



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 98/18

8 OCTOBER 2018

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

No. DETAILS

1) SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)

- a) The meeting of the Island's Branch of the SLCC that Alison and I attended on Thursday 27 September expressed substantial concerns about the absence of any mechanism for holding Councillors to the Code of Conduct.
 - b) This was prompted by the resignation of two of the Island's Clerks citing unacceptable behaviour by Councillors.
 - c) Newport's Clerk Danny Faulkner told his colleagues that when even referring one councillor to the Monitoring Officer failed to change the situation he was left with no alternative but to resign. And Bembridge Parish Council's Clerk – widely recognised as a role model by her peers - resigned during the September Council Meeting. The statement on the Council's web site stated *This resignation is due to a continued and targeted campaign of bullying and harassment.*
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2) ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) The Minutes of IWALC's May and July meetings show that the organisation is continuing to adopt an aggressive stance in respect of the eight Town and Parish Councils not currently in membership of it.
 - b) Minute 6 of the May meeting refers to its meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and states: *Some members expressed their disappointment that NALC was not prepared to take a hard line with HALC over the need to stick to the constitution and bar development partners access to NALC information. It was felt that IWALC should fight for this position and NALC should be held to account, possibly with a motion at the NALC AGM in October.*
 - c) Minute 8 of its July Annual General Meeting followed that up with a resolution to be passed on the NALC that includes *This meeting therefore instructs the NALC Chief Executive to use all the powers at his disposal to stop CALCs offering "development", "associate" or similar grade of membership'.*
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3) VENTNOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

- a) The latest meeting with the Ventnor Business Association's Bob Ventress and Tracy Ward was on Wednesday 19 September.
 - b) This one focused on the plans for the fifth Ventnorville Christmas event that this year will run from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December and include an Ice-rink at the Winter Gardens. We also heard of the successful distribution of the VBA-produced town map leaflets and we were able to share progress with the town council's current funding applications.
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4) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- a) Councillor Jason Mack and I joined the Upper Ventnor Community Association Committee for the latest of our six-weekly discussions on Monday 17 September
 - b) We came away with a list of issues that need to be taken up including several involving the Island Free School.
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5) VISITING STUDENTS

- a) There's been a new round of discussion sessions with students staying at the Island's Medina Valley Centre as part of their A-level geography course.
 - b) On Wednesday 19 September Councillor Jason Mack welcomed to our Green Room a group of 14 students from two London schools - Greenford School in Ealing and Coloma School in Croydon - to answer their questions on the town's potential regeneration after they had spent the day in the town looking into among other aspects a comparison of the success of regeneration in Ventnor and White Chapel, London
 - c) That visit was followed by students from St Bede's School on 27 September and from Gordons School on 4 October.
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6) SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM

- a) The latest meeting took place on 6 September at Sandown's Broadway Centre with eight Town and Parish Councils present,
 - b) The Guest speakers on this occasion were Sam Schroeder who showed a shortened version of his film on Mental Health and Jan Brookes and Jim Morey from Isle Access.
 - c) The next meeting is on 18 October at our Green Room.
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7) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 25 September and its next meeting is booked for 16 October.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 4 October.
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