



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 26/19

11 MARCH 2019

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

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**No. DETAILS**

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**1) SALISBURY GARDENS**

- a) The Emergency Lighting in all the building's hallways and staircases has been repaired and renewed.
  - b) The practice Fire Drill held on Wednesday 13 February achieved the complete evacuation of the building in less than four minutes.
  - c) The Green Room areas are being redecorated later this week.
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**2) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

- a) Jason Mack and I had our latest meeting with the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee on Monday of last week with another constructive sharing of information about developments & issues.
  - b) Discussion this time included the proposed development of the land behind the Island Free School, access to the Rew Valley Sports Centre, Boniface Fields and the dumping of rubbish on St Margaret's Glade Green.
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**3) WAR MEMORIALS**

- a) Historic England informed us that it had received requests to add the Ventnor and Bonchurch War Memorials to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
  - b) They supplied us with a copy for comment of their descriptions of the Memorials that they will submit, together with their recommendation, to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture Media and Sport.
  - c) We will be informed of the outcome of this process in due course.
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**4) SOUTHERN HOUSING GROUP**

We're very grateful to Southern Housing Group for their confirmation of a grant of £5,000 to support our youth work in Upper Ventnor in 2019/20.

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**5) FRIENDS OF VENTNOR LIBRARY AGM**

- a) On Wednesday evening 27 February Councillor Jason Mack & I joined the AGM for the Friends of Ventnor Library to provide an update on progress with the proposed development of Ventnor Central to include a new home for the Library on the ground floor.
  - b) It was good to hear of their increase in both membership (to 36) and funds and details of the wide range of activities they have taken on during the last year.
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**6) SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES HEALTH & WELLBEING FORUM**

- a) Councillor Jason Mack and Tony McCarthy attended the Forum, sponsored and organised by the Town Council, at its latest meeting held on the evening of Thursday 28 February at St Paul's Church in Shanklin.
  - b) The guest speaker on this occasion was Jamie Brenchley, Housing Needs & Homeless Manager at the Isle of Wight Council.
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**7) WORKING GROUPS**

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 12 February and its next meeting is booked for 12 March.
  - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 13 February and its next meeting is on 13 March.
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**8) WALLGATE CONTRACT**

- a) We have nearly completed the arrangements with Wallgate – the suppliers of the hand washing machines in our Public Toilets – for the maintenance contract for 2019/20.
  - b) As Members will recall, when the Isle of Wight Council stopped funding Toilets the charges for their maintenance contract to the individual Town & Parish Councils that took them on were substantially higher than those previously charged to the Isle of Wight Council.
  - c) Ventnor Town Council took the initiative and invited all the other Town & Parish Councils maintaining Toilets to join in a single contract managed by us and that achieved a 25% reduction in the per unit charge.
  - d) The coming financial year will be the third adopting this arrangement that this time will cover 81 units over 12 Town & Parish Councils at a cost of £142 per unit – an increase of 2.9% on the current year and total of £11,573.
  - e) Our Esplanade and Marlborough Road Toilets have 16 units between them and the remainder of the payment is reclaimed by agreed invoicing of the respective Town & Parish Councils.
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