



OYEZ!

August 2018

News from your Town Council

Jeremy Gall

Councillors were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Jeremy Gall, a much respected member of Axbridge Town Council and a much loved member of the community.

Jeremy has served on the council since 2004, quickly becoming a valued, efficient, fair and reliable member and friend. He became Mayor in 2010 and set about establishing the Celebration of Axbridge Community service, proud to be a resident of Axbridge and keen to ensure that local residents who volunteered their time and energy to Axbridge were able to be recognised with a civic award. His meticulous planning at the beginning has enabled this service to become an established and enjoyable annual event.

He had the challenging role of chairing the Highways Advisory Group, working hard behind the scenes to strive for improvements in highway safety, was involved in the allotments and the setting up of the community table. He played a key role in the purchase of the car parks and was the IT expert in the council. He was also an active and valued member of the church.

Above all, Jeremy was a family man and a gentleman, in the true sense of the word. We are lucky to have known him. Our love and condolences go to all his family and friends.

Axbridge postal sorting office

Members discussed the possible closure of the sorting office, the impact on services and the implications for the financial viability of the Post Office itself. The Council thoroughly support the retention of the sorting office, noting the reduction in service which would arise, and emphasising the importance of the Post Office in the Town, which is a much valued asset both to residents and businesses in Axbridge and to the wider community.

126 bus service

First Bus has announced that Sunday journeys on the 126 Weston to Wells service will be withdrawn on Sundays and public holidays from the 2nd September. This service will be resumed for the summer season in May. Council has responded to say that it is a shame that this winter service will be lost, that it is

disappointed not to have been consulted, and suggested that the summer service should resume to coincide with Easter.

A371 Draycott road closure

The road through Draycott will be closed for about 12 weeks from 1st October to enable renewal of the gas mains. The official diversion is via the A38 to Dunball, then via the A39 to Wells or vice versa.

Highways matters

Online traffic form: The online traffic report form mentioned last month is to be redesigned in the light of advice from the police that they do not record accidents where no-one is hurt.

Somerset Highways believes that the entry to Axbridge from the slip road, does give adequate warning of who has priority given the size of the give-way sign. Due to the lack of recorded personal injury accidents at the Townsend junction they could not justify any larger scale improvement measures at this location.

Councillors will continue to press for further improvements in this area, and also continue to seek additional funding for it.

Agreements reached with Somerset Highways:

- An extra give way sign is to be located by the road under the bridge
- All white-lining around Townsend is to be refurbished
- Yellow lines will be put on the slip road in the next parking amendment order
- New 20 mph roundels will be put in High Street, West Street and St. Mary Street, and existing ones refurbished
- Speed survey equipment will be placed in High Street/West Street (and possibly St. Mary Street) in September to establish exactly how much speeding takes place.
- Marker posts are to be installed in Old Church Road to prevent vehicles damaging the grass verge

Bristol coach service

The Southwest Falcon Bristol - Plymouth express coach service operates approximately hourly, day and night, and will pick up and set down Bristol passengers at the lay-by by the Strawberry Line on Shute Shelve Hill.

For those wanting to reach Bristol from Axbridge itself (and Cheddar) there is a coach service to Bristol on the second Thursday of each month. It departs from Axbridge Square at 9.40am, and the return journey leaves Bristol at 2.20pm. The cost is £5 return, but bus passes are not accepted.

Axbridge carnival

The carnival will take place on Saturday 22nd September, and the fair will be in The Square from

Wednesday to Saturday that week. The main road through the town centre will be closed that afternoon for the carnival procession. **Motorists are asked not to park in Jubilee Road on carnival day as the procession will assemble, and later return there.**

The Furlong

- A group of volunteers is opening and closing the Furlong car park, and this is working well.
- The slide was due to be installed in August, and emergency work was undertaken on the aerial runway
- The town maintenance contractor is to lay a new concrete base for the youth shelter
- The council is to receive a Somerset Playing Field Association Award for its playing area.
- The proposed new boat seat is to be installed in the play area.

Sedgemoor Local Plan

The Sedgemoor Local Plan is the principal document which provides guidance on local planning issues. It relates to the whole District and provides a strategy for delivering growth for Sedgemoor District up to 2032. The document provides the vision, objectives, strategic policies, development management policies and site specific allocations for delivering new homes, jobs, services, facilities and infrastructure.

Consultation on the proposed main modifications to the Sedgemoor Local Plan (2011-2032) begins on the 28th August 2018 and you are invited to make representations. The consultation period will run from 28th August to 5pm on the 10th October 2018.

The proposed main modifications and associated consultation documents are available to view, download and make representations on at: <http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlan>

The picnic area

One of the picnic benches has been burnt, and there was debris etc in this area. A decision will need to be

made on its possible removal. The matter will be discussed by the Cemetery, Allotments and Open Spaces Group. The Town Maintenance Contractor will be reminded to repair the steps to the picnic area.

Public conveniences

Repairs to the public conveniences will take place in September. A lock on the ladies toilet door and the flush also need attention.

Axbridge Town Trust

500 Club August winners:

- 1st winning number (£50) = 39
- 2nd winning number (£35) = 112
- 3rd & 4th winning numbers (£25) = 41 & 89
- 5th & 6th winning numbers (£20) = 107 & 90

This was the last draw of the current club (October to August). The trustees are now contacting members to renew for a further year. New members are always welcome (£25 a year for 1 number in the draw) - please contact Alan Mortimore on 732687 or e-mail alanmortimore.btinternet.com

Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in August included:

- Legal position over council grants for church matters (eg. Access for All project)
- Development of the Yeo Valley site
- Approval of the External Audit
- Computer for the Assistant Town Clerk
- Council website development
- Replacement of fixed bollard in The Square with a removable one
- Damaged sign in Town Car Park
- Ancient Guild of Honorable Town Criers membership
- Approval of External Audit for 2017-18
- Housing allocation in District Council owned properties.

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 17th September 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