

Ventnor Matters

EDITION ONE

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

11 FEBRUARY 2011

NEW ARRANGEMENTS

Following the ending of the Town Council's management responsibility for the Winter Gardens, new arrangements are in place for both Town Council Meetings and the Town Council's offices.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Last month's Town Council meeting agreed to seek venues that would allow its future meetings to rotate around the different areas of the Town instead of a single central location.

The *Town Council Meeting of 14 February* will take place at St Lawrence Village Hall, Undercliff Drive, PO38 1UY at the usual time of 7pm. The Agenda for the meeting can be read or downloaded by [following this link](#).

The *Town Council Meeting of 28 February* will be at Ventnor Community Early Years Centre (formerly St Margaret's School), Newport Road PO38 1BG. The single item Agenda for this meeting will be the setting of the 2011/12 Precept.

The *Town Council Meeting of 14 March* will also be at the Ventnor Community Early Years Centre.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES



From Tuesday 15 February the Town Council's Offices will be two rooms of the first floor of the Isle of Wight Council's Coastal Centre at Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, PO38 1EJ.

Phone calls to 855162 (Town Clerk David Bartlett) and 853314 (PA Alison Killick) are currently being diverted to their mobiles until new lines are operational.

The rooms have been kindly made available by the Isle of Wight Council under a temporary Licence at a very reasonable charge to provide the Town Council with a working base until permanent offices are established.

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE

Ventnor Town Council is very keen indeed that the current vacancies are filled as soon as possible as it moves forward with clear focus on the needs of the Town.

Elections are due on 17 March for vacancies in Ventnor East, Ventnor West and St Lawrence. Nominations forms for anyone willing to be elected to these positions have to be in County Hall by 12 noon on Friday 18 February 2011. A complete nomination pack can be downloaded by [following this link](#).

Notices are also out for the new vacancies in St Lawrence and Ventnor East asking if 10 Electors for those Wards want there to be an election to fill them; otherwise the Town Council will be free to co-opt people to them. The deadline is 23 February 2011. The Notices can be [seen here](#).

NEW PUBLICATION

Ventnor Matters is a new way for Ventnor Town Council to keep in touch with the Town by providing residents with information about its work and plans.

It's an E-Newsletter because it's produced and published within the Town Council's website; which gives it a number of advantages:

- it goes directly to the email addresses we've collected so far – 60 at present;
- it costs very little either to produce or distribute;
- it can include direct links to other information on the Council's web site or on those of other organisations; and
- anyone who wishes to be added to the distribution list can join it by emailing us at townclerk@ventnortc.org.

Printed copies of each edition will be available from the Town Council's new offices at the Coastal Centre for anyone without internet access.

Comment on each edition will always be welcome and can be made by emailing us at townclerk@ventnortc.org.

TOWN COUNCIL WEB SITE



Launched in mid December, the web site is already averaging 200 visits a week with a total of over 1,000

weekly page views.

At www.ventnortowncouncil.org.uk it's well worth exploring behind the home page tabs where rests lots of information about the Town – history, attractions and services – as well as Town Council documents and contact details.

The blue area at the right of the home page holds headlines for and links to regular news items. It's still got a long way to grow and all comments and suggests are welcome.

WINTER GARDENS ON OFFER

The search for a new owner or operator for the Winter Gardens following its temporary closure on 31 January began in earnest last week with the launch of a marketing process.

Advertisements were placed by the building's owners, the Isle of Wight Council, in both the local *County Press* and the national *Leisure Opportunities*.



Ventnor Town Council's decision to withdraw from the management of the Winter Gardens – a responsibility it had taken on in 1994 – was announced just after Christmas. The reasons for the



decision were outlined and explained in a capacity public meeting of 12 January that opened with a detailed powerpoint presentation by the Town Clerk that can be read by clicking on its opening page here.

Other developments and documents are available from the Town Council's website or by [clicking this link](#). They include the Heads of Agreement for both Leasehold and Freehold options available to bidders.

The Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Town Council are working in partnership with the marketing process for the building, providing information and conducted tours round it for interested parties.

The opportunity to develop the Winter Gardens into a new stage of its life has already attracted considerable interest, both locally and from the mainland.

Clearly, potential future owners or managers of the building face significant challenges in arriving at a viable business plan given the need for substantial investment to take it forward.

The deadline for the submission of bids is 22 March 2011 and then the process of determining the preferred bidder begins.

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 LIBRARY ROCKS ALL DAY

Saturday 5 February sees an all day celebration of Ventnor Library with words, music - and protest to which all are welcome....

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

POVERTY VARIES ACROSS THE ISLAND

Figures published today by the Poverty Website show the Island to be 54th on the ranking of 323 English Local Authorities' children *not* getting at least 5 GCSE passes and Ventnor East Ward coming 6th among the 40 Island Wards for receipt of benefits...

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

TWO RESIGN – RECRUITMENT BEGINS

Two residents who joined the Town Council in 2010 resigned last week leaving vacancies in St Lawrence and Ventnor East that the remaining Councillors are keen to see filled as soon as possible in a timetable to be announced very soon...

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

BUDGET CUTS PUBLIC RESPONSES

The details of the proposed budget cuts affecting local services are included as Appendix 5 to Paper D setting out the whole Budget Strategy for the Cabinet Meeting of Tuesday 8 February have been published this week...

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

STATE OF THE ISLAND TODAY

The Isle of Wight Council has published today its Local Economic Assessment, with information on population, economic activity, employment, education, property and poverty...

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

STAFF SAY FAREWELL WITH CHINESE LANTERNS

In a brief interruption to the amazing party the Winter Gardens staff had arranged for their customers, they launched a dozen Chinese Lanterns above Ventnor Bay in a moving celebration of their shared work...

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

CUTS, COSTS & CONSEQUENCES

Over 150 people attended the public meeting organised by Ventnor Town Council on 24 January to hear the views of residents about the threatened cuts to the Town's Library, Toilets and Lifeguards.

Faced with a £9 return bus journey to Newport Library if the closures go ahead (and there is some rethinking going on), the loss of a vital service for people of all ages is impossible to overstate.

Equally, the loss of lifeguards that would put lives of residents and visitors at risk together with the proposed closure of all 8 of the Town's public services, are together a serious threat to the vital tourist trade on which the Town depends.

Opposition to all these cuts has been strongly expressed with final decisions to be made at the Isle of Wight Council meeting of 23 February.

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](#).