



The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on developments affecting the Ventnor Central building that the Town Council took on responsibility for under a Tenancy at Will from 1 October 2014.

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    BOOKINGS**

- a) The Town Council agreed that the use of the building should not be widely advertised until confidence in its safety and safe use is clarified but that direct approaches for its use would be accommodated where possible.
  - b) To date, bookings have been processed for the period 1 November - 31 December in a total of 8 hours use of the Music Room and 23 hours use of the Main Hall at £10 an hour.
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**RISK ASSESSMENTS**

- a) A copy of the Isle of Wight Council's Health and Safety Risk Assessment has been made available and is adequate for our purposes at current and immediately proposed usage.
  - b) However concerns about fire safety, particularly in view of the issues presented by the internal staircases and the width and condition of the side passageway, have led to a formal commissioning of a professionally produced Fire Risk Assessment at a reduced cost of £175.
  - c) The draft of that has been delivered and will be given detailed consideration by the next meeting of the Public Buildings Working Group on 16 December.
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**2)    NEXT STEPS**

- a) Discussions with Isle of Wight Council Officers about future uses of the building are due to begin again as soon as the Isle of Wight Council's budget decisions are confirmed.
  - b) Meanwhile investigations into the costs of ensuring the building is fit for purpose for continuing, significant and self-financing future uses will continue.
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