

Ventnor Matters

EDITION TWO

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

1 MARCH 2011

10% PRECEPT REDUCTION

The Town Council set a Precept for 2011/12 of £135,000 compared with this year's of £149,473 at its meeting of 28 February, a reduction of 9.68%. The cost to Band D households will be £48.79 for next year compared with £54.21 this year.

WINTER GARDENS' SUBSIDY FINAL YEAR



Although the Town Council ended its management responsibility for the Winter Gardens on 31 January, significant costs related to it remain for just one more year.

The £59,000 cost at line 35 of the Budget is made up of three elements: £35,000 covers the costs and consequences of the closure, £20,000 is the settlement price of the loan from Brewers Moulson Coors originally entered into in 2005 by the then Town Council to fund refurbishments and £4,000 to terminate an outstanding contract.

STAFFING COSTS

Next year's staffing costs at £27,234 are 25% lower than for this year, a reduction both of actual cost and as a percentage of the budget – 20.2% compared with this year's 24.3%. For details of the staffing arrangements, see page 2.

RESERVES

The Audit Commission has commented more than once about the need for Ventnor Town Council to maintain adequate reserves. The Budget makes a £15,000 provision for that at line 34.

CONTINGENCY

There is also a Contingency provision of £10,136 at line 33 in view of the uncertainty about the potential gaps in local services following the Isle of Wight Council's budget cuts.

NEW MEMBER

Carol Jones has been elected unopposed to the Ventnor East vacancy created by the December resignation of Chris Welsford.



Carol moved to Ventnor 16 years ago she told *Ventnor Blog* that *it feels more like home to me than Liverpool ever did. Ventnor has been good to me and I would like to think I can now give something back.*

Soon after moving in she began working as a volunteer at Ventnor's Youth Club and went on to become a qualified youth worker. For the last nine years she has been a drug worker employed by Cranstoun in Ryde, working with people dependent on substances such as heroin.

Carol joined Ventnor Town Council at its 28 February meeting.

2011/12 BUDGET

Budget line	Total
Expenditure	
1 Town Clerk	16,607
2 Assistant Town Clerk	10,628
Salaries total	27,234
3 Mayor's Allowance	400
Overheads	
4 Office stationery	480
5 Office equipment	400
6 Photocopying costs	600
7 Publications	200
8 Equipment lease	800
9 Postages	300
10 Official Notices	120
11 Affiliation Fees	750
12 Insurances	1,500
13 Telephone	600
14 Audit Fee	1,100
15 Bank Charges	120
16 Newsletter and Website	1,300
17 Legal & Professional Fees	1,000
18 Elections	5,000
19 Miscellaneous	1,200
20 Office + Room Rent	6,000
Total Overheads	21,470
Projects:	
21 Public Seats	1,400
22 Salt Bins	250
23 Motifs Electricity	500
24 Floral Decorations	1,500
25 Bus Shelter Maintenance	500
26 Esplanade Clock	250
27 Town Decorations	1,000
28 Metrological Honorarium	600
29 Spring Hill Gardens	500
30 Sea Breeze Park	1,500
31 Putting Green Kiosk Costs	750
32 Green Town	1,000
33 Contingency	10,136
34 Reserves	15,000
Total Projects	34,886
35 Winter Gardens Subsidy	59,000
Town Council Total	142,990
Receipts	
36 VAT Q3	1,500
37 Asset Sale	5,000
38 Bank Interest	90
39 Kiosk Concession	1,400
Total	7,990
Precept Requirement	135,000
Per Band D household	£ 48.79

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Ventnor Town Council have agreed new staffing arrangements from 1 April based on a transition period of 6-months followed by a permanent appointment.

Town Councillors were very conscious of the value of continuity through a period of major change from Winter Gardens management to clearer focus on the needs of the Town and its residents as well as embedding full compliance with audit requirements and good practice.

So David Bartlett – the Town Council’s locum Clerk since April last year – has been appointed Town Clerk on a temporary basis of 12-hours a week for up to six months. He will continue with the Responsible Finance Officer duties



Alison Killick, who has worked alongside David since her appointment as PA to Town Clerk/General Manager in early October, has been redesignated Assistant Town Clerk on a matching 6-month temporary contract on a full-time basis.

Alison is keen to achieve the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) that is the standard qualification for Town and Parish Council Clerks during the six months.

COMPLAINTS DISMISSED

The last of a series of complaints against currently serving Ventnor Councillors have been dismissed by the Ethical Standards Subcommittee.

The Committee, meeting on Monday 21 February, found no evidence that either Town Councillor David George or Councillor Chris Welsford had breached the Code of Conduct.

CUTS & CONSEQUENCES

The conclusion of the Isle of Wight Council’s budget setting for 2011/12 leaves Ventnor with three of its nine public toilets, its Library open for 21 hours a week and no lifeguards in place.

The three public toilets that will remain open are: Marlborough Road, Ventnor Park and Eastern Esplanade. Three more are definitely marked for closure: Botanic Gardens, Wheelers Bay and Market Street. The other three, Steephill Cove, Smugglers Haven and Bath Road are the subject of discussions with unnamed interested parties considering taking over their operation.

Ventnor Library will continue with its opening hours reduced to 21 hours a week.

Although the Isle of Wight Council was persuaded to restore £25k of its proposed £100k cut to the Island’s lifeguards service, that is only enough to provide some support and training, but not to continue the service so important to residents and visitors alike.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES

As 10 electors have not asked for an election for either of the vacancies on Ventnor Town Council to represent the St Lawrence and Ventnor East wards, they will be filled by co-option.

Ventnor Town Council is inviting anyone interested in being considered for either of these vacancies to write to the Town Clerk by Friday 25 March.

Details of the process, including who is eligible to be co-opted, are available by [clicking this link](#).

VENTNOR NEWS.. VENTNOR NEWS..

These are some of the news items recently posted to the News Section of the Town Council’s web site with *read more* links to the full story.

VENTNOR CEMETERY ADDED TO LOCAL LIST

The Isle of Wight Council has published details of the 25 Island sites and buildings that are being added to the Local List that started in 2007. These latest additions include Ventnor Cemetery...

... [Read more...](#)

VENTNOR CARNIVAL ALIVE ON FILM

Councillor David George has made his short film of the sights and celebrations around the 2010 Ventnor Carnival available on Youtube: it can be seen here...

...[Read more...](#)

OCEAN VIEW ROAD TO CLOSE FOR 6 WEEKS

The Isle of Wight Council has today published details of its scheme for dealing with the large hole (vent) in Ocean View Road; the road will close for 6 weeks from Monday 14 February from its junction with Zig Zag Road to The old Shute...

...[Read more...](#)

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Will be at Ventnor Community Early Years Centre at 7pm on Monday 14 March.

VENTNOR MATTERS

Ventnor Matters is the E-newsletter of Ventnor Town Council, Coastal Centre, Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1EJ.

It is edited by the Town Clerk and circulated electronically to an email distribution list of residents and others with an interest in the Town.

To be added to the list please send your email address to: townclerk@ventnortc.org or use this [contact form](#).