



OYEZ!

January 2019

News from your Town Council

Civic Service and Awards

The Town Council's Annual Civic Service will be held in St John's Church at 3pm on Sunday 3rd March. All are welcome to attend.

Thanks to all those who took the time to nominate individuals for the Civic and Young Person's Awards.

The Civic Award will be presented to David Parkin for his involvement in so many aspects of Axbridge life.

The Young Person's Awards will be presented to Bettine Harris in recognition of her incredible sailing achievements, and also to Nina Tyrell in recognition of her exceptional musical contribution to the Town.

The Museum

The Museum will re-open for the 2019 season on the 1st April. The first temporary exhibition of the year will focus on a recent geophysical survey of Stone Allerton.

The Axbridge and District Museum Trust are seeking to recruit:

- Two new trustees, ideally with experience of volunteer recruitment and oversight, and fund raising
- New volunteers for welcoming visitors are needed. Two sessions will be held in the Church Rooms on the 6th and 9th March to allow anyone interested to learn more about the role
- A responsible individual to open and close the museum each day. The task will take less than an hour each day, and a small honorarium payment will be made.

Anyone interested in any of these roles should contact Phil Wookey on 733212 or Robin Goodfellow on 732874.

Dementia Friendly Town

Council agreed that this initiative will begin with a public meeting in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on 25th February. Training will subsequently be offered to businesses and others interested in becoming Dementia Friendly Organisations / Dementia Friends. The collection at the Civic Service this year will be donated to this initiative. A Memory Tree will be in St John's Church until the Civic service and everyone is welcome to hang a memory of a loved one on the tree.

Highways traffic form

A reminder that the Town Council has a traffic incident form which those witnessing collisions or other traffic incidents in the town are asked to complete. A lack of reporting of incidents makes it difficult to persuade the highway authority of the severity of the problem. The traffic reporting form can be found online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/ATCtrafficform>

Defibrillator training

Enquiries have been made about more training opportunities in the use of the the defibrillator. Anyone who would be interested in this is asked to leave their name at Axbridge Chemists, and they will be contacted when it is possible to arrange a session.

Business directory

The new Town Council website will include an opportunity for local businesses to feature in the new business directory. All businesses meeting the revised criteria for inclusion are encouraged to complete and submit the data registration form. Full details can be found at <http://axbridge-tc.gov.uk/news.html>

Annual Assembly

This meeting, to which all residents are invited, will be held in the Town Hall at 8.00pm on Monday 11th March. The Town Council, the County Councillor, the District Councillor, the Police and the School Governor will give their reports.

The meeting also gives the opportunity for local organisations to update residents on their activities. It is hoped that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, will also be able to attend and make a presentation at this event.

Beware of council tax scammers

Sedgemoor District Council is warning residents not to be taken in by a company claiming to be acting on their behalf. Residents have reported phone calls asking for payments from bank accounts or credit cards for 'lowering their council tax band' or checking if they are on the correct council tax band.

This is **NOT** a phone call from Sedgemoor District Council. Council Tax bands are set by the Valuation Office Agency and can only be changed under certain conditions. Details can be found at www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals. If you think your band is wrong contact the Valuation Office Agency - you will not be charged for the service.

If you are struggling to pay your Council Tax bill and need help, speak with a member of the Council Tax Team on who will be able to offer help and advice on 0300 303 7801.

If you have given over personal details, you are advised to call the Police straight away on 101 and report the matter as an identity theft scam.

Community Well-being

The Mayor has proposed that a community event be held on Saturday morning 4th May, during the Farmers' Market, to promote awareness and interest in all of the community and well-being groups and initiatives in the town, and to encourage participation and volunteers. Council is supporting this event.

Post of Town Bailiff

Mr Peter Yusen has tendered his resignation from the post of Town Bailiff, and the Council thank him for his hard work and commitment in this role.

As a result of this resignation there is now a vacancy for a Town Bailiff, and anyone interested in this role can obtain details from the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*).

Neighbourhood Plan group

The call for suggested development sites has concluded, and the various chapters are now being completed.

Planning application - Yeo Valley site

Council had advised against approval of the planning application, reported in September's Oyez and since amended, for redevelopment of the Yeo Valley site in Axbridge Road on grounds including increased traffic at the site entrance, the effect on the local road network and poor pedestrian and cycle access. Representatives of the agent and applicant have since met with members to outline the works proposed to address the concerns raised. Members thanked the representatives for their time and welcomed the information provided to date. However, the concerns previously raised by the Council remain.

Sedgemoor Local Plan

The inspectors report on the examination of the Sedgemoor Local Plan is now available, and the plan is due to be adopted by Sedgemoor District Council on the 20th February. It will then become the principal

document providing guidance for managing development and the use of land across the district until 2032.

Town maintenance contractor

The maintenance contractor worked 13 hours in December. Work carried out included:

- Installing a gate and strimming at the allotments,
- Litter picking at the Furlong and car parks,
- Gully clearing,
- Hedge trimming and reducing a chestnut tree,
- Working on the step at the layby, and the steps and handrail from Back Lane to the old station.

Gas-fired standby power plant

The planning application for a gas-fired standby power plant on Prowse's Lane, which was reported in the last edition of Oyez, has been withdrawn.

Speedwatch volunteers

Council would like to encourage residents to come forward for training and to engage in the Community Speedwatch Group. Anyone interested is asked to contact the Town Clerk (*contact details below*)

Other matters . . .

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

- Refurbishment of the public conveniences
- Change to gritting route and location of grit deposits
- Allotments water trough
- Recruitment of new councillors
- Dementia friendly initiative
- New town signs
- Buses & coaches using the High Street
- Parish paths consultation

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.
The February meeting will be on Monday 18th February.***

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