



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 56

MONDAY 3 MAY 2021

Welcome to edition 56 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.

LOCAL ELECTIONS: WHAT NEXT?

This time next week the results of the Local Elections will be known: counting of the votes made on Thursday 6 May will start on Friday morning.

In addition to the two County Councillors representing the town for the next four years, the successful six from the 12 candidates standing for Ventnor West will also be known. A minimum of two and a maximum of six of them will be new to the Town Council.

The first formal meeting of the new Town Council will be the Annual Town Council meeting on 17 May and will consist of nine Members with two vacancies, one each in Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville that the new Town Council will be able to fill by Co-option.

BOB SEELY MEETING

On Thursday evening I joined 18 other representatives of the Island's Town & Parish Councils for this fortnightly session. The meeting began with feedback on issues raised in the previous session: progress with plans for the Island to have a mobile slaughterhouse, the Island Line delayed re-opening and the effect on the of lorries and coaches coming here through Portsmouth's Clean Air Zone facing a £50 charge if their vehicles don't meet required emission standards. The Q&A included getting the Island to be fully self-sustainable, the legality of virtual meetings of Town & Parish Councils after 7 May, Motorcycle racing on the Military Road and Bembridge Harbour.



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).

TOILET TAX REMOVED

Well, it's actually Business Rates. On Friday the long-awaited Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories Act) 2021 received its Royal Assent and with it goes the liability for Business Rates to be paid on the two of our four toilets that have until now had to be paid – and the relief is backdated to 1 April 2020.



The Town Council's Business Rates bill totalled £7,871 - £5,825 for the Eastern Esplanade Toilets and £2,046 for those at Marlborough Road. That will now be returned to us for 2020/21 and will not apply in this and future years.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's latest meeting was on Tuesday with an Agenda including Ventnor Park, Ventnor Haven, Boniface Fields, Shore Road Toilets and Salisbury Gardens.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Thursday evening saw the last meeting of the Group before the Elections. Its Agenda included Tony McCarthy's report, support for vulnerable residents, the connect4communities funding, the Annual Parish Meeting, Ventnor Day 2021, and the Local Elections.

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE

We've submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) in taking on management of the town's other four car parks (Central, Grove Road, La Falaise and Eastern Esplanade) under the Localism Act's Community Right to Challenge. Based on our successful management of the other four (Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road) since 2015, the EoI can be viewed [here](#).

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A [Resolution Foundation](#) new Report identifies the lessons to be learned from the pandemic about our welfare system, finding eg 'Almost half of children in large (3 or more children) families currently live in poverty.'
- A [Generation Rent](#) study of London boroughs finds 'In Westminster, Brent, Barnet, Camden, Haringey, Hackney and Newham the average Londoner pays at least 50% of their income on rent on a median 1-bed home'.

MORE INFORMATION: is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnor clerk

Readers of the print edition can access the digital version via the news block on the home page of our web site