



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 97/13

9 DECEMBER 2013

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) ST LAWRENCE BY-ELECTION

- a) The vacancy created by the resignation of Chris Welsford will be filled by a by-election process following the request by at least 10 St Lawrence residents for there to be one having been received by the Isle of Wight Council's Proper Officer in advance of the deadline.
  - b) If there is more than one nominated candidate for the vacancy, the election is expected to be held in early February 2014.
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### 2) SEMINARS

- a) Two Seminars for Members focusing on two of the Town Council's major projects have taken place since the last Town Council meeting.
  - b) The first, on Monday 18 November considered the progress of the progress of the Community Development project and was followed by the equivalent discussion of the Economic Development Worker on Monday 2 December.
  - c) The work of the part time staff employed to lead each of the projects was welcomed and constructive discussions, in which they shared, of the next phase of each project proved valuable.
  - d) The Town Clerk's notes of the first have been circulated to the VTC Plus group for information and comment and those of the second will be included in the January mailing to the group.
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### 3) No.31 Bus

- a) We're pleased to report that the new arrangements for the No.31 Bus, including its extension to St Lawrence are working smoothly.
  - b) The relationship between the Assistant Town Clerk and the operator, MiniBus Plus is central to the operation as is the support of the Isle of Wight Council staff in its financing.
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### 4) UPPER VENTNOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- a) The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerks joined the Association's Committee at their base, St Margaret's Hall, for the 6-weekly meeting of the two.
  - b) It was reported that the new Noticeboard has been ordered and the work in progress.
  - c) A discussion about the possible transfer of ownership of a piece of currently overgrown land adjacent to the Hall from the Isle of Wight Council for community use led to a wider discussion of the likely impact on the area of the new Free School.
  - d) Those concerns are now being responded to with developments to be reported to the next of these meetings, agreed to be on 20 January 2014.
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### 5) NEW YEAR, NEW NOW

- a) In the new year, St Margaret's Hall will also host *Exercise to Music* sessions from 1-2pm each Monday from 6 January
  - b) These are being led by a qualified instructor and the programme has been arranged by the Assistant Town Clerk and our Community Development Worker. Anyone interested in joining in is asked to phone Alison Killick on 856905.
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**6) CHRISTMAS TREES**

- a) The Assistant Clerk is very grateful to Maureen Cawley, Brian Lucas, Robert Plumridge and Dave Goode for their invaluable and voluntary assistance in the co-ordination and assembly of the Spring Gardens Christmas Tree.
  - b) In addition, I hope that Members will agree to the donation of £250 to the not inconsiderable costs Ventnor Business Association have incurred in funding and arranging for over 50 small trees to decorate the town centre this year.
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**7) VTC PLUS**

- a) The December circulation to the 185 residents signed up to an ongoing conversation with the Town Council about future developments provided background information about and an invitation to comment on three main areas: the Community Development Project, Assets of Community Value and the Annual Community Consultation Event due to be held on 27 January at St Francis Primary School Hall.
  - b) A dozen copies of the email are also sent by post to residents without an email account.
  - c) Membership of the group is open to any Ventnor resident by phoning Alison Killick on 856905 or emailing her at [alison@ventnortc.org](mailto:alison@ventnortc.org).
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**8) TESS JESSOP**

- a) As Members are aware, Tess Jessop retired as the town's Librarian on Saturday 30 November after years of invaluable service in the development and delivery of the local Library service.
  - b) We are sure the Town Council would want to record its appreciation of her leadership of a team that has created such a wonderfully accessible, innovative, flexible and friendly service that means so much to so many of the town's residents.
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