



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 54

MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021

Welcome to edition 54 of our Clerk's Column circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

APRIL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's virtual meeting of the Town Council received the Receipts & Payments Accounts for 2020/21, agreed to fund a professional valuation of many of its buildings, discussed the latest draft of a strategy for Ventnor Park, adopted the Agreement forming the Ventnor Haven Group, settled arrangements for meetings after 7 May and fixed the date for the Annual Parish Meeting as 24 May.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP MEETING

Tuesday's meeting of the Group dealt with the renewal of our main Insurance Policy, Ventnor Park, the Haven, Salisbury Gardens & the Esplanade Toilets roof.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the seven applications on its Agenda for its meeting on Tuesday afternoon it supported six and had no comments on the seventh. Among those supported was the change of use from office to café and new decking area for the Esplanade's Blakes Longshoreman building that it welcomed as *a positive tourist advantage with disabled access, and direct access from the beach providing a safer environment for children.* The Committee also approved of the retention of decking and change of use of the 40 High Street garden as providing *useful open-air dining during the pandemic.*

BOB SEELY MEETING

Thursday 5pm was the latest of the fortnightly sessions the Island's MP holds for representatives of the Island's



Town & Parish Councils so I joined 20 others for a mainly Q&A of 45 minutes. Subjects raised included the IoWC's acquisition of the Camp Hill site, Land Banking, Empty properties, the small size of the Ryde South East Ward, the Nicholson Road site development, increasing Scams, slow responses from the Public Works Loans Board (PWL) for borrowing approvals, the Environment & Sustainability Forum and the closure of rural schools.

VENTNOR HAVEN

Two significant developments for the future of the Haven this week: *Ventnor Haven Group:*



Monday's Town Council Meeting agreed to endorse a proposal for a partnership with Cheetah Marine International Ltd and Ventnor Haven Fisheries known as Ventnor Haven Group to work with the Isle of Wight Council on finding a sustainable future for it. It's based on a formal Agreement that can be read by clicking this [link](#). *Feasibility Study:* Funding of £34,600 is available for a Feasibility Study of the potential uses of the seaweed the Haven collects in large quantities. The project is being run and funded by the VA France (Channel) England Interreg partnership's Intelligent Community Energy (ICE) programme that aims to **design, implement and promote innovative smart energy solutions for isolated territories, including Islands,** and is already active in the Isles of Scilly. A French consultancy has been appointed for the work.

VENTNOR'S MARCH WEATHER

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	25.4	
% of average	48	
No. of dry days	21	
Highest	8.6	12th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	8.4	
Difference from average	+0.9	
Highest	17.6	30th
Lowest	0.3	7th
Coldest day	8.0	4th

The town's 3weather readings are collected each day from our Weather Centre by Christopher Watts and summarised.

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).

ESPLANADE ROAD CLOSURE

The Road has been closed to traffic over concern about a private property on it.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A [Church Action on Poverty](#) Briefing reveals that '43% of households receiving Universal Credit reported food insecurity in the preceding month.'
- The Independent Association of [Professionals & Self Employed](#) claims today 'a year after the first lockdown, self-employment has seen a shattering financial loss as 1 in 8 have left and many more are "desperately struggling.'