



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 104

MONDAY 18 APRIL 2022

Welcome to edition 104 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.

APRIL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's Town Council meeting made six decisions:

1) *Island Poverty:*

explore the potential for collaborative working with the other Town and Parish Councils that have significantly deprived areas within their remit.

2) *Ventnor Central:* agree the attached Heads of Terms as the basis for the Town Council's continuing management of the old Ventnor Youth Centre.

3) *Wild Gardens Challenge:* accept the proposal to launch a Ventnor Wild Garden Challenge 2022 as soon as possible.

4) *Platinum Jubilee Tree:* plant a tree in Ventnor Park to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

5) *Paddling Pool Pavement Games:* agree the purchase and installation of the three pavement games attached to Report 36/22 in the Paddling Pool area.

6) *Glyphosate:* ban Glyphosate use on non-ornamental areas with a view to undertake costings of ceasing its use everywhere.



ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Tuesday morning's meeting of the Group started with an application for the use of the *Park* by this year's Fringe that was readily agreed. Next came a proposal from the Isle of Wight Council to include an Electric Vehicle charging point in the *Pound Lane car park* that was felt to take up too much space in a small and crowded car park so a more detailed plan was requested. The Isle of Wight Council had questioned whether we wanted to continue the single yellow line seasonal-only parking permission on *Alpine Road*:



the Group's response was to propose all-year parking in that area. We welcomed the Town Council's agreement to our proposal to install three children's games in the *Paddling Pool* area, one of them being the colourful hopscotch shown here. Finally, an update on the good progress with the new Public Toilet and plans for a bench in Spring Hill Gardens.

GLYPHOSATE USE IN VENTNOR

Concern about the use of Glyphosate has generated considerable media and social media coverage and discussions by the Town Council at both its March and April meetings.

It's not always clear about the extent of the Town Council's responsibility for or control of weeds. The Town Council took over responsibility for Grounds Maintenance in the town in 2015 in response to the Isle of Wight Council's decision to stop its funding for it. We entered into a Partnership Agreement with the Isle of Wight Council that gives the Town Council the right to manage the maintenance of 19



designated areas (egg this one is Salisbury Gardens & East Cliffs) within the town under its own contractor:

John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance.

All the grounds maintenance work on our roads, verges and footpaths are the responsibility of the Isle of Wight Council and although the Town Council now manages Ventnor Park, the park's grounds maintenance works remain with the Isle of Wight Council for which the Town Council reimburses its costs.

VENTNOR'S MARCH WEATHER

Lovely Spring weather from the 17th to the 27th - dry, sunny and increasing warmth - but then a sting in the tail: wintry showers on 31st.

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	41.7	
% of average	79	
No. of dry days	18	
Highest	16.8	1st
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	9.5	
Difference from average	+2.0	
Highest	17.4	24th
Lowest	1.7	31st
Coldest day	6.9	6th

SUMMER BUSKING IN SPRING HILL GARDENS

Following its success last summer, our Deputy Mayor is arranging this year's programme to run on Saturdays from 9 July to mid-September with two slots - on and 1pm - each week. Groups interested in contributing can email her at steph.toogood@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The latest [Citizens Advice](#) blog opens with 'We've seen energy related contacts to our Consumer Service more than triple, compared to this time last year.'
- Based on its new research the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) says today: '1 April marks the greatest fall in the value of the basic rate of out-of-work benefit in fifty years.'