

## **ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

- 1 I have met with the developer Matthew Homes on site regarding the line of the fencing they have agreed to provide around the perimeter of the village's newly acquired 6 acres at Blackbourne. We have agreed the detail of the installation and their contractors will soon be on site to install as specified. Meanwhile, vehicular access has been made into the new area from the existing Blackbourne field and Wayne & Craig Jarvis have begun to drop around the new perimeter heaps of wood chippings to be used as mulch for the hedge planting proposed for the autumn.
- 2 The 3 trees at Clayfield which were causing a nuisance to households in Jubilee terrace and fouling electricity supply cables have been removed and replaced by 9 more appropriately sited specimens as advised by our Tree warden Janet Spencer. I received a thank-you from one of the households affected who considered that we are a 'council that gets things done.'
- 3 Along with Cllr Pallett I met on 15<sup>th</sup> March with Vanessa Adu of John Sisk & Son Ltd, the major contractor on the A14 Concrete Roads Scheme. There seems to be a genuine spirit of listening and liaison which should ease the way through the contract period until summer 2024. We have direct contact in case of any problems, having highlighted particular issues with potential HGV infringements in Warren Lane. The Police have agreed to deal directly and swiftly with offenders and the contractor is looking to take space monthly in the Elmswell Newsletter to keep the community on side. A further public consultation on the works is scheduled for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 11.00am – 4.00pm at Wesley.
- 4 We had budgeted for £5,000.00 street lighting power and maintenance having anticipated that the savings from lower energy units would balance any reasonable inflationary uplift. However, circumstances have changed dramatically across the energy sector and the cost is now assessed at £8,600.00. This is covered by Council's Contingency Reserve.
- 5 Babergh / Mid Suffolk are consulting on the Joint Local Plan Modifications as required by the Inspector following the first-pass Examination which threw up problems regarding site allocations. I am scheduled to join an on-line meeting at the end of the month to ascertain whether or not it is appropriate for EPC to have further input.
- 6 I was unable to attend the scheduled meeting re the Elmswell-Woolpit community path on 7<sup>th</sup> March. My thanks to Cllr Brown who stood in and reports that progress remains, as before, slow and episodic with the 2 major problems of crossing A10888 and over A14 as the next big issues. See also mention in the MSDC Ward Members' Report as tabled.
- 7 An offer has been accepted, within the terms unanimously agreed at the February meeting, for the plot of land at Rose Lane to serve as car parking for Wesley. Both sides have instructed solicitors and due process is under way.
- 8 The Council's Appeal re the footbridge site at Crown Mill has now been allocated to a Planning Inspector who will adjudicate in due course.