

## **ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

- 1 In support of the Proposal at agenda item 15 re the Plunkett Foundation, I have had extensive recourse to advice from this national charity that supports rural communities across the UK in terms of issues faced in setting up and running community businesses. Having subscribed last year, we were allocated an adviser who has steered us through the setting up of the ECE group, through the hands-on management of the Tavern and the accreditation of the Share Issue documentation so that the scheme is eligible for an element of matched funding. Their assistance extended to the granting of a Bursary of £2,500.00 towards setting-up costs. I would suggest that this professional advice will continue to serve us well, including in terms of the Community Land Trust, for the coming year.
  
- 2 The recent correspondence, as scheduled, re Lawn Farm Quarry relates to the continuing problems of enforcement which are experienced directly by Wetherden and Haughley New Street. No action is determined, but it may be wise not to lose sight of the long history of problematic relations with this neighbour.
  
- 3 Notification of election costs from Mid Suffolk are a reminder that all town & parish councils go to the polls on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May next year. It is often the time for pulling together some of the issues and projects which might be tackled by a new administration. This can be useful in attracting interest in becoming a councillor by suggesting the sort of benefits that might accrue from Council's activity. Schemes which I am aware have attracted some councillor interest recently include:
  - (i) a collaborative scheme to provide a local mini bus/ taxi service;
  - (ii) a 'Civics' initiative to tidy up our streets...newer, larger litter bins, traffic 'gates' on entrance routes in, our own badged-up street signs etc;
  - (iii) the possibility of a wind turbine on the new boundary at Blackbourne;
  - (iv) a community heating scheme on the Tavern site to include the proposed new community housing;
  - (v) battery storage to the PV solar panels at Blackbourne;
  - (vi) the development of recreation / play provision for older age groups on the new 6 acres of amenity land at Blackbourne;
  - (vii) the sorting / cataloguing of the material deposited with the Village Archive;
  - (viii) refreshing the tired original Blackbourne building including tiling of toilets, sound baffles to the Chamberlayne hall, new DDA compliant entrance door
  - (ix) extending car park at Blackbourne to the bowls pavilion (50% more spaces) and replace the bowls pavilion with a multi-user changing room releasing the existing changing rooms in the main building as letting spaces;
  - (x) continuing with road safety initiatives.If there are suggestions which might offer more interest to potential candidates, I would be pleased to receive them.
  
- 4 I was pleased to have an overall clean bill of health from Cllrs Barker & Hancock following their recent examination of Council's practices, procedures and finances. The session lasted some 2½ hours and identified some useful points for attention.

5 I continue to sanction repairs by SCC to street lights which are reported to me or found by them as part of their inspection regime to need repair. The expenditure involved in the current tranche of works is:

Unit 65	o/s 34 Eastern Way	£497.00
Unit 33	o/s 11 School Avenue	£600.00 & possible new bracket adds £1050.00
Unit 27	jnctn. School Rd / HEL	£1,650 if UKPN allow the work Otherwise remove it or replace with new column (would come back for authorisation)

*Peter Dow*

Clerk to the Council

16.10.2022