



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 39/17

22 MAY 2017

The purpose of this paper is to record developments in the past month not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

No. DETAILS

1) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Community Development Working Group met on 20 April and the Public Buildings Working Group has had two routine meetings since the last Town Council Meeting, on 18 April and 2 May and an additional single item meeting on Empty Shops on 11 April.
 - b) We plan to circulate the Notes of Working Group meetings to all Members in future instead of just to those attending the Group meetings.
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2) LIBRARY STEERING GROUP MEETING

- a) The Steering Group – with membership of two representatives from the Friends of the Library, Librarian Tanith Hicks, Head of the Isle of Wight Council's Library Service Rob Jones and the Mayor and me - meets every two months with the latest meeting being held on Tuesday 9 May.
 - b) Rob Jones supplied the usage statistics for the January to March period and that was followed by a report on the Library Open Day held last month, reassurance about improvements to the computer system, an update on the development of Ventnor Central as the new venue for the Library and a summary of changes following the local elections.
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3) HEALTH & WELLBEING

- a) The Mayor and Tony McCarthy joined in the Check & Challenge Workshop on the future for the NHS Trust's Acute services on Thursday 20 April.
 - b) In the afternoon of the same day Tony and I had the opportunity to meet with the Isle of Wight Council's recently appointed Assistant Director for Integrated Local Services together with Freshwater Parish Council's Clerk and Councillor Gill Kennett.
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4) VENTNOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

- a) The latest of the regular meetings the Mayor, Nick Cox and I have with the VBA's Officers took place on 3 May.
 - b) We heard of their successful Networking Meeting, the proposed developments of the Love Ventnor Website and the imminent publication of their Ventnor Guide.
 - c) We also discussed progress with the plans for Ventnor Central and Spring Hill Gardens and agreed to meet next on 5 July.
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5) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Clerks' other diary commitments meant that the Mayor attended the latest of the 6-weekly meeting with the Association's Committee on his own on 24 April – we usually join him.

6) CAR PARKS

Allison and I met with the Isle of Wight Council's Parking Operations Manager Mark Downer on 27 April for a discussion of cash collection arrangements and the reconciliation of accounts for the financial year 2016/17.

7) GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) Alison, Jim Toogood and I met with John O'Conner's Stan Hayden on the morning of 10 May to discuss adjustments to current practice and the charge for the contract in 2017/18 reflecting
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reductions for the exclusion of two areas and the agreed contribution by Ventnor Botanic Garden to the Cascade.

b) Jim Toogood and Alison met with the Garden's Chris Kidd later that day.

8) MEETING WITH LEE MA

Alison and I met with the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation and Public Spaces Manager Lee Matthews on 5 May for a wide-ranging informal discussion that included the future of the Library, the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme, Brown Tail Moth Caterpillars (he agreed the Isle of Wight Council would put warning signs in place), the Environment Officer service, Benches, Public Toilets, Beach Cleaning, Ventnor Park and the Coastal Path.
