



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 74/15

10 AUGUST 2015

The purpose of this paper is to record developments in the past month not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

No. DETAIL

1) APPRENTICE FUNDING

- a) We were surprised to discover that the £1,500 government grant to small employers that take on an Apprentice will not be available to us.
 - b) This is because the Skills Funding Agency says that it is unable to differentiate Town and Parish Councils from their Principal Authorities and therefore we count as a large employer.
 - c) The company we've engaged for Florence Barret's training – HTP Training – has challenged this decision but without success. I have referred the issue to both the Island's MP Andrew Turner and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
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2) MATERNITY COVER

- a) Our Timebank Support Worker, Sarah Moore, begins Maternity Leave on 2 November and will be on annual leave from mid-September.
 - b) As there will be no liability for Maternity Pay, the decision has been made to appoint to the post until 31 March 2016.
 - c) The invitation to apply has, in the first instance, been ring fenced to people with actual experience of and involvement in Ventnor Timebank and subject to suitable applicants, interviews will be arranged for the first week of September.
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3) 31 BUS

- a) Following recent discussions about the future of the 31 Bus, a new route has now been registered with the Traffic Commissioners and will be effective from 21 September.
 - b) A copy of the new timetable is attached to this Report.
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4) SPRING HILL

- a) The volunteers of the Spring Hill Group achieved a lovely freshening up of Spring Hill Gardens during the first weekend of August.
 - b) With all the budlea cut back and a general up this important space continues to brighten up the town centre thanks to the team of volunteers looking after it.
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5) PADDLING POOL

- a) Staff have received so many appreciative comments on the high standard of maintenance of the Paddling Pool that we want to record it here as a reminder of an important area of the Town Council's work.
 - b) The Pool is emptied, cleaned and refilled early every morning during the season.
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6) SKATEPARK

- a) Meetings of the Skate Park Committee held in our Green Room have made really good progress towards registration as a charity on the basis of a draft constitution prepared by our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy.
 - b) Its new Trustees include our Deputy Mayor Leigh Geddes while Fred Woodworth and John Baldry who have kept the facility available against all the odds are delighted that the new levels of support have enabled them to take a more background role.
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7) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Community Development Working Group met on Tuesday 14 July with Green Room Use, Timebank planning, Men's Shed development, Ventnor Library and Locality Working on its Agenda.
 - b) The Public Buildings Working Group had its longest meeting yet on Tuesday 21 July with an Agenda that included Car Parks, Salisbury Gardens, Ventnor Central, Men's Shed and the Sea Breeze Playground.
 - c)
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