



OYEZ!

October 2017

News from your Town Council

Road works

Winscombe - The A371 is closed just west of Winscombe, with a diversion signposted via Churchill & Sandford

Axbridge by-pass - Roadworks at the eastern end of the by-pass are under traffic light control.

It is expected that both of these works will be complete by the 3rd November.

Councillor Laken

The Mayor informed members that she had received Councillor Laken's resignation from the Council. Members will miss his presence on the Council and his support and expertise, particularly on planning matters. The Clerk will contact Sedgemoor District Council to declare the vacancy

Townsend slip roads

County Councillor Taylor has approached Somerset Highways at the Council's request, but established that they did not intend to remove the bund of earth by the eastbound slip road onto the bypass as it was part of their safety improvement scheme, intending to slow down vehicles on approach to the junction by restricting the advance visibility. Many members disagreed with this view, as it does not slow down larger vehicles and the accident statistics proved that there had been numerous incidents at this location. County Councillor Taylor would continue to pursue this.

He has also got Somerset Highways to consider improved signage on the westbound slip road in advance of the dangerous Townsend junction.

Christmas trees

The Sports and Social Club have received many requests for tree brackets. The Christmas trees will be going up on Saturday 25th November 2017 and any assistance would be appreciated. Father Christmas Night will be held on Saturday 16th December 2017.

Axbridge Town Trust

150 Club winners

- 1st winning number (£50) - 147
- 2nd winning number (£35) - 75
- 3rd & 4th winners (£25 each) - 18 & 73
- 5th & 6th winners (£20 each) - 100 & 110

Planters - 13 new wooden planters are in place in The Square, and the concrete planters removed. It is hoped that winter flowers will be planted shortly.

Town Hall improvements - The Town Trust is planning the re-carpeting of the Council Chamber and the redecoration of the kitchen, entrance hall and disabled toilet.

Axbridge Museum

The Axbridge station clock is now up and working in the museum.

The National Trust are working with the museum to write a handbook for the Hunting Lodge.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the National Trust taking over the building and the 550th anniversary of the building itself, so look out for something interesting happening.

Bristol Water

Excavation equipment has been removed from the Townsend roundabout, but it is likely to return as the site is a testing point for the new pipeline which has not yet been completed.

Axbridge Carnival

The Carnival was held on Saturday 23rd September 2017 and was a very enjoyable and successful event. The civic guests thoroughly enjoyed the day and there were an increased number of floats and participants.

Air Ambulance

The Council agreed that a grant of £250 be paid to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, which provides a valuable service to residents.

How is your broadband?

Some residents now have a much improved broadband facility, but it appears that reception of superfast broadband is very patchy, with differences in quality even between neighbours.

The council would like to assess the extent of the problem. If you want to use superfast broadband but feel that reception at your house is not satisfactory please let the Town Clerk know, if possible by e-mail (*contact details overleaf*), giving your address.

National Westminster Bank

Council noted that the NatWest bank in Cheddar has closed, but notes that a limited service is available from a mobile unit at the car park by Cheddar Village Hall on Wednesdays between 11.30am and 12.15pm.

Modern Town Archivist

Council noted the resignation of the Modern Town Archivist and is seeking a volunteer to take on the role. Anyone interested in this, or wanting more details should contact the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*).

Village Agent roadshow

The Community Council for Somerset is running a series of roadshows about the work of village agents, the Somerset Carers Agent Service and the chance to meet local professionals such as GPs, social workers, district nurses, etc.

Our nearest roadshow will be at Bridgwater on 28th November. For more details ring 01823-331222 or go to www.somersetccc/villageagents.

Town maintenance contractor

The contractor worked 17 hours during September which included:

- Litter picking on car park and furlong
- Hedge trimming and gully clearing
- Repairing fencing & clearing & removing fence panels
- Repairing the wall in Moorland Street Car Park
- Removing litter from the cemetery and at Townsend

Young HPC

Jobs for young people at Hinkley Point

If you are aged between 16 and 21, Young HPC has been designed to give you support, guidance and resources to help you take steps towards a career with the variety of companies that are helping to build the new Hinkley Point C (HPC) power station - one of the biggest construction projects in Europe. This is designed to show young people the diverse range of job opportunities available to them at the Hinkley Point C project - everything from catering and security to marine work, welding and administrative work.

Registering for Young HPC will also mean you are first in line for skills experience days, allowing you to meet with the companies involved.

To register, or for more information go to this web address:

www.edfenergy.com/younghpc

Family support services

A consultation on changes to the way support is provided to families in Somerset, including the role of Sure Start Children's Centres has been launched. Anyone with an interest is encouraged to give their views on the Family Support Service proposals.

Details of the proposals, further information and a questionnaire to complete can be found in children's centres and online at the following website:

www.somerset.gov.uk/familysupportandchildrensc centres

Maternity Experience Workshop

Somerset NHS Commissioning Group are running an interactive workshop in Yeovil to improve user experience with maternity services. The focus will be treating women and families with dignity, compassion and respect to identify what needs to change, why it matters and how we can do it?

The workshop will be highly interactive, lively, creative and fun. Parents are welcome to attend with children, and baby changing facilities will be provided. To register or for more details phone 01935-381933 or e-mail lee.reed2@nhs.net

Other matters

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in October include . . .

- *Destination Axbridge* - suggestion for a project to promote tourism in Axbridge.
- Post of assistant to the Town Clerk
- Application for a Small Improvement Grant for the Play Area project
- Possible use of the Hinkley Point Mitigation Fund
- Possible replacement of the Axbridge signs on the by-pass
- Temporary closure of Upper New Road
- Review of the draft budget and search for possible savings

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 November meeting will be on Monday 20th November 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

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