

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 7th December 2020

1 The Wesley is effectively finished with minor snagging issues in hand and the first regular booking taking place on 7th December. Wi-fi is finally up and running and the electricity supply issue resolved, both after many months of time-consuming and frustrating pursuit, a sadly widespread malaise in dealing with cartel / near monopoly companies or, in the case of BT, a sole provider. It has been suggested that the Council office might soon need a music licence to cover the frequent long sessions of call-centre 'on hold' music.

The coffee shop will be open from 4th December without fuss or fanfare which will give staff the opportunity to gain experience of the processes in place without the full-force of public demand which is eventually anticipated.

2 The Tavern remains closed under Level 2 restrictions. Meanwhile the due processes continue towards widening the Community Land Trust membership and thus taking forward a sustainable social housing initiative, as it does with the Community benefit Society to take on the proposed community pub project. Extensive and exhaustive community involvement is key to both these initiatives and current constraints represent a significant factor in the slow progress.

3 The Chamberlayne extension is largely complete other than external works to provide handrails and the making good of some car park surface. The ancillary works to rationalise the wi-fi cabling across the two office rooms is in hand. The application in with Mid Suffolk for CIL / s106 funding towards the improved ventilation in the hall awaits a response.

4 We have used the opportunity afforded by the closure / partial closure at Blackbourne to catch up with certain maintenance and improvement tasks, including the tidying up of the 'Sid The Snake' installation along the fence at the play area. The stones are now coated to preserve them, and the neatened edging sets off the newly refurbished facility which, other than during the first lockdown, has been open and well used. The hooped barriers around the car park are also being repainted and new stickers affixed asking drivers to reverse into the parking spaces and to turn their car engines off when parked.

5 As requested, I pursued SCC regarding the 4 street light upgrades and the installation of an electric supply pillar at the village sign on Crown Mill. The works are now completed.

6 The upgrades of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) at Church Hill and Ashfield Road to allow wireless data access have been carried out and Cllr Pallett has undertaken to make test downloads.

Peter Dow
Clerk to the Council
06.12.2020