



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 21/14

10 MARCH 2014

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

No. DETAIL

1) FACING THE FUTURE

- a) This was the theme of an excellent Conference organised by the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) and the local branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) at Cowes Yacht Haven last Thursday.
- b) It was open to all Town & Parish Councillors and Clerks and Ventnor was represented by Councillors Ed Gouge, Stewart Blackmore and Tony Marvin and the Clerks.
- c) Following an introduction from Steve Stubbings as Deputy Leader of the Isle of Wight Council a series of highly qualified speakers from the Mainland took the gathering through the range of issues facing town and parish councils in the coming years.
- d) Amongst the guest speakers were the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils and the Chief Executive of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

2) FIRST AID COURSE

- a) The First Aid Course arranged by our Community Development Officer Julia Aratoon proved a great success both for the 13 who qualified from it and Timebank as the basis for it.
- b) In the feedback, a member of the Carnival Committee noted: *I thought the course was brilliant and this course as saved our group at least £500.00. Thanks for organising this.*
- c) Other comments included: *Thank you to Time Bank for organising the first aid training. The training was excellent and I learned an awful lot - which will be very useful in my work. I was pleased to swap the hours I have earned as a Timebank volunteer for something so worthwhile, Again, thank you.*
- d) Another commented later by phone: *I just wanted to ring to thank you for putting me on the training. I have not trained for a long time and it was really hard to get my brain in gear, but the tutor gave me the time I needed. I want to get involved in Timebank but am busy at the moment, but could fit in a gentle walk if you have anyone that would like a companion.*

3) TIDAL ENERGY PROJECT

- a) Five Town Councillors – Steve Stubbings, Brian Lucas, Tony Marvin, Terry Gibbs and Leigh Geddes – attended a consultation event at St Margaret's Hall on Thursday 20 February on the Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre (PTEC) project that involves major investment in an offshore site to the south of St. Catherine's Point and onshore infrastructure (substation and control room) in Ventnor by early 2017.
- b) A public exhibition is due to held in the town this month at a time and place to be announced.

4) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Public Buildings Working Group met on Tuesday 25 February at 10am with an Agenda that included Salisbury Gardens, the Ventnor Enterprise Centre and Discretionary Services.
- b) The Community Development Working Group met on Tuesday 4 March at 9am to discuss the impact of staff changes, Julia Aratoon's excellent monthly report, the development of the Community Hub, Our Place! and its future membership.

5) ARMED FORCES DAY

- a) The donation of £100 has been made for the Armed Forces Day on Saturday 21 June as agreed by the Town Council.
- b) Terry Clarkson, the Secretary of AFD (IoW), has expressed grateful thanks from the organising committee for Ventnor Town Council's generous donation towards the cost of staging the event.

6) BOXING CLUB

The payment of £300 has been made for the survey of the Methodist Church by Tim Smart Surveyors as part of the Town Council's support for the initiative led by Councillor Brian Lucas to retain the building as the venue for the Boxing Club.
