



OYEZ!

January 2018

News from your Town Council

Civic Service and Awards

The annual Civic Service will be held at 3.00 pm on Sunday 25th February in St. John the Baptist Church. All residents are invited to come along to this celebration of the community to enjoy the service (followed by tea and cake in the Town Hall) and give their support to the award winners and to all those who give their time and effort to the town.

This year the Civic Award will go to Barry Hamblin in recognition for all the time, effort, enthusiasm and sheer hard work he has put into establishing and managing the Axbridge and Cheddar Valley Sea Cadets TS Goathland Unit. He had also been actively involved in many other organisations which have been of benefit to the town.

This year, for the first time, two Young Person's Awards will be made.

Jamie Harris has been selected as one of the recipients in recognition of his incredible sailing achievements, being Cadet World Champion in Argentina and receiving Somerset Young Sportsman of the Year in 2017.

Katherine Sousa has also been selected, due to her contribution to civic life, not only as the first Mayor's Cadet in Axbridge, but also her recent appointment as Cadet to the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset. Alongside these commitments, she plays an active and valued part of the Sea Cadet Unit and still finds time to be an Ambassador for Kings of Wessex School.

Christmas & New Year

Councillors wish to thank the Sports & Social Club and Richard Tilley, A1 Gardening for all their hard work in collecting and shredding Christmas trees. Donations collected will be used towards the cost of next year's Christmas decorations and festivities.

The council also wishes to thank Paul at The Lamb and the Sports & Social Club for the magnificent New Years Eve firework display once again this year.

Town Archivist

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

Cheddar Library consultation

Somerset County Council is holding a 12 week public consultation starting on Monday 29 January, regarding possible changes to the library service under budget pressure.

Cheddar Library is one which would be seeking community involvement to remain open, or if this is not possible, services would instead be provided either through outreach in community venues or through additional mobile library stops.

Members of the public, businesses and organisations are asked to read the proposals online at www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation and complete a questionnaire.

Any questions about the proposals, or the consultation process, can be sent by e-mail to librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk

Details of the proposals for Cheddar can be found online at <http://bit.ly/2DwATxw> and scrolling to page 30.

Parking problems

- Council noted that cars are still being parked illegally in the High Street, especially overnight and in the early morning. The traffic wardens will be contacted over this problem.
- Council's attention was drawn to complaints about parking on verges, and it wishes to remind residents that such parking is not permitted.
- Council is to request Somerset County Council to include the westbound slip road from the by-pass towards Townsend in a review of yellow lines.

Axbridge Parochial Charities

In December the Council approved the re-election of Mr John Chard and the election of Mrs Tara Bennett as trustees of the Axbridge Parochial Charities.

Anyone wishing to make a request for financial assistance to the Axbridge Parochial Charities, is asked to put their request in writing to the Clerk, Mrs Julia Hill, 1 Hillside, Axbridge BS26 2AN or e mail ronju@talktalk.net

The meetings of the Trustees will take place on:

- Thursday 8th February,
- Tuesday 1st May,
- Tuesday 28 August
- Tuesday 6 November

Unless of an urgent nature, requests will only be heard at those meetings.

New councillor

At the December meeting of the Council Mr Andrew Corp was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the council left by the resignation of Councillor Laken, and took up his place after signing his declaration of office.

Allotments

There are now some allotments available to rent. Anyone interested in having an allotment should contact the Town Clerk (*contact details below*).

Town maintenance contractor

The contractor worked 10½ hours in December, which included :

- Removal of rubbish from the allotments, and investigating the water supply there
- Putting cemetery plaques in storage
- Removing litter, hedge trimming and gully clearing in the Town Car Park
- Removing & disposing of litter from the church bins
- Removing litter from The Furlong
- Removing brash & vegetation from Wood Lane

Work will also take place on the car park fence on The Furlong.

Council wish to thank Somerset Highways for cutting back the verge at Townsend to restore the width of the cycle path.

Axbridge Town Trust

150 Club winners

- 1st winning number (£50) = 59
- 2nd winning number (£35) = 24
- 3rd & 4th winning numbers (£25) = 48 & 118
- 5th & 6th winning numbers (£20) = 7 & 12

Town Trust vacancies

Due to resignations, there are two vacancies for trustees on the Town Trust and an election will be held in the Church Rooms at 7.15pm on Monday 4th February 2018.

Anyone interested in standing should contact Alan Mortimore, Clerk to The Town Trust, at alanmortimore@btinternet.com or by phone on 732687 for more information.

Post of Assistant to the Town Clerk

Applications are invited for an assistant to the Town Clerk. The successful candidate will play a key role in the administration of the council, assisting the clerk with correspondence, filing, administration of the cemetery and allotments and preparing for civic events. Key duties will involve maintaining the Council's website, with the integration of social media, and monitoring the work of contractors.

The ideal person will be sociable and affable; self-motivated and able to maintain good relationships with employees, council members, contractors and the public. A willingness to learn new skills would be welcome, as would an interest in the work of the council and the community.

This is a new post so will be for a fixed term of 1 year, 20 hours per month, plus holiday pay. The successful candidate will have an option to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Application forms and further details are available from the Town Clerk (*contact details below*). Completed forms should be returned by 12 noon on Monday 19th February 2018.

Broadband reception

Council still wants to hear from residents who would like to have superfast broadband but are unable to get it, or who find it unsatisfactory. They are asked to e-mail the Town Clerk (*address below*) with details including their exact address.

Superfast broadband enables multiple users to have fast access the web at the same time, and very fast downloading of audio and video. Its availability to an Axbridge home depends on the exact distance from an Open Reach cabinet to the house. That link is by copper wire, and signal quality is rapidly lost with distance from the fibre connections in the cabinet. Council would like to press for improvements, but needs to know the extent of the problem and how many homes are affected.

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 next meeting will be on Monday 19th February 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