



OYEZ!

March 2017

News from your Town Council

April Council meeting

Because the normal date for this meeting will be a bank holiday the April Council meeting will be held on Monday 10th April.

Council vacancy

A vacancy was advertised in the last Oyez for a seat on the Town Council following the resignation of Councillor Trotman. The period for application has been extended to 3rd April - anyone interested in applying should contact the Town Clerk for information (*contact details overleaf*).

Town Bailiff

The Council noted that the Town Bailiff had tendered her resignation but had enjoyed her time in this role. Council thanked Mrs Tur for her hard work and commitment as Town Bailiff.

Anyone interested in taking on this role or receiving more details of it should contact the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*).

Mayor Making

The Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making will take place on Monday 8th May at 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Town Hall. This event is open to all residents of the town. Councillor Pauline Ham has been nominated as Mayor for the coming year, and Councillor Barbara Wells as Deputy Mayor.

Somerset CC election

Somerset County Council elections will be held on Thursday 4th May. Nominations for councillors are due by 4pm on 4th April 2017, anyone not yet registered to vote and must do so by 13th April.

More information about these elections can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/elections

Axbridge Carnival

A report was made to the Annual Assembly meeting regarding the future of the carnival. A significant number of committee members are resigning for personal reasons, and more volunteers are needed to take their place. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Lamb Inn for anyone interested in helping to secure the future of this traditional event.

Slip road closures

The westbound sliproad from the by-pass to Townsend is currently closed to enable Bristol Water to lay a new pipe. This will continue through the beginning of April.

The eastbound sliproad from Townsend towards Cheddar will be closed from 17th April. It appears that traffic from the A38 towards Cheddar will need to join the A371 at the Shute Shelve junction, and will be unable to turn off to Townsend.

Axbridge Museum

The Axbridge Museum is looking for 2 new trustees to join its board. Trustees meet once a month to discuss the running of the Museum. If you are interested in this role and would like further information please contact Kate Browne, Museum Secretary on kwbrowne@googlemail.com.

Easter Quiz in the Museum

There will be a children's quiz in King Johns Hunting Lodge Museum over the Easter Weekend. Find the eggs and answer 10 simple questions, hand your completed quiz sheet in at the desk and if all your answers are correct you could win a prize. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pot holes

Road surface - members noted that the road surface on the bypass and on the A38 when travelling towards Burnham on Sea was deteriorating due to the high level of lorries now using this route.

Potholes - Several potholes were mentioned including one in West Street in the vicinity of the Methodist Church and one in St Mary's Street by the Georgian House. There were several potholes in Hippisley Drive and Mendip Close.

It was noted that the most effective way to report pot-holes or other road defects is to use Somerset County Council's website:

- go to www.somerset.gov.uk
- click on Roads, Parking & Transport
- click on Problem on the Road
- click on Report a Pothole or Road Defect
- click on Report Now
- answer the questions

Use of drones

Drone flying has been observed on The Furlong. Anyone using a drone is reminded that they are responsible using it safely.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sets the rules on drones in the UK:

- An unmanned aircraft must never be flown beyond the normal unaided "line of sight" of the person operating it - this is generally measured as 500m (1,640ft) horizontally or 400ft (122m) vertically

- An unmanned aircraft fitted with a camera must always be flown at least 50m distance away from a person, vehicle, building or structure
- An unmanned aircraft fitted with a camera must not be flown within 150m of a congested area or large group of people, such as a sporting event or concert
- For commercial purposes, operators must have permission to fly a drone from the CAA

Users on The Furlong are requested to keep drones well clear of the play area and from the sports pitches when they are in use.

Solar farm

A planning application for a solar farm on land south of Houlgate Way was refused by Sedgemoor District Council, but the applicant lodged an appeal. The inspector concluded that the benefits of the development were clearly outweighed by the harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area, so he agreed that it was contrary to planning policies and dismissed the appeal.

Rural crime reporting

As mentioned in the January Oyez the police have launched a text service to enable rural communities to provide information and intelligence about suspected crime in their area. The new number will allow the public to text information directly to the Rural Crime Team.

The number for such text messages has changed and is now **07492-888109**

Hinkley Community Impact Mitigation Fund

Members noted that grants were available to local communities due to the impact on our area of the Hinkley Point development. Small grants of up to £1,000 were available for local projects and larger grants could also be sought. A few ideas were discussed - ranging from recreational projects to possible wider road improvements with adjoining councils. The Administration and Finance Advisory Committee is to coordinate applications.

Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 6 hours including:

- removal and disposal of rubbish following the dismantling of a shed
- litter picking on the furlong and car park hedge work at the Furlong.

Other matters . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council during March have included:

- Monthly financial report
- Repair of damaged fence at allotments
- Provision of bins at cemetery
- Award of open spaces maintenance contracts
- Recently supplied drainage map of The Square
- Depressions in Moorland Street
- Fly posting

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 as that will be a bank holiday next month the April meeting will be held on Monday 10th April 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