



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 88

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021

Welcome to edition 88 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.

## DECEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Agenda for this evening's Meeting of the Town Council includes the *Meeting Dates* for next year, a *Social Media Policy*, the *Time & Tide Bell* project, *Ventnor Park trees*, and the Lease for the four car parking spaces the new *Public Toilet* will occupy.

## NO BY-ELECTION FOR LOWTHERVILLE

The Isle of Wight Council's Elections Officer informed us on Friday that as he had not received 10 written requests to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy for a Town Councillor to represent the Lowtherville Ward the Town Council can use its Co-option process to do so.

## VENTNOR'S NOVEMBER WEATHER

This month was the driest November over the past 35 years, and what is normally one of the wettest months of the year is on course to be the second driest of 2021 after April. Two light air frosts were recorded near the month end.

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	8.2	
% of average	9	
No. of dry days	22	
Highest	3.5	30th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	9.1	
Difference from average	0.0	
Highest	15.3	10th
Lowest	-0.5	29th
Coldest day	5.6	27th

## STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING

Our Staffing Committee met on Monday as the first stage of the process for setting the Town Council's 2021/22 Budget. None of the three National Salary Scales that apply to the Council's staff have agreed settlements even for 2021 much less 2022! In all cases, the Employers have issued a final offer for 2021 of 1.75% while the respective Unions are demanding 10%. The Committee agreed to an increase of 2.5% for the financial year 2022/23.

## BOB SEELY MEETING

I joined the 20 Town & Parish Council representatives for Wednesday's latest virtual meeting with the Island's MP only for him to be called away for the statement on the new Covid restrictions in Parliament.

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- o The [World Inequality Report](#) 2022 finds: 'The poorest half of the global population barely owns any wealth at all, possessing just 2% of the total. In contrast, the richest 10% of the global population own 76% of all wealth.'
- o A new [Resolution Foundation](#) report finds 'The least-wealthy third of households have gained less than £1,000 per adult, on average, from rising house prices this century, and the wealthiest 10 per cent have seen an average gain of £174,000.'

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

## VENTNOR'S CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday saw the strengths of the town's communities in an impressive Christmas Celebration with a programme of music from 11am around the well-



decorated Spring ill Gardens Christmas tree with craft fairs at both St Catherine's and the Baptist churches running into a Lantern Parade and Carols in the Park that



even the rain was unable to dampen.

Thanks to Tony McCarthy for quality organisation and to Brian Roberts and Deputy Mayor Steph Toogood for strong support.

## 10 NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

Alison, Nigel and I joined Councillors Phil Warren, Steph Toogood and John Watkins on Thursday for an informal virtual consultation by Island Roads on their 10 new proposed changes to on-street parking permissions in the town. These would affect the Esplanade (as pictured), Steep hill Road, the Eastern Esplanade, Park Road, Esplanade Road, Albert Street, St Catherine Street, Victoria Street, Leeson Road and Shore Road. A formal, public consultation on all of them will be run early in the new year.



## CAR PARKS

Our Mayor, Stephen Cockett, arranged a virtual meeting on Thursday evening, that I also attended, with Members of Ryde, Freshwater and Newport & Carisbrooke Councils to discuss the shared interest in local control of their off-street car parks.