



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 139

MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the last 2022 edition of our Clerk's Column – no. 139 - circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list; the Chronicle is not published this week or next.

DECEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's meeting of the Town Council was one of the shortest with the five item Agenda being completed in just 20 minutes. County Councillor Rodney Downer joined the meeting for the *Public Forum* and provided a Report of his recent work in the town. The *Finance Report* was followed by agreement on the *Terms of Reference* for the new *Community Support Fund* and then an update on the Fund and its then current balance of £26,450. A new list of dates for the 2023 *Town Council Meetings* taking account of the year's Bank Holidays was agreed with the *Town Clerk's Report* the usual concluding item.

WELLBEING CAFÉ'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The remarkable growth of our Wellbeing Café from the four residents attending the Isle of Wight Council's local mental health provision that it closed to the 89 members today, led by Terri Expositte, was



celebrated on Thursday at its Christmas lunch at the Mill Bay with over 50 members present, joined by the Mayor and staff. Wonderful sights and sounds reflecting the mutual support the group provides for all its members.

BARRIERS TO BE REVIEWED



Photo: On the Wight

The Isle of Wight Council have told On the Wight that they are reviewing the unsightly red and white Water filled barriers under the Rock on the corner of Belgrave Road. The Mayor continues to urge pedestrian safety measures for this busy road.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND COMMITTEE

The new Town Council Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday. Brian Lucas and Phil Warren are its two Council Members and Penny Cameron-Watt and Leigh Geddes are its residents.



Our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy and Assistant Town Clerk Alison Killick provided support. Its

main role is the distribution of the available funding and its decisions at this pre-Christmas session were:

- £5,000 for *Ventnor Community Foodbank* which is experiencing high levels of demand from working families with children, people with disabilities and long-term health conditions and those experiencing delays with benefits.
- £5,000 for *Ventnor Community Pantry* – which has had to cap its membership at 220 – and is providing food for over 100 families and individuals each week.
- £5,000 to *Baby Box Isle of Wight* to purchase nappies, baby milk and other essential supplies and to provide electricity and gas top-ups.
- £3,500 for *Ventnor Well-being Café* to enable the café to operate for additional sessions and provide lunch to for its members on 3 days per week in the New Year.

Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

- *Bank Transfer:* to 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.

NEXT CLERK'S COLUMN

Both this Column and the Chronicle have a two-week break at this time of the year to give the editors a rest! So the next edition of the Clerk's Column will be out on Monday 9 January after our office has re-opened on Tuesday 3 January.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- The new [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) report finds 'low-income households' finances continue to buckle under the pressure of the cost of living crisis, as 7.2 million are going without the basics, and 4.7 million are behind on their bills.'
- A summary of the latest research from [Crisis UK](#) includes the assessment that 'nearly 1 million families across Britain expect to face eviction this winter.'