



# MEMORIAL BENCHES

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

8 AUGUST 2011

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The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with information about the number and condition of Memorial Benches in Ventnor that are likely to be the responsibility of the Town Council.

**No.   DETAIL**

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**1)   BACKGROUND**

- a) No comprehensive records are available of the ownership, location, number or condition of the Town's Memorial Benches; nor is there any evidence of a programme of planned maintenance for them.
  - b) In order to provide the basis for future care and maintenance, the Assistant Town Clerk, with support from Councillor Jason Mack, have completed a detailed town-wide survey of all the benches throughout the Town.
  - c) In addition to identifying location and numbers, they are now listed as to whether they do or do not have a Memorial Dedication and whether they do or do not require repair or maintenance work.
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**2)   VENTNOR'S BENCHES**

- a) The full list from the survey is attached with this report.
  - b) It identifies a total of 130 Benches of which 104 carry a Memorial Dedication and, as such, are almost certain to be the responsibility of Ventnor Town Council. The ownership of the other 26 is unclear at this time.
  - c) Of the 130, a total of 125 are identified as being in need of re-varnishing. Some Town/Parish Councils have an annual programme for this but it is unlikely that Ventnor's have been treated in this way for some years.
  - d) A further 8 are in need of minor repairs.
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**3)   NEW BENCHES**

- a) Three new Memorial Benches are in the process of installation: one under the Ventnor sign on the Cliff Path, one in Flowersbrook and one, in memory of Robbie Mew, on the Esplanade near Alma Road.
  - b) The last of these is free of charge. Others involve a recharge of the order of £400 to the donor.
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**4)   CONSIDERATIONS**

- a) Members are asked to consider whether, given the numbers of existing benches and the already incurred ongoing costs of repair and maintenance, they intend to continue the practice of providing Memorial Benches on request.
  - b) Members are asked to agree to the development of a costed programme of routine maintenance.
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