



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 137

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to edition 137 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.

## NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

At 30 November the balance of the Town Council's funds was £235,847. Expenditure during the month of November totalled £56,208 including Salisbury Gardens' costs of £3,428. The largest non-salary costs were the payment of £16,042 to the Isle of Wight Council for the Grounds Maintenance work at Ventnor Park and £2,814 for the annual Insurance of the Salisbury Gardens building.

Receipts during November came to £15,431 of which £9,068 came from Salisbury Gardens' rents.

The total spent on Precept funded items during the first eight months of the current financial year was £45,032 more than budgeted for while receipts in the same period were £12,960 above budget.

## ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's meeting on Tuesday morning opened with a decision to refer our new Esplanade signage pointing the way to the Public Toilets to the Isle of Wight Council following a complaint. We then agreed that the cost of installing a shower in our Green Road is too great to be affordable this year. Free parking in our Dudley Road, Market Street and Pound Lane car parks on Saturdays 3 and 10 December in support of local businesses was confirmed. We agreed the disputed clause in the lease of the four parking spaces in the Central Car Park for our new toilets.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the seven applications on its Thursday Agenda the Committee supported 9\* six and saw no reason to object to the other one. Six members of the public attended the meeting's Public Forum to express concerns about the application for a revised location for the Time & Tide Bell. Their concerns included ongoing maintenance, upkeep, insurance, together with safety of the structure, including seasonal tides, wave heights, surrounding rocks within the vicinity and the possible noise level. The Committee supported the application but *requires further clarification on suitability regarding tide heights and storm surges that could affect the action of the Bell.*

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND IS OPEN...

One week after its launch the Fund holds a total of £25,950. This Fund is in response to suggestions from residents who saw our documentary *Family Voice* in which Ventnor residents without enough income for life's basics spoke for themselves and their families. The film can be viewed [here](#).



frame from family voice

They praised the town's community organisations providing support: our Foodbank, Baby Box, and the Pantry with one adding *I've got faith in the Community*.

But with Christmas and Winter increasing demand the supporting organisations will need additional funding to meet it. That's what this Fund is for: if it reaches £40,000 by Christmas, the Foodbank, Baby Box and the Pantry will be able to have an additional £10,000 each and we'll be able to extend the Wellbeing Café's hours as well as providing another £5,000 of vouchers to the families on our voucher list facing the additional cost of no free school meals during the coming holiday.

Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

- *Bank Transfer:* to Ventnor Town Council, Sort Code 40-45-09, A/c No. 41366998
- *Card:* phone 01983 853775 or at our office, Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road
- *Cheque:* post or deliver to our office.

Donations can be anonymous and details of the Fund's organisation are available on request to: David Bartlett, Town Clerk, phone: 857840/07720 771114 or email: [townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk)

## CHRISTMAS TREE TIME



Thanks to our Maintenance Manager Brian Roberts and his team of willing volunteers this year's Christmas tree is now in its place in the town centre. Its lights will be added this week ready for this year's holiday.

## FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- Research by the [London School of Economics Centre for Economic Performance](#) concludes: 'Brexit increased food prices by around 6% overall.'
- New research by [Ashton University's Centre for Business Prosperity](#) found: 'as many as 42% of the product varieties previously exported to the EU have disappeared during the 15 months after January 2021.'

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