



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 47

MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021

Welcome to the eighth 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.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS 6 MAY: JOIN US?

We're looking for new Town Councillors to join us through the 6 May elections. There will be at least two of the present 11 that won't be standing for the new Town Council as they are moving off the Island.



It's a really important role as the Town needs the wide range of responsibilities the Council has taken on over the last eight years as the Isle of Wight Council has been unable to fund them. In addition of providing Beach Safety, Beach Cleaning, Grounds Maintenance, support for the Library and a Youth Service, the Council is responsible for managing the Assets listed in the table. If you'd like to discuss the possibility of joining us for the next four years give me a call on 07720 771114 or Assistant Clerk Alison Killick on 07375 028833.

ASSET	ASSET
<b>TOILETS</b>	<b>BUILDINGS</b>
Esplanade	Salisbury Gardens
Marlborough Road	Ventnor Central
Ventnor Park	First Aid Hut
Shore Road	<b>FACILITIES</b>
<b>CAR PARKS</b>	Paddling Pool
Dudley Road	Outdoor Gym
Market Street	Putting Green
Pound Lane	Spring Hill Gardens
Shore Road	Boniface Fields
	Ventnor Park

## ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S

### BUDGET

The Budget was approved at Wednesday's full Council meeting. The main points are:

- £3.5m of savings in accordance with the Council resolution of 26 February 2020.
- A Council Tax increase of 4.99% (3.0% of which is raised specifically for Adult Social Care).
- A forecast for the 3 year period beyond 2021/22 which will require a further £9.0m in savings or £3.0m pa (from £3.5m pa previously).



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Group met on Wednesday evening and began as usual with Tony McCarthy's report covering welcome donations to the town's Food Bank and Baby Box and a funding application to continue adult learning provision in partnership with Pan, Aspire and West Wight.

Support for the town's vulnerable residents, Boniface Fields, Ventnor Park and the Local Elections were also on the Agenda.

## SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES FORUM

The Forum brings together representatives from the 13 Town & Parish Councils in the South Wight Area at regular intervals for discussions with senior staff from the Island's Health and Social Care services. The latest session took place virtually on Thursday afternoon with the guest speaker Sharon Kingsman, a Public Health Principal with the Isle of Wight Council for Care and lead for Public Health Commissioning, to talk about the Mental Health Alliance.

## OPENING UP

Unless the government advice changes, we're planning for the re-opening of the Outdoor Gym and Paddling Pool in four weeks' time, on 29 March. Signage will be restored with reminders of the importance of observing the requirements for Covid-safety.

## 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 them

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

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [National Institute](#) of Economic & Social Research finds: 'the number of [#households](#) "living in destitution" across the UK is estimated to have more than [#doubled](#) during 2020, from 197,400 to 421,500...an increase of over half a million'
- A blog from [UK Youth](#) highlights its finding that: '64% of youth organisations [are] at risk of closure in the next 12 months.'

**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