



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 90

MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022

Welcome to edition 90 of our Clerk's Column – the first of 2022 - circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR!

The 2022 series of our weekly Clerk's Column starts here. It's an opportunity for us to keep as many residents as possible up to date with the Town Council's work and future plans and we're always happy to receive comments/questions on its items.

DECEMBER FINANCIALS

The combined balance of our two Bank accounts at the end of 2021 was £392,278 as it now includes the £150,000 loan from the Public Works Loan Board received just before the break to fund the new Public Toilet. During December we spent a total of £40,647 and received £9,498 in addition to the loan. The monthly report to the Town Council on the position compared to our Budget after the first nine months showed expenditure at £5,594 over Budget and income £301 less than Budget.

DECEMBER WEATHER

Chris Watts, who collects the daily readings from our Weather Station, delivered his usual report on the previous month this week:

It was exceptionally dull over the final three weeks (11th-31st), only 8.7 hours of sun recorded against an average of 42 hours. And the wettest day of the month? Christmas Day!

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	88.5	
% of average	99	
No. of dry days	13	
Highest	16.1	25th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	8.5	
Difference from average	+1.2	
Highest	13.0	29th
Lowest	1.0	2nd
Coldest day	7.2	19th

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Isle of Wight Council has opened its annual consultation on its Budget for the coming financial year, 2022/23. As last year, no actual figures are yet available and instead it consists of an invitation to complete a short survey on priorities.

It can also be responded to online [here](#).

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Living Wage Foundation](#) this week reported that '42% of all supermarket workers in the UK or 366,000 workers in total - earn below the real Living Wage.'
- Report by the [Resolution Foundation](#) predicts 'Real wages are already falling, and look likely to continue doing so ... taxes and energy bills combined [will] rise overnight by an average of £1,200 per household in April.'

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

NEW PUBLIC TOILET

Over two years of planning come to fruition this week with the start of the building of the new Public Toilet in the Central Car Park. Since the Isle of Wight Council's closure and sale of the Market Street Toilet the town has had no central or properly accessible Public Toilet, that gap will now be filled. Island-based builders DN Norville Associates Ltd will construct the toilets on the four parking bays in the northwest corner of the car park and use the opposite four for the 26 weeks the project is expected to take.

JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tonight's Town Council meeting – 7pm at our Green Room – includes Agenda items on the Co-option of a Town Councillor to fill the current vacancy in Lowtherville, an appointment to our Planning Committee, the adoption of a Social Media Policy, progress with our new Web Site, Marlborough Road Public Toilets, Beach Safety and the Anxiety Café. Covid-safety measures mean that anyone wanting to attend needs to book in by phoning 853775 and the meeting will be live-streamed as usual on our [YouTube channel](#).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Group's first 2022 Agenda on Thursday included: Tony McCarthy's report, the growth of our Anxiety Café, the details of a planned Development Programme, Funding applications and Litter Picking

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Our Salisbury Gardens' Office is open 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Visitors are asked to wear a face mask.