

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 19th April 2022

1 POOR'S LAND CHARITY

I attended a meeting of Trustees on 22nd March as EPC Appointee along with Cllrs Burch & Pallett. The meeting was called to discuss the possible ways in which the potential beneficiaries of the annual disbursement might be broadened. Last year 10 residents who draw Pension Credit were given vouchers redeemable in village shops. The difficulties of means-testing if a broader approach was considered seemed to persuade Trustees that the current approach might best maintain. A further meeting in September will make a decision after further thought on the points raised in the meeting.

2 LAWN FARM QUARRY

I approached SCC and the Environment Agency regarding alleged tipping of what was assumed to be animal waste as landfill. Unannounced investigative visits were promised and the possibility of resuming quarterly visits for EPC, Woolpit & Haughley representatives, BMSDC & SCC Councillors and SCC officers is under discussion.

3 BOWLS CLUB COMMITTEE

I attended as ex officio member a meeting on 23rd March which served as preparation for the season beginning with a first league game on 25th April and a formal Open Day & Green opening on Sunday 1st May. With 43 members, the Club has grown from last year and thrives despite the general trend, both locally and countrywide, being for shrinking memberships. The accounts remain healthy and £500.00 was granted to EPC's general funds in recognition of the support the Club enjoys.

4 BWMA

I was asked at the March BWMA meeting to provide Representatives of the 18 community groups which comprise the majority of the BWMA with a précis of the reasoning behind the suggestion that the transfer of the accumulated capital sum which the Association has gathered over the year from lettings be transferred to EPC with the suggestion that it might be put towards purchasing shares in the Elmswell Community Enterprise scheme to refurbish the Elmswell Tavern as a community pub. This I did, as appended here, so that all concerned might be fully informed.

The transfer is an annual event and is always accompanied by a request from the Association for application of the funds to a community scheme – notably at Blackbourne and Wesley in the recent past. There is no way that the Association can bind the Council but it makes its view known as being representative of a broad swathe of active village residents.

There were 14 voting in favour of the proposal and 2 dissenters representing community groups, being the History Group and the Afternoon WI, together with Cllr Burch as a Council Appointee.

Agenda item 14 is included to acknowledge the funds transfer and the suggestion as discussed. It is in no way binding.

5 CODE OF CONDUCT

SALC suggest that all of their councils adopt the recently published new LGA Model Code of Conduct. I have circulated this along with the Code which EPC adopted in 2012 when SALC drew up a Suffolk Code of Conduct.

The matter will be on the agenda for our Annual Meeting in May. It would be helpful if any queries can be raised prior to that meeting.

6 ELMSWELL TAVERN

I have circulated a flyer produced by ECE to update the community on the current situation regarding the initiative to refurbish the premises as a community pub. These will be available at the Easter weekend events where the Tavern is working in with Wesley in a programme of events. The flyer provides some background and a useful update.

7 PLANNING APPLICATION

We have received an Application which did not make the agenda but which I will deal with in the meeting with the suggestion that it be dealt with under Delegated Powers. For prior reference it is Ref DC/22/01994 re the erection of a single storey attached garage following the demolition of a timber framed lean-to roof.

Peter Dow
Clerk to the Council
15.04.2022