



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 57

MONDAY 10 MAY 2021

Welcome to edition 57 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?

We've arrived at the last episode of our *Local Elections* story here with the completion of the local elections on Saturday evening when the 12 candidates for the Ventnor West Ward became six Councillors.

With thanks to all who put themselves forward for election to the Ward, the successful six included two who have been Members of the current Town Council – James Toogood and Ian Bond – and four new Members: Julie Hutchinson, Mark Jefferies, Steph Toogood and Phil Warren.

Which leaves us with a new Town Council that starts today with nine Members and two vacancies, one in each of Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville. Induction meetings for the four new Members will take place in the early part of this week in preparation for the planned informal initial meeting to be held virtually on Wednesday evening. The first formal meetings are the Annual Town Council Meeting, immediately followed by the May business meeting at 6pm next Monday.

As the law now requires that Council meetings are held on a physical basis rather than the virtual arrangements of the past 13 months they will be at St Margaret's Hall in Upper Ventnor.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We weren't able to hold the Annual Parish Meeting last year, but it's returning this year as the usual opportunity for residents to hear details of the work being done by the town's remarkable voluntary organisations. The meeting is required by law to take place before the end of May and as Covid safety needs to be in place this meeting will be held on-line. So if you would like to join us please book in with Alison on 853775 or alison@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk giving her your email address and we'll send you a link to the meeting in time for its opening at 6pm on 24 May.

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).

APRIL FINANCES

The balance on the Town Council's bank accounts at 30 April was £490,379. Payments during the month totalled £43,140 of which £3,099 was due to Salisbury Gardens. Income during the month totalled £369,901 of which £4,269 came from Salisbury Gardens' rents and £355,889 was the annual precept payment.

The list of payments and receipts in the first month of the year showed payments £3,498 under Budget and receipts £17 more than Budget.

VENTNOR'S APRIL WEATHER

The town's weather readings are collected each

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	1.2	
% of average	3	
No. of dry days	27	
Joint highest	0.5	10th
	0.5	11 th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	8.8	
Difference from average	-0.9	
Highest	18.0	18th
Lowest	-0.8	7th
Coldest day	7.9	10th

day from our Weather Centre by Chris Watts. He comments: 'This was the driest April since 2007 (0.7mm), but despite lack of

rainfall and abundant sunshine, it was colder than average. There were two air frosts.'

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Our Planning Committee met on Tuesday with a longer than usual Agenda of 10 Planning Applications to assess. It agreed that it saw no reason to oppose four of them – 15 Undercliff Gardens, Ambion House, Wolverton Road, 30 Ocean View Road and Ventnor View, St Albans Road. It supported those for 17 Zig Zag Road, Bay Cottage, Belgrave Road and Orchardleigh, Shore Road. For the remaining three it implied the conditions being applied to the Esplanade's Beachlands and the Gaiety and 53 Gills Cliff Road,

PADDLING POOL

For those asking about the opening of the Paddling Pool, arrangements are in place for its re-opening from next Monday.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The magazine [Inside Housing](#) reports today that 'New research by the London School of Economics reveals that more than 400,000 private renters will fall into "significant" arrears this year.'
- An analysis by the [Democracy Club](#) of the percentages of women candidates in all [the local] elections finds 'Across all elections in the UK, only 32% of candidates are women.'