



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 141

16 JANUARY 2023

Here's edition 141 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.

JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING



WELLBEING CAFE

Following the monthly Finance Report (summarised in Clerk's Column 140) Members considered a Report proposing an increase in the *Wellbeing Café's* sessions from three a week to five with a consequent extension of its Co-ordinator's hours to a full time basis. Attached to the Report was evidence of its value to its now 89 members in the form of testimonials from members and a Review of its work in 2022. The full Report is available [here](#). The Council's support was enthusiastic and the proposal unanimously adopted.

Next was a Report from our Business Support Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop with details of the levels of access to our new web site from its launch last April to the end of December. A Report from our Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Group on the outcomes from their recent series of four consultation meetings with residents was the final substantive item.

VENTNOR'S WEATHER DURING 2022

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	816.4	
% of average	110	
Highest	42.9	17th August
Wettest month	213.9	November
Driest month	3.7	July
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	12.9	
Difference from average	+1.5	
Highest	30.3	19th July
Lowest	-2.4	15th December
Coldest day	2.4	14th December
Warmest night	23.9	19th July
Warmest month	20.3	August
Coldest month	6.2	December

Chris Watts, who collects the daily readings from Ventnor's Weather Station, has provided a summary of the full year in this table. The UK's mean temperature for the year was 10 degrees centigrade.

NEW ROAD CLOSURE

Zig Zag Road: no traffic from 8am Monday 16 January until 6pm Thursday 19 January or when the works has been completed between its junctions with Bellevue Road and Castle Road.

Lowtherville Road: closed to traffic for one shift between 9.30am and 3.30pm between Wednesday 18 January and Friday 20 January.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's Tuesday morning meeting's first item was advice from the Isle of Wight Council planners that our toilet directional signage on the Esplanade is acceptable. We then received good advice from Ventnor Enhancement Fund on how to reduce the costs of watering the plants on the High Street's central reservation. Salisbury Gardens' maintenance issues came next - requiring some scaffolding to access a problem on the western elevation - followed by the need to repair a leak in Boniface Fields. The 10.7% increase in our Grounds Maintenance costs next year was the final item.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee's latest meeting, on Tuesday afternoon, had six applications to consider but only found a problem with one of them: the Esplanade's La Veness's planned alteration to its windows. The Committee opposed the application *on the grounds of design, in particular the increased size of the windows and removal of glazing bars, now rendering the building out of character with the surrounding environment.*



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND COMMITTEE

The Committee's second meeting was on Thursday morning when it decided to commit £5,500 from the Fund for an issue of our food/energy vouchers to Ventnor residents we know will find it increasingly difficult to buy food, keep the heat and light on in their homes and pay their rent or mortgage.

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.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- [Citizens Advice](#) reveals '1 in 3 (33%) people on Pre Payment Meters had disconnected at least once in the past year because they could not afford to top up. That's more than 3 million people, or 1 person every 10 seconds.'
- The [Institute for Employment Rights](#) today: 'Leaked internal messages between senior civil servants have been described as potentially 'the biggest attack on workers' rights and freedoms' for generation.'

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