



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 62/23

11 DECEMBER 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) REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

- a) This year's Remembrance events were well attended, with the Cadets and local Ventnor RBL branch collecting for the annual Poppy Appeal.
 - b) Over the weekend of 11/12th November, Armistice Day was supported outside the Royal British Legion, with Fr Tony Lawrence officiating the short service.
 - c) Thanks goes to:-
 - o Island Roads' Traffic Management Team and the Coastguards for the usual brief road closure to mark this event.
 - o Nikki Sheard of Wight Diamonds for playing of The Last Post.
 - d) On Sunday the 12th, a Remembrance service took place at St. Catherine's church, followed by a parade to the War Memorial at Ventnor Park, where a service and wreath laying took place. The Lord Lieutenant and local MP Bob Seely were in attendance.
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2) ACTION CHALLENGE IOW

- a) In discussions with the Action Challenge team, Nigel has managed to secure a 3-year deal for rental of the Green Room and downstairs area facilities at Salisbury Gardens.
The team have hired the Green Room for the last two years and recent negotiations sees a rental increase of 25% for the first year, with a 10% rolling increase in the second and subsequent years.
This will bring some much-needed income for the upkeep and maintenance of Salisbury Gardens' buildings.
 - b) The site will be used for the major emergency and paramedic medical operational HQ for the very successful Ultra Challenge Series of events.
As this year, forthcoming events will use the green outside Salisbury Gardens, with the designated emergency Helipad area on the lower green to be cordoned-off as a precaution.
The elite runners, joggers and walkers will be able to receive medical attention by medics and get refreshments and rest facilities on site at the green.
 - c) This is another great opportunity to showcase the Town Council and Ventnor Town itself and share our own push for an active, healthy town with opportunities for all ages amongst our local sports clubs.
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3) WELLBEING CAFE

- a) Following Terri's very welcome return to the Wellbeing Café, members have been busy, including organising a panto trip and arranging their Christmas dinner for 15th December.
 - b) The Café have also gratefully received £2,159 from the Co-op Community Fund.
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4) YOUTH CLUB

- a) Jordan is working on the BeWell project, in collaboration with Sandown & Brading Youth Clubs.
 - b) Basketball and badminton, and cookery sessions are still continuing successfully.
 - c) The Youth Club have gratefully received £1,940 from the Co-op Community Fund.
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5) VENTNOR PANTRY/BABYBOX

- a) After Ventnor Pantry/Babybox advertised for an administrator, they received eight applications.
 - b) Following the interviews, Emma McGee was the successful applicant, to support Marzena Turner for 14hrs per week.
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6) CHRISTMAS TREE "SWITCH ON"

- a) Ventnor's Christmas tree stands proudly in Spring Hill Gardens.
 - b) Delivered and positioned in place at the end of November – working around the very wet weather, Brian Roberts worked tirelessly on 5 December installing over 8,000 LED lights on 600m of cable - on the tree and surrounding areas at Spring Hill Gardens in time for that evening's Lights Switch On and Carols around the Tree.
 - c) Over 100 people attended the event, with the Carnival arranging for Santa to drive past, and mince pies/hot drinks provided by Better Days Café.
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7) CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR

- a) To be held this year on Saturday 16th December, preparations for this year's Christmas in Ventnor are on track.
 - b) Window displays for this year's "Window Spot" competition feature the 12 Days of Christmas.
 - c) Music/bands are organised for Spring Hill Gardens.
 - d) Christmas stalls will be located at the Baptist and St Catherine's Churches, and the Winter Gardens.
 - e) For Carols in the Park, the Carnival procession to Ventnor Park will start at around 6:00pm.
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8) WARM SPACES/OUR PLACE

- a) As we look ahead to 2024, Warm Spaces every Thursday at St Catherine's Church is proving very successful, with an increase in numbers.
 - b) Their Christmas dinner is arranged for 14th December.
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9) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 27 October & 17 November, with its next meeting to be held on 12 January 2024.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 16 October & 20 November, with its next meeting to be held on 18 December.
 - c) The Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Group met on 17 October & 21 November, with its next meeting to be held on 16 January 2024.
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