



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 48

MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021

Welcome to the ninth 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?

As highlighted in last week's Clerk's Column we're very keen to find new Town Councillors to join us through the 6 May elections. The Isle of Wight Council will give us the details this week of the arrangements for the elections in a process that starts on 22 March. We'll publish them here next Monday. Meanwhile 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.



ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Secretary and a Committee member of the Ventnor Community Shed joined the latest meeting of the Group to outline proposals for the development at Boniface Fields. Other agenda items included Ventnor Park, Benches in the Park, the Group's Remit, the Putting Green and Salisbury Gardens.

MEETING WITH THE ISLAND'S MP

I joined the 33 other representatives of the Island's Town & Parish Councils for the fortnightly meeting



Bob Seely holds for us. Half the meeting this time was on the planned introduction of several pairs of Beavers to the Eastern Yar between Newchurch and Bembridge with questions to Jamie Marsh of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust as agreed at the previous meeting.

Other items raised included the Isle of Wight Council ending the grant funding to Town & Parish Councils towards their Precept Budgets (they need to keep it), whether hybrid virtual meetings would be allowed after 7 May (government not decided yet), the planned closure of Chillerton's School (opposed) and the shortage of Dentists (representations made).

FEBRUARY FINANCES

The balance on the Town Council's accounts at 28 February was £194,166. During the month we paid out a total of £43,783 of which £6,801 was for Salisbury Gardens and included the second of the half yearly loan repayments for the refurbishment of the building.

We received a total of £16,952 in the month and that included £15,050 income received for Salisbury Gardens. After 11 months of the current financial year payments were £50,018 less than Budget and receipts were £5,845 under Budget.

DECEMBER WEATHER

There were five air frosts, 8th – 11th, and 13th. Snow was observed to fall on five days, 7th – 11th, mostly in the form of grains.

| Rainfall (mm): | | Date |
|-------------------------|------|------|
| Total amount | 61.1 | |
| % of average | 106 | |
| No. of dry days | 12 | |
| Highest | 12.5 | 6th |
| Temperatures (deg C): | | |
| Mean | 6.4 | |
| Difference from average | +0.4 | |
| Highest | 13.1 | 23rd |
| Lowest | -1.4 | 8th |
| Coldest day | 0.3 | 8th |

VENTNOR HAVEN

Interesting to see that the Haven has resurfaced on the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet agenda, at its meeting this Thursday. Its linked to the possible sale of Ryde Harbour to its Town Council that would leave Ventnor's to be marketed for sale in spite of its predicted 2021/22 loss of £58,030. Our offer of discussions with the Isle of Wight Council about its future has yet to be taken up.

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

If you need help with shopping of collecting medications contact us by phoning our help lines: 853775 or 857848 and one of our volunteers will be in touch.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [New Economics Foundation](#) states today that: By November 2021 ...there will be an additional 1.2 million people living below the Minimum Income Standard compared to September 2020 and 1.8 million people living in households below 75% of it'
- A new Report from the [Education Policy Institute](#) 'finds that poorer students in sixth forms and colleges trail their more affluent peers by as many as three A level grades when taking qualifications at this level.'

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