



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 83

MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to edition 83 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.

## OCTOBER FINANCES

The Finance Report to this evening's Town Council meeting records the combined balance of our two Bank accounts at the end of October at £311,649 compared with £342,448 at the end of September. During October we spent a total of £36,986 in 66 payments and received £5,010, of which Salisbury Gardens' rents contributed £3,967.

The expenditure year-to-date list covering seven months of the financial year showed payments to be £3,284 less than Budgeted for and receipts £9,561 more than Budget.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Group held its monthly meeting on Thursday evening at the office. We started as usual with Tony McCarthy's report. We learned that there are now 25 regular bookings each month for our Green Room, that the twice weekly Anxiety Café continues to grow and the call on both Food Bank and Baby Box is increasing. We welcomed the news that Councillor Steve Cooper has been elected Chair of the Upper Ventnor Community Association and were encouraged by the developing connection with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Other Agenda items included Christmas in Ventnor, the potential development of Network – the advice service for job seeking and Universal Credit claims on Thursday mornings at the Library – a potential programme to develop the Town Council's response to the town's deprivation and other funding possibilities.

## STORM DAMAGE



The night-time storm on the Saturday before last tore off part of the guttering on the sea-side of Salisbury Gardens and part of the fascia board behind it and deposited some of it in a Dudley Road home garden. Damage there repaired – our thanks to the resident – and scaffolding up on Tuesday.

## LOWTHERVILLE BY-ELECTION

We've been informed by the Isle of Wight Council's Elections Officer that when nominations for the vacancy for a Town Councillor to represent the area closed at 4pm on Friday only one nomination had been received. Consequently there will be no need for a by-election on 2 December and Sam Jefferies of 3 Scinde Crescent, Shanklin will be declared elected this week.

## COVID HOUSING SUPPORT FUND

The Town Council has already accessed two grants each of £5,000 from the government funding administered by the Isle of Wight Council that has allowed us, working with Ventnor Food Bank and Baby Box, to provide food vouchers to families needing that assistance.

There is now a new government fund with an Island allocation of £1,131,576 that is 'primarily to be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills' and spent by 31 March 2022. We were invited, along with other organisations working in this area, to submit suggestions for the deployment of this funding and I attended a Zoom meeting with the organisers and others on Wednesday. Applications will be invited soon.

## CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR CELEBRATION

Led by Tony McCarthy and working with the Ventnor Carnival

Association, Ventnor Enhancement Fund and St Catherine's Church

planning is well advanced for the 11

December event centred on the Park. Events include a Lantern Parade from 4pm followed by Carols in the Park from 5.30. Bands (Vectis Corps and Ventnor Comic Jazz Band), Choirs (Undercliff Singers and Ventnor Exchange Community Choir) with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will fill the air.



## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- In a statement on the need to expand free school meals the [Food Foundation](#) states: '2.5 million children live in households that experienced food insecurity between February and July 2021 – these levels are approximately 27% higher than pre-Covid.'
- A [Resolution Foundation](#) Briefing note finds 'around three-quarters (73 per cent) of families on Universal Credit in 2022-23 will be worse off, with one-quarter (27 per cent) better off.'

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