



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 69/19

12 AUGUST 2019

The purpose of this paper is to record developments since the last meeting not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

No. DETAILS

1) THE FRINGE

- a) Congratulations are due to Ventnor Exchange for another (even more) remarkable Ventnor Fringe week
 - b) Really good news for the town with increased trading and heightened profile.
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2) MEDIA VALLEY CENTRE

- a) We were really sorry to hear the news that the Medina Valley Centre will cease trading on 31 August. The Centre has sadly been a casualty of the economic climate.
 - b) The email from its Co-head of Field Studies Keith Marston added: *We have been so grateful to you for your willingness to talk to our A Level Geography students and field their questions so expertly.*
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3) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- a) Councillor Jason Mack and I had the latest of our six-weekly meetings with the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee on Monday 22 July.
 - b) Topics covered this time included the future of the Haven, the need for major repairs to the Esplanade Bandstand and the maintenance of the Park under the Isle of Wight Council's new Grounds Maintenance contract due to come into operation from 1 January.
 - c) Items raised by Committee members included the need for the Cemetery Gates to be rebuilt, the power cuts resulting from Southern Electricity's works in Newport Road, the possibility of having a WiFi facility at St Margaret's Hall, whether the Food Bank could extend to Upper Ventnor by using the Hall and an invitation to County Councillor Gary Peace to attend the next meeting on 16 September.
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4) SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES FORUM

- a) The latest meeting of the Forum was on 11 July at the Green Room.
 - b) The guest speakers were Sally List from Mountbatten Hospice, Amanda Coyle from Wight DASH (Isle of Wight Women's Centre) and Simon Barton from Isle Find IT.
 - c) Six parishes were represented. The next meeting is on Thursday 5 September at Chillerton Village Hall with guest speakers Nicola Longson from IoW NHS Trust talking about Community Services, Sue Godden from the Good Grief Trust and speaker to update us on clinical services redesign.
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5) SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

- a) The Isle of Wight Branch brings together the Island's Clerks – including Alison and me - on a quarterly basis and its latest meeting held on Thursday 1 August was at our Green Room.
 - b) Chaired by Ventnor resident and Clerk to Whippingham Parish Council Val Taylor, its purpose is to share information and discuss current issues.
 - c) The Agenda this time included the new Isle of Wight Council Planning Portal, a report of the Isle of Wight Council's Scrutiny Committee's discussion of the Island's Clerks, membership of the Association of Local Council Clerks and disability access for websites.
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6) BONCHURCH TRIANGLE BENCHES REFURBISHED

- a) Two of the three benches at Bonchurch Triangle (located at the junction of Trinity Road and Bonchurch Village Road) have been restored, with the third irreparable bench due for removal by the Isle of Wight Council.
- b) Many positive comments have been received and thanks goes to Brian Lucas, Councillor for Bonchurch Ward for undertaking this work.

7) SALISBURY GARDENS' GREEN & EAST CLIFFS

Thanks to John O'Conner grounds maintenance contractor, the crazy-paved paths leading from Salisbury Gardens' building down the Green have been uncovered and re-established, along with the path leading down from East Cliffs to the sundial.

8) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 9 and 23 July and 6 August with the net meeting planned for 27 August.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group's net meeting is planned for 10 September.
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