

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18th January 2021

1 The Wesley opened for a couple of weeks within the lockdown window and it proved to be a valuable chance of a fairly gentle beginning for staff operating 'live' after their training sessions. Several potential glitches were ironed-out and the enterprise stands ready to launch again as soon as regulations allow.

2 We have secured fully-funded support from the Plunkett Foundation for 2.5 days of professional guidance from a community pub enterprise specialist advisor. This will allow the village take forward the establishment of the proposed Community Benefit Society and to begin the development of a community pub scheme at The Tavern. The process will necessarily involve very wide public input, consultation and approval at all stages which, it is hoped, will become easier in coming months. Meanwhile, the groundwork will be laid through remote conferencing with full reports via the Newsletter.

3 The Chamberlayne extension is complete and the considerable volume of files which were removed to allow the works to proceed is in the process of being weeded-out and re-filed in the much more accessible spaces now available. The Archive Room is now receiving material as and when it comes to light and will soon be in a position to accept documents from elsewhere in the village. The extra office space allows for social distancing to the extent that work can continue safely as and when required with, thus far, normal service to the public continuing.

4 ElmsWild now holds the Tenancy of the Poor's Land holding of Town Field at Spong Lane at an annual rent of £150.00. Council has agreed to support the group financially in their endeavours to maintain the plot for public benefit.

5 With the Elmswell Community Land Trust now formally registered, I have approached Debbie Wildridge, the Development Officer with the national community support organisation Locality, to advise on the next and future steps towards the provision of community-led affordable housing on the Tavern land.

6 Mr Peter Hancock of Jubilee Terrace has put himself forward for co-option to the vacant Council post. Having served as our first Village Warden until professional commitments required more of his time he has also helped in a volunteer capacity both as an experienced Quantity Surveyor in the formative days of the Chamberlayne extension project and in other ways when furloughed from his day job. He is an allotment holder who has worked with Cllr Burch on maintenance works there. He organises the annual bulk seed purchases for fellow plot holders and expresses a particular interest in possibly improving day-to-day governance of the allotment plots.

Peter Dow
Clerk to the Council
17.01.2021