

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Meeting 16th March 2026

- 1 I am pleased to report that further grant aid of £100,000 has been secured from MSDC to allow the Tavern project to encompass the renovation of the 1st floor flat. This allows for various logistical advantages as well as extending the scope of what the premises can offer in relation to employment opportunities by way of staff accommodation. Meanwhile the saga of the electrical power supply is now over and issues of stormwater drainage access into to the network are resolved. Many various sub-contract jobs are, managed and co-ordinated by Cllr Pallett, under way or instructed including flooring, kitchen extraction system, cook line, the carpark /access roadway surfacing, and turfing of the garden area. Nadia Tunmore is specifying the provision of the foodservice and bar equipment and has had a substantial response to invitations to a Recruitment Day which seeks to receive expressions of interest from individuals interested in employment across the range of jobs on offer.
- 2 The Junior Play area at Crown Mill is up and running and being well used. There is a suggestion from users that we should beef-up the signage on the railings at Station Road so that it is clear that the request to switch off engines whilst waiting at the gates is because children are playing in the immediate vicinity and at risk from the exhaust pollution. We installed the original signs some 20 years ago. Unless there is a view the contrary, I will look into the design & costing of an update.
- 3 I have made the enquiry of Mid Suffolk regarding the possible use of their 7 acres of land at School Road / Pightle Close / Church Road for community purposes rather than housing, as earlier proposed in their suggestion of a 50-house 'exemplar' development. This confirms that such use of the land, once touted by EPC as a potential primary school site, would begin with a discussion that would involve the property team and that Mid Suffolk, or their LGR successors, would not be in a position to review the site until the conclusion of the local plan process. I suggest that this remains as a marker for Elmswell's LDP review and that this review remains a key element of the 'succession planning' considerations as Council moves on.
- 4 I have had further enquiry from the new team at SCC handling the Elmswell / Woolpit community path project. They wish to know who owns the land in front of St John's and who owns the land at the Church Hill cemetery. I have explained that neither of these parcels of land has relevance as they are not on the proposed route. I trust that this moves their thinking forward.
- 5 In my Report to the February Ordinary Meeting on the new play areas, I confirmed that residents adjacent to the pre-school / toddler site no longer feel that their input is appropriate to the Council's Crown Mill Play Areas Working Party. I realise that I should have made it clear that this results from those residents' concerns based on their opinion that there is not a clearly-evidenced demand and that the site is unsuitable and, further, that a petition had been presented to the January meeting reinforcing these and other objections which are strongly held and include that the proposals are against published guidelines, have no proven public need and use public funds which might well be called on again if complaints to the District Council require the removal of the facility. I apologise for not presenting a fuller picture and have, as requested by the Meeting, formally Minuted the further details.

6 Mid Suffolk have confirmed that the flat-back truck which is permanently parked at Wetherden Road and the subject of many complaints from residents is close to the registered keeper's address and that any obstruction would be a matter for the Police. They have reported the lack of Road Tax to DVLA. The Police confirm their view that the vehicle is legally parked and that there are several vehicles parked 'in an exact manner throughout Elmswell'. They suggest a community petition towards having yellow lines installed.

Meanwhile, the 2 kebab van related 'keeper' vehicle permanently parked in the Station parking space have been uplifted and removed by MSDC under the 1978 Amenity Act and the parking position at the station has immediately improved. Cllrs Mellen and Overett were very supportive in effecting this and it is to be hoped that the process triggered towards the introduction of a street trader licencing scheme for Mid Suffolk continues to a successful conclusion and helps prevent future instances of such unregulated activity leading to nuisance.

Peter Dow
15.03.2026