



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 107

MONDAY 9 MAY 2022

Welcome to edition 107 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.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

There are two of them today, both at Trinity Church Hall with the Annual Town Council Meeting at 6pm immediately followed by the Annual Town Meeting. Both are open to Press and Public.

It's possible to hold both then as the first usually takes just 15 minutes as its role is the election of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months and the Chairs of our Planning and Staffing Committees with the only other business being the formal confirmation of the Town Council's continuing qualification for the use of the General Power of Competence.

The following Annual Town Meeting is the opportunity to hear a summary of the work of a selection of the town's amazing voluntary sector groups, this year including the Carnival, Ventnor Community Shed, Ventnor Heritage Museum, St Catherine's School, Ventnor Enhancement Fund, our Youth Club, the Flower Fairy, Ventnor Community Foodbank, BabyBox and the Wellbeing Café

BOB SEELY MEETING

=Councillor Mark Jefferies and I joined the monthly virtual meeting the Island's MP holds for Town & Parish Councils on Friday afternoon. After his usual brief summary of his Parliamentary activity (the Landscape Protect and the Levelling Up Bill both to be mentioned in the Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament on Tuesday) and his visits to Moldova and the Ukraine a very lively Q&A filled the rest as Councillors raised concerns about the change of use of greenfield sites, (pushing the new Island Plan through is the only way to limit it), road safety (Police Road Safety Unity developing), Ryde Theatre (Arts Minister coming to the Island in July), the timing of speeding checks (important) and the possibility of an additional Ferry provider (no movement on that).



APRIL FINANCES

The Town Council's bank balance at 30 April was £557,914 due to a combination of receiving the whole 2022/23 Precept from the Isle of Wight Council and a substantial VAT reclaim for the January to March quarter that included the VAT charged during that period for the work on the new Public Toilet. Expenditure during the month totalled £79,035, including £14,220 on repairs and maintenance for Salisbury Gardens.

CONCERTS COMING TO TOWN

We welcomed an approach from the Chiltern Music Academy to hold a free Wind & Jazz Band



concert by their young musicians in the area of our Paddling Pool. That's now included in their programme for the afternoon of Sunday 29

May starting at 3pm. That will be followed on the same day by a further free concert with Choirs, Orchestra and Soloists at St Catherine's Church starting at 6.30. Full details [here](#).

LITTER PICK

This month's contribution to a cleaner Town is planned for Sunday -15 May – starting at the Green Room at 9am with the usual chance to chat and refreshments at the end.

IOWC'S NEW COMMERCIAL STRATEGY

Thursday's Cabinet Meeting is asked to approve a new Commercial Strategy for the Island. Portfolio Holder Councillor Jarman says of it 'we have three themes in our strategy: increasing the Council's resources by savings and efficiencies; tackling climate change at the heart of all decisions; and increasing community wealth and social value.'



VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A [New Economics Foundation](#) study published today says 23.5 million people will be unable to afford the cost of living and 'one in 10 parents say they are now very likely to use a food bank over the coming three months.'
- The [Disability News Service](#) reports that 'Regulator pressure forces DWP to admit: One million ESA claimants will lose out under UC [Universal Credit].'

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

