



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 67

MONDAY 19 JULY 2021

Welcome to edition 67 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.

## JULY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Held at St Margaret's Hall to provide space for social distancing, the Agenda for the July meeting on Monday included the final approval of the lease for Boniface Fields, updates on the major projects in progress, an update on the Community Right to Challenge Expression of Interest in taking on the management of the other four car parks, the new Business Development Officer post, the use of the Welcome Back Fund and the setting up of two new Working Groups on Climate Change & Bio Diversity and a new Web site.

## NEW PUBLIC TOILET: BORROWING APPROVAL

Before Town & Parish Councils can borrow money for capital projects they have to apply for Borrowing Approval from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



We submitted our application to borrow the £150k cost of the new public toilet in the Central Car Park in December. The response has been relayed due to a combination of Covid and staff shortages but the Approval letter arrived with us on Monday.

## FIRST AID HUT CLOSED FOR SECOND SEASON

Reluctantly, we will again not be opening the Esplanade's First Aid Hut this season due to the risks to and shortage of staff. Island infection rates are presently low but increasing and the 'freedom' from safeguards from today will increase the risks of transmission together with the arrival of larger than usual numbers of visitors and the hut will not be a safe place for any first aid treatment. The volunteer who assisted with the safety project now has a job and our Maintenance Manager is needed elsewhere with the increased cleaning Covid compliance requires.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Thursday's meeting began as usual with Tony McCarthy's report highlighting the growing use of our Green Room, Ventnor Day, the soon to start Holiday Play Scheme, the growth of the Anxiety Café and the Food Bank's one year anniversary during which time it has assisted 463 adults and 407 children. He added that he was arranging for the restart of the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum on 8 September. Other Agenda items included the Fringe festival in the Park the use of the Boniface Fields Community portacabin and Sessional Youth Workers.

## CLEARING BLOCKAGES

A combination of spells of much heavier than usual rain and unusual blockages of the usual



water channels on and from the Salisbury Gardens' roof resulted in some internal flooding. Fortunately the hire of this remarkable machine and its operator provided the necessary clearances.

## POO POSTER PRIZE GIVING

The encouraging success of the Deputy Mayor's competition to design a poster to encourage dog walkers to clean up after their pets will be celebrated with the award of prizes to the winners at 11am on Saturday 24 July at Spring Hill Gardens. The four well-deserving winners will each receive a Crave Ice Cream voucher.



All the entries will then be displayed in the window of Pier Street's Drunken Lobster, with thanks to its owner.

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) has today published its annual updated Minimum Income Standard (MIS) showing eg 'Out-of-work families with children on Universal Credit fall about 40% short of the income they need, and those without children fall 60% short.'
- A [Child Poverty Action Group](#) briefing today on the latest changes to the 2-child limit on family allowance shows 'in April 2021, 1.1 million children were affected by the two-child limit – 237,000 more than the previous year.'

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

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