



Here's edition 154 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.

## APRIL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tonight's meeting of the Town Council has an Agenda of the usual monthly finance report, the annual receipts and payments summary for the financial year 2022/23, a proposal for all Members to sign up to NALC's Civility and Respect Pledge (see below) and new Terms of Reference for the HR Committee as well as the usual Town Clerk's Report. All the Reports are available on our web site.

## CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Although all Councillors sign up to a Code of Conduct there are no mechanisms for its enforcement since the government removed them in its Localism Act 2011. Until then, complaints against Councillors alleging breaches of the Code of Practice, including bullying, could be referred to the Monitoring Officer of Councils like the Isle of Wight Council. The Monitoring Officer has no enforcement powers available to him or her. So the Pledge is a NALC initiative supported by the Society of Local Council Clerks, to fill the gap. Ventnor's Town Councillors are being asked at tonight's Town Council Meeting to individually sign up to a document committing them to: *support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.*

The SLCC web site records that 1,148 Town & Parish Councils have already signed up, four of which are on the Island: Fishbourne, Ryde, Bembridge and Shanklin.

## ST LAWRENCE VACANCY

Residents have until a week on Wednesday to provide the Isle of Wight Council's Proper Officer (Clive Joynes) with a minimum of 10 letters requesting an election. If that doesn't happen, the Town Council will fill the vacancy by co-option. We're happy to support anyone wanting to write.

## TRAFFIC NOTICES

The one-way restriction along Bellvue Road is due to continue until Friday.

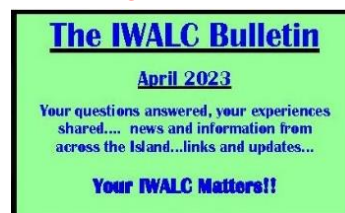
## VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

A map from a [climatologist](#) and weather historian illustrates the fact that the 'Worst April heat wave in Asian history ongoing in more than a dozen countries.'

## TOWN COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

It's been a quiet four-day week without a single meeting for me to attend, so it's a good opportunity to provide residents with details of two representative organisations the Town Council is part of:

### Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils



IWLAC represents 27 of the Island's Town & Parish Councils including Ventnor's. Its work includes arranging meetings with the

Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet and, separately, with the Island's MP. It also has representatives on a wide range of other organisations whose activities are relevant for the Island.

It has limited resources as it is dependent on annual subscriptions from member Councils with a total income of £15,534 for the 2021/22 financial year in which expenditure totalled £16,720. Ventnor Town Council's contribution last year was £784. The Town Council's reps on IWALC are Councillor Steve Cooper with Councillor Julie Hutchison as Deputy.

IWALC's Communications Officer produces a monthly Bulletin including latest news and contributions from its member Town & Parish Councils: the April Bulletin is available [here](#).

### National Association of Local Councils

NALC is the National Organisation representing the interests and issues of the country's 10,000 or so Town & Parish Councils. It does that through its structure of 43 County Associations of Local Councils of which IWALC is one, and by a very long way the smallest: its membership fee for NALC in 2021/22 was £6,432. NALC provides templates for a many of the documents and policies that Town and Parish Councils need.

NALC also provides advice on a wide range of issues to Town & Parish Councils that request it through IWALC. Loan requests from the Public Works Loan Board also have to be signed off by both IWALC and NALC.