



OYEZ!

May 2017

News from your Town Council

Mayor Making

The Mayor Making meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 8th May. Councillor Pauline Ham was elected as Mayor for 2017-18 and took the oath of office. Councillor Barbara Wells was elected Deputy Mayor.

Also at the meeting John Hawkins was elected as Sergeant at Mace, and Nigel Scott as Town Crier.

The post of Town Bailiff is still vacant. Anyone interested in this post should contact the Town Clerk (*details overleaf*).

The Mayor wishes to thank all those who attended the meeting, those who helped with the arrangements and the Town Trust for allowing the maces to be on display.

Councillor Dawn Hill

The Clerk would write to Mrs Dawn Hill on behalf of the Council thanking her for all of her support over the years as our County Councillor.

Axbridge Day

Axbridge Day will be held on 17th June in The Square. The Square itself and the access roads will be closed to traffic from 10am to 11pm on that day.

T-shirts will be on sale shortly from several venues in the town.

Axbridge Carnival

Members received a report of the Carnival Committee, updating on progress. There will be no theme for floats this year, to encourage a higher number of entries. The Carnival Queen and Princesses will be crowned at the Church Fete on 1st July 2017.

The Council was asked to consider whether the road closure could be reduced by an hour to assist with costs. However, the Council had previously asked for the extra hour, to take the closure to 6pm, and still considered this would be preferable.

The Council had budgeted some funding towards the carnival and suggested that some funding could be used to keep the road closed until 6pm.

Littering by recycling crews

Concern has again been expressed about the amount of litter left in the streets by some recycling crews.

The Clerk has been asked to report concerns to the company, and point out that such litter, if left by members of the public, would leave them open to prosecution.

Houlgate Way planning application

Council noted that Axbridge Parochial Charities had sent Sedgemoor an objection to a proposal to remove the Jack Todd Memorial Garden near the junction of Houlgate Way and Starrs Close.

Since the Council meeting the developers have submitted 3 new reports to Sedgemoor. The Council will hold an extraordinary meeting on Friday 26th May to consider the implications of this before the deadline for responses.

End of Year Accounts

Members considered the End of Year Accounts showing all payments and receipts during the financial year to 31st March 2017 and including the bank reconciliation statement. The end of year figure was £80,258.34. The Mayor congratulated the Clerk and Councillor Taylor, in particular, for their hard work.

Internal audit

Members received the report of the internal auditor and congratulated the Clerk on her hard work - all procedures and supporting documentation had been well presented and in order.

External audit

Members received and considered the Accounting Statements 2016/17, which had been certified by the Clerk as presenting fairly the financial position of the Council and its receipts and payments, together with an explanation of the figures which had varied by more than 15% since last year. Members also considered the analysis of earmarked reserves which would need to accompany the audit papers. The Clerk had completed further papers requested by the auditor.

Council annual report

The Council's Annual Report for 2016-17 is in preparation and will be circulated to all households with the next edition of Oyez at the end of June.

Grants

Council considered and approved two requests for grants:

- A grant of £3640 to the Town Trust towards the upkeep of the Town Hall, half to be paid now and half in October, and a grant of £300 towards the upkeep of the planters in The Square.
- A grant of £500, which had been budgeted, to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of churchyard grass cutting. This will meet about half of the shortfall left by a grant from Sedgemoor District Council.

Bristol Water roadworks

Although traffic lights at the junction of A38/A371 were manned, members were aware of delays. The Clerk contacted Bristol Water to see if there was anything further they could do to alleviate the situation. Members noted that the traffic light operatives were managing school buses through the lights, to help ensure pupils got to school on time during this exam period. The Town Clerk made repeated efforts to get the bus back through the town once a route through Townsend was clear.

Please note that there will be two-way traffic lights on the A38, just north of Cross, for two weeks in late July when the pipeline will be laid across the road. Bristol Water are planning this around the GCSE exams and will be checking everything with the schools.

Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 13½ hours during April, which was used to:

- removing laurel and trimming the hedge in the furlong and removing the cuttings
- attempting to remove the graffiti on the bridge, with the remainder of the time
- removing rubbish from the churchyard and litter picking on the furlong and in the car parks.

Other matters . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in December and January include:

- New councillor training
- Renewal of the domain 'axbridge-tc.gov.uk'

- membership of committees & advisory groups
- local crime report & police team update
- Bus service diversion during roadworks
- Development of an affordable housing policy for Axbridge
- Renewal of the Council's insurance policy
- New display boards for the Community Stall at the Farmers' Market
- New contract with Vodafone
- Repair of running machine on The Furlong

Micro-enterprise Projects

Somerset County Council runs a micro-enterprise scheme which encourages local, passionate people, very often unlikely entrepreneurs, who have stepped up to design and deliver home care solutions in their neighbourhoods.

Somerset's growing number of micro-providers are creating a flexible, community-led solution to the challenges of home care

Have you ever met someone who has had an idea for a small service or support that can help people live well? Perhaps you have had an idea yourself?

For the last two and a half years Community Catalysts have been getting behind people like these and helping them turn their ideas into high quality, sustainable micro-enterprises.

If you might be interested in taking part in this scheme, or would like to find out more about it please email or phone:

- rhys.davies@communitycatalysts.co.uk
- 0759 541 1945

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
The June meeting will be on Monday 19th June 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