



Here's edition 140 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.

NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

Welcome back for this Clerk's Column, published weekly since its first edition in April 2020, apart from its annual two weeks' Christmas break, to continue its reporting of Town Council's work.

The threat to many residents of cost rises they simply don't have the income to fund is a major challenge of the new year. Alongside that will run the Town Council's commitment to the town's much needed regeneration. Other areas of the Island – such as East Cowes, Ryde and Newport – have benefitted from significant new investment during 2022.

We welcome and support that, and it now has to be Ventnor's turn, given its recognition in the Island Plan as a Smaller Regeneration Area. In particular, we'll be looking for a positive response to our Business Plan for the management of the town's other four car parks and a start on the project for the development of the land behind the Island Free School.

DECEMBER FINANCIALS

At 31 December the balance of the Town Council's funds was £208,878. Expenditure during the month of December totalled £43,378 including Salisbury Gardens' costs of £4,401. The largest non-salary costs were the repayment of the new public toilet loan at £3,778, the monthly payment to John O'Conner for our Grounds Maintenance and the £1,227 for the electricity bill at the Park.

Receipts during December came to £16,288 of which £4,598 came from Salisbury Gardens' rents.

The total spent on Precept funded items during the first nine months of the current financial year was £37,788 more than budgeted for while receipts in the same period were £15,036 above budget.

NEW ROAD CLOSURE

Zig Zag Road: no traffic from 1am Monday 9 January until 11.59pm Friday 13 January or when the works have been completed between its junctions with Bellevue Road and Alpine Road. **

OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND ...

... has reached £30,693, of which £23,500 has already been distributed with £5,000 to each of our Food Bank, Baby Box and the Pantry, a further £5,000 for an issue of our food/energy vouchers to support the families we know needed support through the extra demands of the Christmas break, and £3,500 to fund additional weekly sessions of our Wellbeing Café until 31 March

More support is going to be needed through the winter months. Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

- **Bank Transfer:** 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.

VENTNOR COMMUNITY FAMILY PLAYGROUP

Tony McCarthy has accessed funding to set up a new playgroup in the Family Centre. The sessions, starting in 16 January, will be run by Eloise Preston and be weekly for 13 weeks and twice weekly after that. Sessions will run during School Term Time only. There are limited places available. The project has been funded by a grant from the community Capacity Early Help Fund from IOW Children's Services and has been supported by Barnardo's.

VENTNOR'S DECEMBER WEATHER

The only month of 2022 with below average temperatures. Dry but with seven overnight air frosts in first half of month. Wet and mild later.

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	96.3	
% of average	108	
No. of dry days	14	
Highest	26.7	18th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	6.2	
Difference from average	-1.1	
Highest	12.8	19th
Lowest	-2.4	15th
Coldest day	2.4	14th

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- A [High Pay Centre](#) Press Release today: 'FTSE 100 CEOs' earnings for 2023 will surpass the median UK worker's full time annual salary today, just prior to 14:00 on Thursday 5 January.'
- The [End Fuel Poverty Coalition](#) today: '18% of the population (9.02m) are living in cold damp homes this month, with a quarter of people with health conditions which are made worse by cold and damp unable to heat their homes to a safe standard (26%, 4.75m).'

