



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 107/14

8 DECEMBER 2014

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

No. DETAIL

1) STAFF APPOINTMENT

- a) The Recruitment and Selection process for appointment to our post of Community Development Officer attracted 10 applications from which the Panel identified a shortlist of four, one of whom withdrew two days before the interview.
 - b) The three applicants were asked to deliver a 15 minute presentation on the *Purpose & Priorities of Community Development* after which they had a tour of the Green Room area in the Lower Ground Floor before returning for a 45 minute interview with the Panel.
 - c) The Panel's unanimous decision was for the appointment of Shanklin Resident and current Community Development Officer with Hampshire County Council Tony McCarthy. He will begin work with us on Monday 5 January 2015.
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2) LETTER TO THE MINISTER

- a) The consideration of the correspondence between the Town Council and Coastal Communities Minister Penny Mordaunt about the Undercliff Landslip concluded with a resolution that the Mayor should write further to the Minister in reply to her letter.
 - b) A copy of the Mayor's letter is attached to this Report.
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3) YOUTH OFFER

- a) The Young Creatives series of workshops run by and at the Exchange are part of Ventnor's Youth Offer launched in October with funding secured by the Town Council from the Isle of Wight Council. It got off to an excellent start with three successive, well attended, Sunday sessions in November.
 - b) The first workshop was delivered by Julie Barnes, a local artist and member of the Undecided Art Collective. She delivered a workshop on upcycling and customisation to 10 girls who had brought clothes they wanted to alter. The next workshop was run by illustrator Jon Habens on self-publishing and the third by Holly Cade on Photography, both equally well attended.
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4) PUBLIC BUILDINGS WORKING GROUP

- a) Continuing its fortnightly meetings to progress the range of significant projects currently in progress, the Group met on 27 November to assess developments with Salisbury Gardens, Ventnor Central, Car Parks and Devolved Services.
 - b) The latest edition of the survey conducted by the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) was included in the papers for the meeting, from which it is clear that there is not enough support for funding a continuation of the current Isle of Wight Council Beach Cleaning or Grounds Maintenance Surveys.
 - c) The Group intends to work with the Town Clerk on tender processes in January.
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5) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

- a) The Group met on 2 December with an Agenda that opened as usual with a detailed report from Community Development Officer Julia Aratoon followed by Salisbury Gardens formal opening event on 17 January, branding for the Green Room and Ventnor Central and a discussion of future Timebank staff support.
- b) It was agreed that the Annual Consultation event would take place on 26 January 2015 at St Francis Primary School.

6) PHONE NUMBERS

Our old phone numbers (856905 and 855217) have now been discontinued. The new direct number for Alison is 853775 and I'm on 857840; my number is permanently forwarded to my mobile at no extra cost to callers.



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL



Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1EJ

Penny Mordaunt MP
Minister for High Streets and Coastal Communities
Department for Communities and Local Government
Elland House, Bressenden Place
London SW1 5DU

1 December 2014

Dear Minister

We're writing to thank you for the courtesy of your reply received by us on 22 October to our letter of 12 August asking that consideration be given to financial support to restore the damage to local residents, local businesses and the Island's tourism offer resulting from the serious Undercliff landslip.

Your response was considered by our November Town Council meeting from which we have been asked to write further to you on this matter.

The Town Council was both surprised and disappointed that you appear to have been advised that this is a straightforward Highways issue and can be dealt with within the current 25 year PFI scheme responsible for highways project; that isn't possible within the contract.

It is our view that you would have been unlikely to accept this advice had you had the opportunity to view the seriousness of this particular landslip and to hear at first hand from those affected by it.

We know from your Twitter Account that you are extremely active in visiting areas related to your Portfolio and, consequently, this is an invitation from the Town Council to visit Ventnor in the near future in order to have that direct experience.

A visit would also give you the opportunity to see the stimulus being provided to this coastal town through a £95,000 grant from year two of the Coastal Communities Fund and to hear of its positive participation in the DCLG's Our Place Programme.

We hope that you may be able to accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely

Jason Mack
Mayor

David Bartlett
Town Clerk