



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 84/21

11 OCTOBER 2021

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

No. DETAILS

1) STAFF CHANGE

- a) We said farewell to Morgan Williams on Friday with staff colleagues joined in the office by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Morgan started with us on a one-year apprenticeship in June 2016 and has contributed significantly to our five years of growth since. We're confident he will do well in his new career path.
- b) We're delighted that our recruitment process for a new Administrator to join our staff team concluded successfully on Thursday with the appointment of Newport resident Rachel Redfearn to the post. Rachel will start work with us on 1 November.

2) NEW STEPS AT BONIFACE FIELDS

- a) Thanks to the skilled work of Ventnor Community Shed members, the Community Portacabin in Boniface Fields now has quality new steps in place of their insecure predecessors.
- b) Shed members have been committed to contributing to the development of the whole site since they moved in to the oldest portacabin

3) THE HAVEN

- a) On Wednesday our 29 September our Business Development Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop and I joined the second virtual meeting of those involved in the £34,000 European-funded project to investigate the possible commercial uses of the Island's seaweed led by the excellent French consultant Jean-Baptist Wallaert.
- b) Unfortunately for the town, his conclusion at this stage is: *It is extremely unlikely that anything positive may come out this endeavour.*

4) AWARDS FOR PARK AND CASCADE

- a) Congratulations to John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance and its staff for gaining the South & South East in Bloom Silver-Gilt Level Awards for both Ventnor Park and the Cascades. The Assessors gave the Park a total of 157 points out of the maximum 200 and the Cascades 153, both well within the 139-169 Silver-Gilt range.
- b) The full assessments for both are available by clicking this [link](#).

5) EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS ADVICE

- a) Our long-running local advice sessions on Thursday mornings at the Library know as Network are now in their ninth year.
- b) With the ending of Furlough and the £20 a week cut to Universal Credit the advice Jan Bennett is able to provide residents on applying for jobs and accessing Universal Credit is perhaps more important.
- c) Please call in if advice in these areas would be valuable for you: you'll be very welcome.

6) VENTNOR COMMUNITY SHED LEASE

- a) Following a meeting with the Secretary and Treasurer of Ventnor Community Shed on Monday 27 August a lease for their use of the Portacabin that is their base on Boniface Fields has been agreed.
 - b) Their contribution to the whole site continues to be proactive and much valued.
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7) **WORKING GROUPS**

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 14 September and 5 October and plans to meet next on 19 October.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 23 September and expects to meet next on 28 October.
 - c) The 31 Bus Working Group met on 30 September.
 - d) The Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Group met on 29 September and is committed to meeting on the last Wednesday of each month.
 - e) The New Website Working Group met on 28 September.
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