

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16th October 2023

- 1 BMSDC have begun a compulsory review of polling places within their polling districts with a consultation process open until 30th November. Comment is invited on the arrangement whereby Wesley and Blackbourne are designated as the polling places for Elmswell North & South. I can refer Councillors to the process for any comment on request.
- 2 I have received a Locality Budget Grant of £500.00 from Cllr Andy Mellen towards supporting the Taxi-Bus pilot scheme. This will effectively ensure no financial loss to the 4 participating councils over the 7 month trial period. I am convening a meeting with the other villages to discuss a way forward, if any. Councillor comment on the scheme is welcomed.
- 3 I was unable to attend the Bowls Club meeting on 11th October but asked for a report on the possibility that one of their key members, Jenny Murray, might be asked to assume the Bury & District League Presidency. It looks likely that this prestigious opportunity is a real possibility and have assured the Club of EPC's co-operation in the subsequent hosting of formal events, including President's Day, at Blackbourne. The Club continues to buck local and national trends which suggest declining interest in participation in the sport by growing its membership and their maintenance of the facilities is exemplary.
- 4 My thanks are due to Cllrs Pallett and Schofield for their patient attendance to the formal review of Council's practices and procedures on 4th October. I will circulate suggestions towards addressing the recommendation for a review of spending authority limits towards a Proposal at the next Ordinary Meeting.
- 5 In light of the general informal approval of the suggestions that we install another Christmas tree at Crown Mill, I invite offers of assistance in the procuring and installation of a tree and lights as appropriate.
- 6 A second burger van has appeared parked on the access road to the Station Road Industrial Estate. This and the increasing use of train travel is creating an access problem as HGV / LGV vehicles seeking to service the industrial units operating on the estate. I have resumed earlier fruitless attempts to have this problem addressed by Police / SCC Highways with the aim of restricting parking by extending the yellow lines and imposing a time limit on the station side of the road.
- 7 The contraflow switch as part of the A14 concreting works have given rise to an initiative to impose a 20mph speed limit on Wetherden Road / Kiln Lane /Cross Street & Church Road as from 16th October. This will maintain until the scheme finishes next summer. I will happily feed back any observations to National Highways.

Peter Dow
15.10.2023