



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 45/23

14 AUGUST 2023

The purpose of this Report is to record developments since the last meeting not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

NO. DETAILS

1) BEACH SAFETY TEAM: EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- a) Last week Beth, a member of our Beach Safety Team put her extensive First Aid Training into action to deal with a possible heart attack, after receiving reports of a man who had collapsed nearby.
 - b) An asthma sufferer, checks revealed the man had a lowered heart rate and very weak pulse. At a serious risk of heart attack, the man was immediately relocated to the Safety Hut, where Beth readied the defibrillator should it be required.
 - c) After his condition deteriorated, a second first-aider arrived to assist and, with a 999-ambulance call revealing that their arrival could take 2hrs or more, the man was driven by his wife to St Mary's Hospital, where his condition was stabilised and he was discharged later that day.
 - d) The family returned to the beach the following day, giving their profound thanks and admiration at the level of care and expertise shown by Beth and our Safety Team members.
 - e) Ventnor Town Council's thanks and appreciation for the high level of care in this extreme emergency situation is extended to all concerned.
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3) BY-ELECTION – BONCHURCH & VENTNOR EAST

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's Proper Officer has received more than the ten requests required for this vacancy to be filled by election.
 - b) Anyone interested in being nominated should return their nomination papers to County Hall no later than 4pm on Thursday 17th August.
 - c) Printed Nomination packs are available from the Town Council office.
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2) CO-OPTION – VACANCY IN VENTNOR WEST

The vacancy for a Member to represent Ventnor West ward is to be filled by co-option.

4) VENTNOR FRINGE

- a) Ventnor Fringe 2023 proved very successful again this year.
 - b) Despite days of inclement weather, from 21-30 July visitors and local residents enjoyed music, comedy and art performances, food and drink in and around the main events in Ventnor Park, and various locations throughout the town.
 - c) Next year's event dates are already fixed – Friday 19th to Sunday 24th July 2024.
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5) VENTNOR DAY 2022

- a) In its third year at Ventnor Park, the rain held off for this year's Ventnor Day providing a great afternoon as hundreds visited the event to share, enjoy and celebrate the town's rich community life.
 - b) The event was opened by Ventnor Comic Jazz Band, Mayor Steve Cooper and the Ventnor Carnival Queens.
 - c) There were over 100 stalls, from community groups and voluntary sector organisations to local businesses and arts and crafts.
 - d) Food and drinks were provided by Crave Ice Cream, Better Days Café, Curry on Wheels and Tee in The Park.
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- e) Entertainment was provided by Moonshine Border Morris & Baker's Dozen, Missing Heads, Ventnor Ukes, Whatevva, Nothin' to Lose, Time & Tide Players, Sionna Madden, the Undercliff Singers, the Aspire Choir and belly dancer group Eye of the Dawn.
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6) VENTNOR CARNIVAL

Dating from 1889, the second oldest carnival event in the UK saw Ventnor's Carnival celebrating week-long with competitions, the Dog Show, Children's & Main Carnivals, fireworks at the Spy Glass and culminating in the Illuminated Carnival on Saturday 12th August.

7) BUSKING

- a) Organised by Councillor Steph Toogood and Brian Roberts, Busking has returned every Saturday throughout August and finishing on Saturday 2nd September.
 - b) Various bands and acts can be heard near Ventnor's Paddling Pool - an ideal location with the beach so close by and plenty of food outlets and bars along the seafront for refreshments.
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8) VENTNOR BOWLING CLUB

- a) On Sunday 6 August, Ventnor Bowling Club and the Royal British Legion held their annual match in memory of Barry Croad, a highly accomplished bowler who was a member of both the Bowling Club and British Legion.
 - b) Despite changeable weather, the event was enjoyed by all – for some, their first ever try at bowling.
 - c) This year, the Barry Croad Shield was won by the Bowling Club.
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9) NORTH STREET PLAYGROUND – WEED CLEARANCE

- a) A small team lead by Deputy Mayor Mark Jefferies, saw the weeds removed by hand on the surface area of North Street playground.
 - b) Afterwards, the area was treated with a non-glyphosate, environmentally friendly weed killer to prevent their re-emergence - at least for now!
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10) CAR PARKING CHARGES

- a) On 24 July, car parking charges increased across the four car parks that Ventnor Town Council manage: Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road.
 - b) It should be noted that this is the first increase in charges since Ventnor Town Council took over management of these four car parks from the Isle of Wight Council eight years ago – and remain cheaper than the Isle of Wight Council's managed car parks.
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11) MAJOR COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECT

- a) Mayor Steve Cooper and staff members Alison Killick and Nigel Slater-Bishop met on Tuesday 18 July with Natasha Dix, Strategic Manager for the Environment and Rupert Teasdale, Coastal Environment Engineer, joined by video link by Isle of Wight Councillor Paul Fuller.
 - b) Discussions ensued around the storm damage last year to the sea wall along the Eastern Cliff Esplanade and planned remedial works.
 - c) A public meeting is arranged for Tuesday 22nd August at St Catherine's Church at 6pm for the Isle of Wight Council to update local residents on planned initial works and the impact of these works on surrounding areas.
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