



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 15/20

13 FEBRUARY 2020

No. DETAILS

1) MEETING WITH HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (HALC)

- a) HALCs Chair and Chief Officer visited the Island on 15 January to meet with six Town and Parish Councils not in membership of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) at Sandown's Broadway Centre.
 - b) The meeting was prompted by the acceptance by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) of a proposal from IWALC, led by Councillor Bob Blezzard instructing NALC's Chief Executive to examine ways of preventing Town and Parish Councils joining Associations other than their own area.
 - c) We were assured by HALC that they have no intention of changing their practice and that they are a fully independent organisation.
 - d) The rest of the time was a useful and constructive discussion if relevant issues.
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2) YOUTH SERVICE FUNDING

An email to Tony McCarthy from Rachael Rogers, Community Safety Programme Officer at the Isle of Wight Council provided the good news that an additional amount of £1,404 to that already secured from the Violence Reduction government funding, has been awarded to Ventnor Town Council for its Youth Services.

3) SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

- a) Our Island Branch meets quarterly and latest was on Thursday evening 30 January when the venue was the office of Freshwater Parish Council for the Annual General Meeting.
 - b) Both Alison and I attended as usual and after (re)appointing our current Officers and receiving the Secretary's Report the main Agenda item was concern about the recent activity of the Isle of Wight Council's Monitoring function where recent judgements appear to have been based on insufficient knowledge of the powers and practices of Town and Parish Councils.
 - c) We agreed unanimously to ask our Chair to discuss the issues raised with the Leader and Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council.
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4) VICTORIA CORNER

- a) With thanks to Lesley Brown (The Flower Fairy), her partner Graham, Gavin Chambers and other local residents, new planters will be built and installed at Victoria Corner (opposite the Clock Shop), Victoria Street.
 - b) The planters will be made from good quality wooden decking, donated by a local resident and, once assembled and in place, Lesley will sow the flower seeds ready for flowering this season.
 - c) Free topsoil, storage of the wooden decking over winter, discounted compost from a local supplier etc., is thanks to the goodwill of local people.
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5) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Alison and Councillor Jason Mack attended the latest of the six-weekly meetings with the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee on Monday 27 January.

6) SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

- a) The Forum enables representatives from all the town and parish councils in the South area to meet with senior staff in the Island's Health & Wellbeing services.
 - b) It's organised by Tony McCarthy and held its latest meeting on Thursday last week with guest
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speakers Jamie Brenchley, the Isle of Wight Council's Service Manager for Housing Needs & Homelessness and Mark Rawlinson, the NHS Trust's South Wight Locality Manager.

7) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (UVCA)

- a) Councillor Colm Watling and Alison met with the UVCA Committee at St Margaret's Hall on Monday 27 January at the usual 6-weekly meeting.
 - b) Items on the agenda included lighting at Rew Valley and St Catherine's School that were causing disturbances, the newly installed router at the Hall, the Cascades and the new development/building work at Grove Road.
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8) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 12 and 10 December and 21 January and 4 February the next meeting planned for 18 February.
 - b) The next meeting of the Community Development Working Group is planned for 18 February.
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9) VACANT ALLOTMENTS

Three of the allotment plots at Boniface Fields have recently been vacated. The plots have now been offered to those next in line on the Waiting List. Plots 18 and 27 have been accepted and we are awaiting acceptance of Plot 32.

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