



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

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MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021

Welcome to the eleveneth 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; this edition comes with a Local Elections Supplement.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 6 MAY: JOIN US?

We're very keen to find new Town Councillors to join us through the 6 May elections. We now have all the details of the arrangements for the elections in a process that starts on 22 March. They're explained in the attached Local Elections Supplement. 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.



PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee had five applications to consider on the Agenda of its latest meeting on Tuesday. The only one it didn't support was for the retention and completion of a single storey extension at 15 Alpine Road because of 'the advice from Island Roads who find that exiting from this property is potentially dangerous being so close to a bend in the road.'

31 BUS

The Town Council meeting on Monday agreed to continue the service, although it is only carrying an average of four passengers on each of its three loops, until 31 July to give time for alternative arrangements to be explored.



VENTNOR HAVEN

The decision of the Isle of Wight Cabinet meeting on Thursday to grant Ryde Town Council Special Purchaser status leaves Ventnor Haven on its own after a period of the two being offered for sale as a pair. The Report to the Cabinet says that in these circumstances Ventnor Harbour would *be subject to a separate market testing exercise*. However, given that this year's budgeted loss for the Haven is £58,030, the Report goes on to note *it is unlikely that they would take on the facility on a standalone basis, without the benefit of a subsidy from the council*.



MARCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's virtual meeting Agenda included Ventnor Park (charges for use for events + Ventnor Day 2021), Management of the town's car parks (see below), Boniface Fields (Ventnor Community Shed's development proposals), the Esplanade (proposal to ease traffic flow), 31 Bus (another 4 months), Standing Orders (revision) and the Assets & Services Working Group (remit).

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE: CAR PARKS

The Town Council unanimously agreed to respond to the continuing absence of a response to its Business Plan to take on management of all 8 of the town's car parks by returning to the use of the Community Right to Challenge under the Localism Act 2011. This allows Town & Parish Councils to challenge to take over any of the services provided by the Isle of Wight Council, including car parks. If the challenge is successful, the service must be put out to tender. We originally challenged for the car parks in 2013. When the Isle of Wight Council refused it, our legal advisers told us, and the Isle of Wight Council, that they did not consider the refusal justified under the regulations. The result was the current compromise, through discussions, of the Town Council managing four of the eight. Following 5 years of our successful management of the 4 in exchange for a £24,900 rent. We submitted our Business case for the other 4 in December 2018. We have yet to have a response so we will now submit the new Expression of Interest the Challenge process requires in order to restart it, encouraged by our earlier legal advice.



SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

If you need help with shopping or collecting medications contact us by phoning our help lines: 853775 (Alison) or 857848 (Tony).

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Tax Justice Network](#)'s list of the world's top 10 biggest enablers of global corporate tax abuse today includes two British Overseas Territories and one British Crown Dependency.
- [London Community Kitchen](#) have published a video of the queue for their Saturday Food Bank session.

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

