



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 61

MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021

Welcome to edition 61 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.

MAY'S FINANCES

After spending a total of £36,235 during May and receiving £12,046 in the same period the Town Council's Bank accounts were reconciled to a total of £466,171 at 31 May. Salisbury Gardens' rents contributed £10,654 of the income received during the month. Our Budget Monitor shows that during the first two months of this financial year we have spent £4,881 less than the £81,056 budgeted for while receipts have exceeded the £17,137 budget by £1,755.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The first meeting of the new Group – Councillors Steph Toogood, Phil Warren, Julie Hutchinson and Mark Jefferies with Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Community Development Officer – was held virtually on Thursday evening.

It began as ever with Tony McCarthy's Report, this time including an update on the growing use of the Green Room, the plans for Ventnor Carnival's events to be included this year in Ventnor Day, the expansion of our Youth Work as regulations ease, the Anxiety Café, Ventnor's Food Bank and Baby Box, the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum and our Network job applications and Universal Credit support service.

Other items were an assessment of this year's arrangements for the annual Town Meeting held last month, ongoing support for vulnerable residents, the planning for Ventnor Day 2021 in the Park and the recruitment of staff for our Anxiety Café's six hours a week and Sessional Youth Workers.

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

The Volunteers are still ready and willing to assist with any resident that needs help with shopping or collecting medications. Contact us by phoning our help lines: 853775 (Alison Killick) or 857848 (Tony McCarthy).

SIGNS OF SUMMER!

As miserable May moved behind us, Ventnor got its first sight of summer and a sign of what is hoped to be a busy season for local businesses as well as safe for both visitors and residents.



Alongside the busy beach the freshly painted Paddling Pool came alive as children paddled and parents refreshed.



This photo was taken from the Office of Cheetah Marine where a meeting was discussing the possibility that all of this may not be possible next year unless the Isle of Wight Council agrees new arrangements for dealing with the seaweed that is collected by the Haven and rots to produce the very unpleasant smelling hydrogen sulphide.

VENTNOR HAVEN GROUP

Which is what the meeting in Sean Strevens' office was discussing last Tuesday afternoon as the second session of the Ventnor Haven Group got under way. Top of the list was the European-funded feasibility study of the potential for commercially viable use of the seaweed being led by French Consultant Jean-Baptiste Wallaert who joined us for a follow-up virtual meeting the next day to consider his first Report in a project due to be completed by the end of August. The problem for the Town Council and the town is that the contract for the current method of dealing with the seaweed expires on 31 March 2022...

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The New Statesman today quotes a survey by [Shelter](#) showing that 'a third of British adults – some 17.5 million people – are now impacted by the housing emergency, rising to almost half of Asian adults and 57 per cent of black adults.'
- [A Health Foundation](#) Blog assesses Test & Trace, concluding 'Any future approach to testing and contact tracing must be developed with local authorities and local health protection teams, ensuring they are able to meet local needs and address inequalities.'

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