



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 59

MONDAY 24 MAY 2021

Welcome to edition 59 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.

TWO TOWN COUNCILLORS TO BE CO-OPTED

The local elections left us with vacancies for a Town Councillor in both Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville. Those can be filled by Co-option: *Expressions of Interest (EoI)* should be by email to me at townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk by noon on Monday 7 June.

Interviews for everyone who submits an EoI will be throughout the day from 11am on Thursday 10 June. *Inductions* for the two successful applicants will be on the morning of Monday 14 June.

Appointments will be the first item on the Agenda of the Town Council Meeting at 7pm on Monday 14 June.

MEETING WITH ISLAND'S MP

Bob Seely's latest meeting with representatives from the Island's Town & Parish Councils was on Thursday at 5pm. In a short summary of his recent Parliamentary work we heard that the feasibility study for the extension of the Island's railway, including the branch line to Ventnor, was developing a strong case, and he was still working on additional support for Pharmacies, Adult Social Care and Mental Health Services. The issues raised by the 20 representatives in the 45-minute Q&A covered the difficulties of seeing a GP, unnecessary and uncontrolled tree felling (he hopes that the new Environment Bill will restrict that), Sewage Overflows (he hopes that there will soon be a Bill to ban them). In closing, Bob said that he felt there should be assistance for the Island in the Levelling Up agenda and that he is very supportive of the PTEC project as long as it bring jobs to the Island.

NATURE IN NORTH STREET

The latest work of the town's Flower Fairy, Lesley Brown is developing a natural border to the North Street Playground. Or, as Lesley describes it: *Basically, it's a field of poppies, cornflowers and oxeye daisy, all about to explode!!*



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This is year's meeting is on-line at 6pm today and you can join us easily by sending your email address to alison@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk. Then you'll be sent a link just before it starts and clicking that will let you in to hear short presentations from: Ventnor Community Volunteers, the Carnival, Ventnor Enhancement Fund, the Flower Fairy, Ventnor Community Shed, the Anxiety Café, our Youth Club, Ventnor Community Foodbank and BabyBox.

DEPARTING MAYORS

Not just leaving the Town Council, but leaving the Island! Jason Mack (Mayor 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19) and his family are leaving for a new life on the Mainland today. Stewart Blackmore and his wife are ready to take off for Thailand as soon as the sale of his house is finalised. Two remarkable men it's been my privilege to work alongside in ensuring the town keeps the assets and services the Isle of Wight Council had to stop providing. Go well, both.

MAY'S TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's Town Council meeting was both the first meeting of the newly elected Town Council and the first face-to-face meeting of the Council since March last year. Following the government's unfortunate decision to end virtual meetings, we gathered, socially distanced, in Lowtherville's St Margaret's Hall. Its Agenda was mainly finance-based with the April Finance Report, the Annual Accounts for 2020/21 and Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report for our External Auditor. The Co-option process was agreed. Our Borrowing Approval submission was updated and a Report on support for vulnerable residents was welcomed.

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

- A new interactive map of [child poverty](#) shows the Island with 32% of its children living in poverty: 7,011 children.
- How's your [breathing](#) today?

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