



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 75

MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to edition 75 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.

AUGUST FINANCIALS

The Finance Report to this evening's Town Council meeting records the combined balance of our two Bank accounts at the end of August at £364,802 compared with £414,422 at the end of July. During August we spent a total of £61,095 and received £11,474.

The list of payments includes £14,208 paid to Focus Plumbing and Heating for maintenance agreements for the Wallgate hand washing machines in the public toilets in 11 of the Island's Town and Parish Councils. This is an initiative of Ventnor Town Council that began when public toilets were passed to Town and Parish Councils by the Isle of Wight Council; the grouping into a single contract produced a significant saving compared with individual arrangements. The costs for the other 10 Town and Parish Councils are reclaimed via invoices and those already repaid are shown as credits,

The expenditure year-to-date list showed payments in the period were £3,872 over Budget and receipts were £4,362 more than Budget.

BOB SEELY MEETING TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

After an August summer break, the regular meetings restarted last Tuesday, opening as usual by a short summary of the Island MP's work in which he listed two successful bids for Isle of Wight College funding, a meeting with Southern Water, his response to the Island Planning Strategy and his argument that even the reduced new housing target of 486 homes a year was too high. The rest of the hour was time for the 18 representatives to raise issues or as questions, These were: on new housebuilding (he wants the target reducing to 300 a year); the planned motor cycle road races (mixed feelings); the shortage of social housing (35 sites and Camphill available); at least one bus a day for every parish (not commercially viable); access to GPs (they are stretched but available).



TONIGHT'S TOWN COUNCIL MEETING...

... is at the Island Free School at 7pm, not the Green Room this time, to allow space for members of the public.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) analysis finds 46% of the Island's families with children qualify for Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit, the 10th highest level of the 84 South East Constituencies.
- A short animation video from the [Institute for Public Policy Research](#) clarifies the way our tax system increases 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

GREEN ROOM ACTIVITY

As restrictions lift, our Green Room's Community spaces are returning to their usual level of activity by local groups and advice services. Current weekly users are the Anxiety Café, a Yoga Class, NHS Nutrition and the Mosaic Group. The spaces are used on a monthly basis by Veterans' Outreach, Mountbatten Hospice, RCS Employability, Ventnor Artists Collective, Alzheimer's Café and Citizens Advice offer sessions by appointment.



SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES FORUM

The meetings of the Health & Wellbeing Forum for representatives of the 13 South Wight Town & Parish Councils organised by the Town Council's Community Development Officer have also been able to restart. It gathered at Sandown's Broadway Centre on Wednesday evening for a presentation by the Clinical Commissioning Group's Tracy Savage and Yasmin Wills that covered changes in GP services, the increasing use of technology and the vaccination rollout. Guest Speaker Mark Rawlinson provided an overview of the Island NHS Trust's Strategy and organisation.

VENTNOR'S BUSKERS

The summer programme of Buskers at Spring Hill Garden from 11am – 1pm each Saturday

continued to be popular with a group called The Pact Band performing last week.



Weather permitting, the shows will continue for another two Saturdays