



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 129

MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022

Welcome to edition 129 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.

FAMILY VOICE: GROUP RESPONSES

The 80 residents that came to St Catherine's Church last Monday to view our Family Voice documentary were on 12 tables of working groups. Their task, facilitated by Town Councillors or staff members was to identify the top three priorities for responding to the issues the film raised. The collection of those responses will be discussed at tonight's Town Council meeting and the full set is on our web site and can be seen by going to its Town Council Meetings section or by clicking [this link](#). There were also post-it Notes and response sheets that we have yet to analyse. We've also had further suggestions by email and would welcome more, to alison@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk.

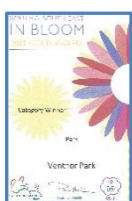


SEPTEMBER WEATHER

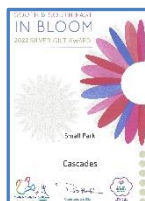
Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	83.7	
% of average	144	
No. of dry days	16	
Highest	20.2	13th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	16.4	
Difference from average	+0.7	
Highest	25.6	4th
Lowest	7.3	17th
Coldest day	16.0	28th

This was the first month in 2022 to record both higher than average rainfall and number of days with rain. Thunder was heard on four consecutive days, 4th – 7th.

PARK & CASCADE AWARDS



The Award Certificates – Gold for Ventnor Park and Silver Gilt for the Cascades – have now been formally presented to our Grounds



Maintenance Contract Manager Stan Hayden of John O'Conner. Our congratulations to him and his team.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' MEETING

The Mayor, Alison and I had our monthly meeting with our County Councillors on Monday afternoon. We find these discussions really valuable.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

The total of our two Bank Accounts at 30 September was £294,622. The major item in the month's total expenditure of £55,209 was the final payment for the construction of the new public toilet of £5,867. Salisbury Gardens' costs totalled £1,809.

Receipts during September came to £10,603 of which £5,178 came from Salisbury Gardens' rents. The total spent during the first half of the current financial year that we reached at 30 September was £19,913 more than budgeted for at £239,913 while receipts in the same period were £9,950 above budget.

AUDITS COMPLETED FOR 2021/22

In common with all Town & Parish Councils we have two Auditors: one Internal by someone appointed by the Town Council - Gareth Hughes for us – and the other, PKF Littlejohn LLP appointed by the government. Both have now signed off on our 2021/22 accounts with no concerns recorded.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Tuesday morning's Agenda for its latest meeting started with the recording of the closure of the *Marlborough Road Public Toilets* seven years after we took them on when the Isle of Wight Council was going to close them in 2015. We then welcomed the fact that the top of the *Fountain* had been successfully lifted back on so that repairs can begin. An update on progress with the *CCTV Installation* outside the new Public Toilet came next. We then discussed our *Parking Charges* in the four car parks – Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road – that we manage and although these have not increased since we took them on in 2015 and we haven't added the overnight charge, we decided not to increase them at this time. The problems for the residents of *St Catherine Street* that would come with the proposed double yellow lines were discussed. This year's cost of watering the *Central Reservation Plants* prompted discussions of ways of reducing the charges while retaining the attraction.

MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- A 47-second video from the [Independent Food Aid Network](#) nails the issues facing Food Banks.
- [City A.M.](#) headlines its article on the building industry today with '17,000 construction firms risk collapsing any minute as high inflation is 'destroying entire sector'