



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 32/16

16 MAY 2016

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

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    ORCHARD BAY**

- a) St Lawrence Community Association are concerned at the continuing delay in restoring public access to Orchard Bay.
  - b) The Isle of Wight Council's Public Rights of Way service share that concern and have indicated that a letter of support from the Town Council will be helpful in their attempt to secure it.
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**2)    VENTNOR DAY, 4 MAY**

- a) Ventnor Day, initiated in response to the invitation from BBC South Today to be the first in their series celebrating community spirit, exceeded all expectations as 55 of the town's community groups showcased their work in the lovely setting of Salisbury Gardens' Green.
  - b) BBC South Today's team were delighted with the occasion and gave 20 minutes of their half-hour evening meeting to it. Their producer's email said of it: *May I add my own thanks to you and your whole team for making us so welcome. It was quite a challenge – just a few weeks to pull together an event which involved the whole town. The response was fantastic and, in my opinion, thoroughly confirms all that we suspected about Ventnor. The sense of energy and enthusiasm yesterday was quite inspiring.*
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**3)    UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

- a) The Mayor and Clerks met with the Association's Members at their St Margaret's Hall building on Monday 11 April for the latest of our 6-weekly meetings to share information and have an informal discussion of issues affecting Upper Ventnor and the town as a whole.
  - b) The news of the successful grant application for creative workshops for the area's young people was particularly welcome with the progress on the new Free School building being the other major topic.
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**4)    WORKING GROUPS**

- a) The Public Buildings Working Group has met twice since the last meeting of the Town Council, on 19 April and 10 May with its next one agreed for 31 May.
  - b) The Community Development Working Group met at 6pm on 10 May and will reconvene on 7 June.
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**5)    PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- a) The Town Council's Planning Committee has met twice since the last Town Council Meeting
  - b) The first was on the 19 April with eight applications on their Agenda and the second on 11 May with a nine item Agenda.
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**6)    VENTNOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

- a) The Clerks met with the Chair and Secretary of the Association on 11 May for the usual useful exchange of information and ideas.
  - b) Both Officers will stand down at the June Annual General Meeting although they are willing to stay on the new Committee.
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**7) 31 Bus**

- a) After a series of meetings and email discussions with Isle of Wight Council Officers agreement has been reached on the system for claiming the subsidy element of fares for passengers with discounted travel permits.
  - b) The Isle of Wight Council have agreed to accept paper records of journeys identifying the journeys that qualify for the £1.25 subsidy against the usual £2.50 fare until agreement has been reached on the ticketing machine required.
  - c) It is expected that this arrangement will recover sufficient funding to close the gap between Minibus Plus's increased charges and the £7,000 budget provision for the service.
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