



# OYEZ!

November 2018

*News from your Town Council*

## Civic Award nominations

Nomination papers for the Civic and Young Person's Awards were issued with the last Oyez, and can be obtained from the Chemist and Post Office. Nominations must be submitted by 28th December.

## New councillor

Council considered applications from residents to be co-opted to fill the vacant space on the council. Marcus de-Layen Vian was duly elected to this role, and, having signed his declaration of office, joined the meeting immediately.

## Vehicle break-ins

Since early October police have been made aware of 19 cases of criminal damage to, or theft from cars in Cheddar, Axbridge and Wedmore. The local beat team has requested increased police presence in the area, but would like to remind car owners of steps they can take to keep their property safe:

- Lock doors, windows & sunroof when leaving cars
- Don't leave bags, coats or change on display
- Never leave documents or letters inside your car
- Don't leave satnavs on display when the car is empty
- Never set your satnav to your home address
- Keep valuables out of sight when driving
- Take the key out even in your own drive or garage
- Keep your keys in a safe place at home

## Upkeep of A371 lay-by

The council has, reluctantly, decided no longer to fund up-keep of the lay-by located off the by pass.

Councillors recognised that the facility is well used by visitors to the town and families looking for a picnic spot, but the cost of up-keep was something the council took on when other authorities stepped away from responsibility, and it can no longer be afforded. Unfortunately the council has to balance the budget, whilst ensuring that the council tax precept is not over inflated by costs and responsibilities being moved to town council level. Ensuring that visitors and residents can continue to enjoy the views across the Levels from the lay-by is beneficial to all, and the Town Council will continue to work with Somerset County Council, as well as other local stakeholders, to try to find a sustainable solution to keeping this space tidy and accessible.

## The Almshouse Tea Shop

Councillors congratulated the Almshouse Tea Shop on achieving the Gold Award as the Café/Tea Shop of the Year in the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards 2018/19.

## Consultation on support services

Somerset County Council is consulting on a potential change to the support offered by its Getset Service. Full details of the proposals are available on:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/getsetconsultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/getsetconsultation)

They would end the Council's getset Service contribution to support for families needing a little extra help - usually short-term - to tackle a particular problem and get back on track. The consultation ends on 31 December. A questionnaire for providing feedback is available on the website above, in libraries and Family Centres. Hard copies can be requested by phoning 01823 357479.

## Public Rights of Way

To make sure they can continue to secure best value in service delivery, Somerset County Council's Rights of Way team would like to review its path categories and vegetation clearance schedule. This was last done 12 years ago and the nature and use of certain paths will have changed.

Anyone interested in contributing to this consultation should do so by 31st January at:

[www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/ppc18/consultationHome](http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/ppc18/consultationHome)

## Road deaths in Somerset

The number of deaths on Somerset's roads fell by 12 per cent last year, to the lowest level in five years, bucking the regional trend.

## West of England Joint Spatial Plan

The four West of England Councils - Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire are working together to produce a West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) which will set out a prospectus for sustainable growth to help the Region meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years, to 2036. Anyone wishing to read the plan or contribute to the consultation should go to:

[www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk](http://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk)

## Would you pay more for policing?

Residents are being asked whether they would support a rise in the policing element of Council Tax from April 2019, as was done this year.

The Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, is asking for people's views on this on her website, [www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk) in a survey which will close at midnight on January 14, 2019.

For further information or to request a copy of the survey please call 01278 646188

## Police Youth and Policing Education website

Avon and Somerset Police has launched the Youth and Policing Education Hub, a new website offering free online access to a range of resources for schools and youth groups. Resources include lesson plans on subjects including county lines, sexting and knife crime. The website launch is part of a strategy to strengthen local policing and will build on existing relationships with schools. Since launching the site has been accessed by over 600 users.

## Town maintenance contractor

The maintenance contractor worked 16.5 hours in October and carried out work including:

- Litter picking on the Furlong, Square & Car Park
- Hedge trimming, leaf clearing & gully emptying
- Removing fencing from Furlong
- Repairing the bin in Moorland St. car park
- Erecting a compost bin in the Cemetery
- Hedge work in Cheddar Rd

## Gas-fired standby power plant

The Town Council has considered a planning application for a gas-fired standby plant to the south-east of Townsend Farm, and has advised Sedgemoor District Council that it objects to this on the following grounds:

- The impact on character and appearance of the environment
- Concerns about the validity of the noise and air quality data supplied, and lack, so far, of Environmental Health Officers' views
- A request that the Mendip Area of Natural Beauty and Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue should be consulted
- Concern that details of cabling to Moorland Street sub-station have not been provided.

## Remembrance Day

The council has paid for the wreath for Remembrance Day, and, as in previous years has also donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, bringing the total payment up to £100.

## Draft Budget and 2019/20 Precept

Members received the slightly revised draft budget for 2019/20 which included a sum for Well-being and for Highways Maintenance. It was resolved that the budget be approved, giving a precept of £85,450 for 2018/19 (an increase of 4.85%)

## Axbridge Parochial Charities

Any Axbridge resident or organisation who may wish to ask the Parochial Charities to consider financial support during 2019 should note that the Trustees will meet on the following dates:

5th February, 14th May, 27th August and  
5th November

## Dementia friendly town

Council resolved that it would pursue the initiative of becoming a Dementia Friendly Town, led by the Mayor, with the intention of holding a training event in the New Year. Discussions have taken place, in the first instance, with the chemist, doctors, rector and shops. Other groups, including youth groups and the school will also be involved.

## Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in November included:

- Review of system of financial control, regulations and audit
- Membership of Somerset Playing Fields Association
- Public conveniences upgrade
- Furlong car park fence replacement
- Repair/replacement of play area equipment

**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 held in the Town Hall at 7.30pm, normally on the 3rd Monday of each month, but the next two meetings will be on Mondays 10th December and 21st January.*

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](http://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