



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 85

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to edition 85 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

The Group met in the Town Council offices on Tuesday morning for its latest meeting. News from *Boniface Fields* included a report of the Allotment Association's AGM with our Councillor Phil Warren becoming its Chair and the election of a new Committee and a report on good progress by the Community Shed with the agreed repairs to its building.

The continuing repairs to the seaward roof of *Salisbury Gardens* were reviewed together with a progress report on the construction of a new and safe access route to the building's roof. We agreed the arrangements with the Isle of Wight Council for *Grounds Maintenance* in 2022/23. The installation of table/chairs on the site of the old Aviary in *Ventnor Park* was welcomed and grass cutting arrangements for the Putting Green discussed.

Two final Agenda items were the need to establish the likely cost to the Town Council of the *Time & Tide Bell* project it has agreed in principle to support and the lack of information and resident-friendly planning by *Wight Fibre*.

NEW PUBLIC TOILET START DATE

Our Contractor for the building of the new Public Toilet in the Central Car Park has now been able to give us a start date for the works of 10 January 2022. The project is expected to be completed in 26 weeks.

SECOND/HOLIDAY HOMES

At Wednesday's meeting of the Isle of Wight Council's Full Council County Councillor Richard Quigley raised the important issue of Second and Holiday Homes.

The October Town Council meeting resolved to: **request the Isle of Wight Council to:** use every legal change possible in relation to the ownership of second homes and change of use to holiday lets to mitigate the current level of growth in both areas; provide the Island's Town and Parish Councils with statistics for the number of homes in their area that are either second homes or registered as holiday lets on a quarterly basis to enable them to monitor local changes in both.

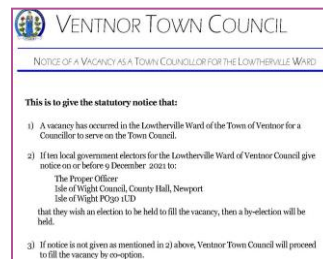
VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Health Foundation](#) on nurses' pay finds 'the public sector pay cap period of 2010–2017 led to a real-terms earnings decrease for nurses. This meant that female full-time nurses' mean gross weekly earnings in 2019 were virtually the same as in 2008.'
- The [Living Wage Foundation](#) has just published its new rates at £9.90 (£11.05 in London) stating that these are the only rates independently calculated as what people need to live on.

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

LOWTHERVILLE BYELECTION RERUN

The first process to elect a Town Councillor to fill a vacancy for the Ward was announced on 24 September and at least 10 residents formally requested a byelection. But as only one person was nominated for it, he was declared elected unopposed



on 8 November. A week later he resigned, feeling that as a Shanklin resident he would not be able to represent the Ward as it deserves.

So the process needs to start again. The formal Notice of the Vacancy has been published and if – but only if – at least 10 residents write to the Elections Officer by 9 December an Election will be arranged.

VENTNOR'S OCTOBER WEATHER

Chris Watts visits Ventnor's own Weather Centre every day to collect the readings that are the basis of this summary table he provides us with each month.

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	136.2	
% of average	151	
No. of dry days	13	
Highest	26.0	20th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	14.2	
Difference from average	+1.2	
Highest	19.6	17th
Lowest	6.7	22nd
Coldest day	13.1	21st

BIGGEST LITTER PICKING SO FAR

Yesterday morning's 22 Litterpickers collected this amount of litter from the town, its car parks, its



playground, the coastal path and seafront. They included four Town Councillors

and a teacher and students from St Catherine's School who were proud to be involved but as one of them asked 'why to people throw their litter down?'