



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 44

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the fifth 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.

AMAZING MILESTONE OF VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

This week the number of collections of shopping or medications carried out by our remarkable team of volunteers has passed the 1,000 milestone.

Of that total, 220 have been shopping collections with a total value of £10,000, reclaimed from the



resident, by Covid-compliant arrangements.

The majority have been collections of medication for residents unable to leave home and having no other person to collect for them. The arrangements are managed by our Assistant Town Clerk and Community Development Officer with support from our Administrator. Our thanks to the volunteers without whom this level of support would not have been available to the town's vulnerable residents.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's latest virtual meeting was last Tuesday. Its Agenda included the new Grounds Maintenance agreement with the Isle of Wight Council for us to continue to be responsible for the cutting of the town's grassed areas, the Park, Boniface Fields, the use of part of Dudley Road Car Park for three weeks from 15 February, the Esplanade Traffic Flow and Salisbury Gardens.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S BUDGET

It was disappointing to be informed in an Isle of Wight Council Press Release on Wednesday headed *Council announces major investment in recovery and rebuild budget for 2021/22* that yet again its 2021/22 includes: Changes to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, including reducing the level of support from 70 per cent to 65 per cent. Their Budget pressures are understandable, but it surely should not be the poorest that have to pay?

JANUARY FINANCES

The balance on the Town Council's bank accounts at 31 January was £221,007. Payments during the month totalled £349,364 of which £10,332 was due to Salisbury Gardens and that included a payment of £4,463 for repairs to our server following an accident that our Insurers have agreed to refund in full. Income during the month totalled £5,029 of which £3,458 came from Salisbury Gardens' rents.

The list of payments and receipts in the first 10 months of the year showed payments £62,747 under Budget and receipts £8,472 under Budget. The variations are mainly due to the impacts of Covid-19.

ELECTIONS IN VENTNOR

We now have the information about the new Wards for the election of Town Councillors on 6 May following the recent government review of Ward boundaries.. The numbers of residents registered to vote and the number of Town Councillors they will vote both change very significantly as shown for each Ward in this table:

Ward	Electors	Councillors
Bonchurch & Ventnor East	737	2
Lowtherville	910	2
St Lawrence	557	1
Ventnor West	2,505	6

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

- o A new [Trussell Trust Report](#) finds: 'Nearly a quarter of a million parents on Universal Credit fear not being able to properly feed their children if cut to benefit goes ahead,' referring to the current £20 weekly uplift.
- o The [Standard Life Foundation](#) has published details of the 3.8 million people currently excluded from the government's income replacement schemes.

MORE INFORMATION: including contact details for Town Councillors is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnorclerk . Readers of the print edition can access the digital version via the news block on the home page of our web site