water would be talking to the local businesses most affected by these works.

Grants

Members discussed the 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. Council agreed that the following grants be awarded for 2016-17:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| • Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance | £200 |
| • Mendip Community Transport | £50 |
| • Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau | £100 |
| • Action on Hearing Loss | £50 |

Axbridge Museum Trust

Members considered a grant request from the Museum towards the services they provided, and agreed to award a grant of £1400 which had been included in the budget.

Town Council office space

The Town Clerk currently uses space in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall as an office but this

arrangement is not ideal and the Council is still seeking alternative accommodation. Anyone aware of potential office space available in the town is asked to contact the Town Clerk (*details overleaf*).

Broadband provision

A representative from BT has indicated that he would be willing to talk to the Council about broadband provision in the town. The council is to take up this offer as not all parts of the town can access superfast broadband and it is hoped that improvements may be suggested.

Tree works in the Town Car Park

Essential tree works in the car park have been completed. Two cars had remained parked within the works area, despite the provision of notices and barriers. In future, enforcement would be sought two days prior to works, to ensure cars overstaying their welcome were ticketed prior to the works taking place.

Reporting road problems

Pot holes and other road problems can be reported directly to Somerset County Council via its website. To report such problems please go to:

www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road

Street lights

- The light near 47 West Street which has been out of action for some time is to be replaced
- A light near the school obscured by vegetation is to be reported to Sedgemoor which owns the verge on which it stands.

High Street / West Street

The clerk is to contact bus companies following a number of incidents of school buses using West Street & High Street. It was noted that these streets are subject to a weight restriction.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The maintenance contractor worked 13½ hours in October, including removing litter in The Furlong and car parks, dismantling a shed, putting up a dog bin and undertaking pipe work at the allotment.

Axbridge Town Trust

The Mayor updated members on the joint meeting held with the Town Trust. He referred in particular to the town banners (which were to be restored), town council security and fire risk assessment, use of the microphone system, old stage and town wells. It was intended that a town hall manual be placed on the website to assist users of the hall.

Town maces

The Chairman updated members on the use of the maces. The Trust has re-affirmed that the maces would no longer be available for use by the Town Council from Remembrance Day 2020 and the Council may wish to consider setting up a group to look at replacement maces and the funding for them. Members discussed this matter and generally considered that this would be an opportunity to make history with a new set of maces for the future.

Large vehicles in the car parks

There have been incidents of vehicles being too long for the space in which they were marked making it difficult for drivers to pull out of other spaces. This will be discussed by the Highways Advisory Group.

NHS Health Check Van

An NHS health check van will be in The Square on Friday 16th December. Free health checks can be booked by eligible individuals by phoning 01823-261 794 or by going to this website:

www.somersethealthchecks.co.uk/axbridge-square

You can have an NHS Health Check if:

- you are aged between 40 and 74
- you have not been diagnosed with heart disease (including those medicated for High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol), diabetes, kidney disease, or had a stroke
- you have not had an NHS Health Check in the last 5 years
- you are a Somerset resident or have a registered GP in Somerset

Deadlines

- The Axbridge Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire was distributed to all households at the beginning of November. Please complete and return your questionnaire by taking it to the Post Office, the Chemist or posting it through the Town Hall letterbox. Further copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from the Post Office or Chemist and

should be returned by 4th December at the latest or you can complete the questionnaire on line by going to www.axbridgenp.co.uk/survey. Please have your say.

- Nominations for Civic Awards must be made by Friday 16th December by returning nomination forms to the Chemist, Post Office or Surgery, or to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall.

Problems with recycling

There have been complaints about litter left on the roads by recycling crews. The best way to report this is direct to Sedgemoor District Council on its customer service line on 0300 303 7803.

Other matters . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council this month include:

- New telephone contract
- Financial monthly report
- Play area & Furlong safety check log
- Locking of public convenience
- The Furlong hedge
- Unclear road markings in Old Church Road
- Overhanging hedge in Old Church Road
- Uneven cobbles in The Square
- Replacement of Deputy Mayor's chain
- Repair of wall in Moorland Street car park
- Remembrance Day wreath & donation to British Legion Poppy Appeal

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, but exceptionally the meeting this month will be on Monday 12th December 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

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