



Welcome to the fourth Clerk's Column of 2021 circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

PROCUREMENT: THE NEW PUBLIC TOILET

Procurement – the process for awarding contracts – is nationally regulated for all Councils. These regulations provide two processes for contracts in excess of £25,000: if a Council advertises the contract it must include the opportunity on a government website called Contract Finder. If, however, the Council *makes the opportunity available only to a number of particular economic operators who have been selected for that purpose* it does not have to use Contract Finder [the legal advice we received on this from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils is available by clicking this [link](#).]

The Town Council adopted the option in italics because the three companies it invited to tender are substantial Island-based companies with a strong track record and were the tenderers for our refurbishment of Salisbury Gardens in 2014.

Their fixed tenders ranged from £147,610 through £156,840 to £164,210. The lowest tenderer that also offered the shortest time for completion has been appointed as the Town Council's Preferred Contractor.

Here's the full process of Town Council decisions as set out in Report 3/21 of the January Meeting:

BACKGROUND

- a) The project and the tender process for it were included on the Agenda of five of the Town Council's 2020 Meetings as follows:
- b) Minute 7/20 of the Meeting off 13 January 2020
It was proposed by Councillor James Toogood, seconded by Councillor Jamie Macaulay and unanimously resolved to:
 - i) agree the detailed drawings as tabled and approve their inclusion as the basis of the required submission for Planning Permission;
 - ii) commission Andrew Hitt to prepare the documentation for a tender process to be prepared and operated by the Assets and Services Working Group.
- c) Minute 16/20 of the Meeting of 10 February
It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cockett seconded by Councillor Jason Mack and unanimously agreed to:
 - i) formally agree the Tender Process as set out in section 3) of this Report;
 - ii) authorise the Mayor and Clerk to negotiate a more appropriate rent for the land area agreed for the installation of the new public toilet.
The Report referred to is attached to this Report.
- d) Minute 27/20 of the Meeting of 9 March 2020
It was proposed by Councillor Dave Logan, seconded by Councillor Colm Watling and unanimously resolved that:
 - i) the start date for the build works would be 1 September; and
 - ii) cash, card and contact facilities for charging 20p to use the Toilets would be included.
- e) The Agenda item for the Meeting of 12 October 2020 was for an update and no Resolution was required or requested; Minute 104/20 included the information:
Councillor James Toogood introduced this item and informed Members that the specifications for the building from the Quantity surveyor would be available by the end of this week.
- f) Minute 122/20 of the Meeting of 14 December 2020
It was proposed by Councillor Brian Lucas, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cockett and resolved to:
 - i) agree the submission of the attached application for Borrowing Approval in a total of ££150,000; and
 - ii) delegate the selection of the contractor to be commissioned for the works to the Town Clerk advised by the Assets and Services Working Group.

BONIFACE FIELDS LEASE

The Town Council has developed the fields opposite the old St Boniface School under a Tenancy at Will from the Isle of Wight Council since April 2018 as a major community resource for the town.



We bought three Portacabins from the Free School (two rented by Atelier

and one for community use) and inherited another (Ventnor Community Shed).

The lower field has given the town another 25 allotments - after years of having only three - all fully subscribed and with an active Allotment Association.



The move to a full Lease has been delayed by the Department for Education's process the Isle of Wight Council has had to comply with for the release of their designation as school sports fields.

We've heard this week that this is now complete and the preparation for a 25-year lease has started and is expected to be completed soon. Our thanks go to our colleagues at the Isle of Wight Council who have made it possible for the town to have this wonderful resource.

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Our volunteers are still providing support with shopping and collecting medication for those unable to go out and without others to support.

If you need help, or know someone who does, contact us by phoning 853775 or 857848.

FROM MY TWITTER ACCOUNT LAST WEEK

- Oxfam's new Report today 'The Inequality Virus' finds: The world's ten richest men have seen their combined wealth increase by \$540 billion (£400 billion) during the pandemic, while the crisis threatens a lost decade in the fight against poverty.
- A Report by UNICEF and the World Food Programme finds: 'More than 39 billion in-school meals have been missed globally since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic due to school closures'

MORE INFORMATION: including contact details for Town Councillors is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnorclerk