

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 15th March 2021

- 1 I attended on 10th March a webinar explaining the thinking behind, setting-up of and progress made on the community covid-testing sites including at Blackbourne. It seems likely that the centres will remain open at least throughout April.
- 2 At an on-line meeting of the Elmswell Community Enterprise group held on 12th March the professional adviser seconded from and funded by the Plunkett Foundation attended and considerable progress was made towards selecting an architect as well as setting up website and social media sites which are essential towards the raising of finance through a Community Share Issue. The pub is to be known as The Elmswell Tavern. There would not seem to be any imperative at the moment to consider any changes to the Tenancy agreement under which the pub currently operates.
- 3 I am working with Cllr Mansel and with the BMSDC Community Housing Enabling Officer, Delia Cook, towards carrying out a housing Needs Survey through Community Action Suffolk as an essential precursor of the proposed affordable homes initiative on the Greene King site at School Road.
- 4 The 6 acres gifted to the village as an extension to the greenspace at Blackbourne are now marked out and quotations sought for boundary fencing. As with the original Blackbourne Meadow scheme some 25 years ago, I propose a community hedge planting event which will now be scheduled for autumn. Cllrs Mansel and Geake have made a grant from their joint Locality Budget of £4,265.72 towards the cost of the fencing and hedging works.
- 5 I have attended on site with Cllr Hancock and with the ElmsWild group to assess the extent and nature of the works required to provide a hard surface to the length of footpath through Lukeswood and the Green Cemetery from Church Road to the cemetery car park. I will proceed with securing quotes for the job which will be before Council.
- 6 Cllr Shaw, Cllr Mansel and I have met to discuss the way forward as Mid Suffolk and SCC recommend additions, deletions and modifications to the pre-submission draft text of the Neighbourhood Plan. I have subsequently spoken with Ian Poole, who was seconded by Mid Suffolk as a Critical Friend to the group at an earlier stage, with a view to his being able to advise on moving towards refining the document as we move towards formal submission.
- 7 Blackbourne and Wesley are geared-up for re-opening as regulation and advice allow, but there is, currently, a specific ban on town & parish councils meeting face-to-face until May when we should be in a position to resume our 'blended' set-up allowing on-line presence to a live meeting as before. The May meeting is our Annual Meeting when it might be particularly helpful to deal with the extra weight of business in person.

Peter Dow
Clerk to the Council
14.03.2021