



The purpose of this Report is to inform Members of the current stage of the negotiations around the Lease from the site and potential developments at this important community resource.

No. DETAILS

1) THE LEASE

- a) As Members are aware, the Town Council currently manages the site under a Tenancy at Will from the Isle of Wight Council.
 - b) The purchase of the old St Boniface School building by St Catherine's School prompted its interest in retaining management of the area around the surfaced games area.
 - c) In February last year very co-operative meetings Tony Flower from the School's Trustees readily arrived at agreement for St Catherine's School to lease part of the site as a games area for their use during school hours, initially for a period of two years with an option to extend to 125 years, with the assistance of the Isle of Wight Council's Senior Surveyor Andrea Jenkins.
 - d) Part of that agreement included the School's willingness to allow the Town Council to continue to use the main's electricity supply point on the School's premises and fed through the tunnel..
 - e) Subsequent discussions have resulted in the Isle of Wight Council offering only a 35-year lease to both the Town Council and the School without the right to renew.
 - f) Tony Flower informed the Town Council that the School were not willing to proceed on that basis and added that it would not continue the provision of the electricity supply to the Fields if the Isle of Wight Council refused to agree the right to renew.
 - g) A letter from the Town Council requesting clarification about the proposed withdrawal of the electricity supply was sent to the Chair of the School's Trustees on 27 April and a reply is due soon, following a virtual meeting of the Chair and Tony Flower with the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council on Thursday 7 May.
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2) VENTNOR COMMUNITY SHED

- a) The Membership of the Shed has now reached 50 and the Committee have been leading discussions with the membership about potential developments of the area at no cost to the Town Council.
 - b) The Secretary and a Committee member have been invited to join the meeting of the Assets and services Group on 26 May to discuss the proposals.
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3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to note the information in this Report and comment on it.
