



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 72

MONDAY 23 AUGUST 2021

Welcome to edition 72 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.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP MEETING

The Agenda for the Group's virtual meeting on Tuesday included multiple items on both Salisbury Gardens and Boniface Fields as well as the new public toilet and the Park. The *Salisbury Gardens* matters included the costs of required repairs from the recent internal water damage and potential improvements to roof access. *Boniface Fields* discussion included agreement on a draft lease for Ventnor Community Shed's occupancy of the older portacabin and an interesting Report from its Secretary on recent activities. We agreed on the replacement of the steps to the community use portacabin and noted that a process was in place to investigate a possible area of Japanese Knotweed. Following the Isle of Wight Council's reduction in its proposed charge for the four central car park bays required for the *new Public Toilet* we agreed the basis for the next stage of discussions with the Town Council's contractor for the project in preparation for what is hoped to be an end of September start. On *Ventnor Park* we welcomed reports on the impact of the Fringe and thanked Ventnor Exchange for the good care they had taken for the site and their thorough clearance and clean up of it at the end.

LAND MOVEMENTS

We were informed during the week of land movements at both eastern and western ends of the town requiring access closures.

Bonchurch: part of the Footpath called V65a, which runs through Bonchurch landslip, has been closed because of active land movement affecting it and making it too close to the edge of the cliff and indicating part of the path/cliff will soon fall away. It's being monitored and there is a commitment to develop a new path once the movement has settled.



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St Lawrence: the beach access steps at Woody Bay have been closed as they are unsafe. But repairs are delayed because *there appears to be land movement in progress in this area.*



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The amazing Ventnor Day headed the Agenda of Thursday evening's virtual meeting of the Group with congratulations to Tony McCarthy for its organisation and thanks to the many volunteers that ensured its successful operation.

Tony's Report to the Group included news of the growth of the Anxiety Café, the return of the Alzheimer's Café to the Green Room adding to the increased bookings for use of the Green Room including Mountbatten, the Mosaic Group, the NHS and Citizens Advice.

Other Agenda items included the Holiday Activity programme, the Connect4Communities funding and the effect on many Ventnor residents of the combined impact of the ending of the Furlough scheme and the £20 a week reduction in the current level of Universal Credit.

ANOTHER NEW BENCH

Ventnor Community Shed's production of quality



Benches had its second fully installed on East Cliff last week. They are proving so attractive that we've had an enquiry from another of the

Island's Town & Parish Council's about them.

NEW APPRENTICE

We're looking for an Apprentice in Business Administration to join our admin team, as advertised in the Chronicle, County Press and On the Wight. The advert, with details, is still on line in the latter two and is available by clicking this [link](#). The closing date is noon on Wednesday.

PTEC PLANNING APPLICATION

The Planning Application for the onshore elements of the Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre (PTEC) project has been lodged with the Isle of Wight Council. Due to its importance it's not on tonight's Planning Committee Agenda as its Chair has asked that it be a matter for the Town Council Meeting of 13 September.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [High Pay Centre](#)'s 2021 Survey of the pay of FTSE Companies' CEOs reveals 'Our new report shows that the median FTSE 100 CEO was paid £2.69 million in 2020, 86 times the median full-time worker in the UK.'
- The [Trussell Trust](#) says today: 'More than a million people could be forced to turn to food banks as the UK government plans to cut Universal Credit payments by £20 a week this October.'