



## JUNE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's meeting dealt with 10 matters on its Agenda: *Co-options*: the two vacancies left over from the local elections were filled with the co-option of John Watkins to the Bonchurch & East Ventnor Ward and Steve Cooper to Lowtherville.

*Finance Report*: was accepted with its end of May closing balance of £466,171.

*Appointments*: Phil Warren as Chair of the Planning Committee and John Watkins as a member of it. Ian Bond as Chair of the Staffing Committee and the Mayor and Steve Cooper as members of it. Steph Toogood and Steve Cooper as representatives to the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum and Julie Hutchison as representative to the Library Steering Group.

*Committee Terms of Reference*: updated Terms of Reference adopted for both our Planning and Staffing Committees.

*Car Park Charges & Receipts*: noting a surplus for the 2020/21 financial year of £5,675 from costs of £16,463 and receipts of £22,138 with the latter including £3,000 from Island Roads' hire of part of the Dudley Road Car Park- see adjacent item.

*31 Bus*: consideration of the service's continuation concluding with a decision to set up a Working Group.

*Boniface Fields Lease*: receipt of draft lease from the Isle of Wight Council and decision to await advice on it from the Town Council's solicitor before proceeding.

*Time & Tide Project*: Phil Warren introduced this national project for increasing awareness in coastal communities of their link to the sea and the proposal to install one of its sculptured Bells in Ventnor.

*Dog Fouling*: the Deputy Mayor led a discussion of actions to counteract the increasing threat to the Town of the failure of some dog owners to clear up after their pets; a poster campaign is now being planned.

## 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 853775 (Alison Killick) or 857848 (Tony McCarthy).

## CAR PARK TARIFFS

Last week's Town Council meeting discussed whether it is time to increase the tariffs in the four car parks – Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore road – we currently manage as they've not changed since we took them over



in 2015. Since then the Isle of Wight Council has increased its charges twice (2018 & 2020) taking the 1 hour cost to £1.70 (comp. our £1.00) and the 1-2 hour charge to £2.90 (£1.90) with similar increases to the other bands as well as introducing a £1 overnight charge. Their 12 month permits re priced at £199 compared with our £120.

The issue was referred back to the Assets & Services Working Group.

## WALLGATES



There are 97 of them across the Island of which 16 are in Ventnor. 'They' are the and washing machines in our public toilets, we have 10 in our Esplanade Toilets and six in Marlborough Road; they all need to be in a maintenance service contract.

When Town and Parish Councils took over the Public Toilets five years ago, the maintenance contracts for each went up massively so to get a cheaper price from the supplier – Wallgate – we suggested to the other Councils that Ventnor Town Council entered into a single contract and reclaimed the charges to the others. That's worked well us all. But in the negotiations for the current year's contract, Wallgate proposed a 30% increase to a contract total to £18,280.

After discussions with the Island-based company that conduct our annual Legionnaires inspections we're in the process of discussions with our 11 other Town & Parish Council partners in this process on a contract total price of £13,440.

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- Homelessness Charity [Crisis](#) finds that: '200,000 households had their benefit capped at February 2021, compared to 79,000 at February 2020 - a 153% rise.'
- A Blog by [Centre for Social Justice](#) of hidden debt through Busy-Now-Pay-Later schemes & borrowing from family, finding: 'An additional £10.3 billion of debt and arrears is estimated to have been built up solely as result of the pandemic.'

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