



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 32/14

14 APRIL 2014

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with updates on some areas of the Town Council's ongoing work.

**No. DETAIL**

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**1) SEASONAL SERVICES**

- a) All the Town Council's seasonal services are now in operation for the 2014 season.
  - b) The Putting Green's new operators, Jackie and Richard Tiller, have already been busy in preparing for their new contribution to the town's life and got their season under way on 4 April and are building up to a series of special events for the Easter weekend.
  - c) Dave Gray has been re-engaged for his fourth season as our Beach Safety Officer and the Esplanade's First Aid Hut where he and his volunteer helpers will be based again this year opened on Friday 11 April.
  - d) Merv Ringer and Mick Wade have re-joined our staff for the season and after the annual clean and repaint the Paddling Pool fresh also opened on Friday 11 April.
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**2) WAR MEMORIAL**

- a) The Isle of Wight Council have released the remaining element of the 2012 Economic Improvement Grant towards the improvement of the War Memorial in return for sight of an estimate for works intended to upgrade the base in advance of its re-dedication in August and a commitment from the Town Council that its match funding was still available.
  - b) This development means that the Town Council now has a total of £6,296 for the improvement works.
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**3) ESPLANADE CLOCK**

- a) We were pleased to hear from Alan Philpott, the volunteer who looks after the Esplanade Clock about his recent repairs to it.
  - b) He was keen to ensure the time was right for the Boxing Day Swim and installed new batteries to restore the running of one of the faces.
  - c) More recently he found that one side was wrong again and has acquired the necessary new movement for it. Our thanks to him.
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**4) NALC CONFERENCE**

- a) Members will recall that Ventnor's experience last year of exercising the Localism Act's Community Rights had attracted some national attention and resulted in an invitation to me to provide the case study element of the national conferences arranged by the National Association of Local Councils
  - b) I have just been invited again this year to their London Conference on 5 June under the theme of *Making Localism Work*.
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**5) FOUR YEARS & COUNTING**

- a) It was at this meeting four years ago, on 12 April 2010, that I was first appointed as Ventnor's Town Clerk.
  - b) The anniversary always seems an appropriate time to record the privilege it has been and remains, as the temporary appointment turned into a more permanent arrangement, to work with the Town's Councillors across a wide range of challenges and opportunities in contributing to the future life of the town and its residents.
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