

Parish Clerk's Monthly Report to the Annual Council Meeting 18th May 2026

- 1 It was pleasing to see that EPC's efforts to persuade Mid Suffolk to consider controls on street trading in light of the problems experienced by the hot food outlet working from a van at Station Road have borne fruit. A Public Notice to Pass A Street Trading Resolution was published on 1st May which would effectively require any street trading to be licensed. The decision will be made on 23rd June. Given this Council's part in the proposal to adopt such a policy, it is suggested that it might be appropriate to respond to the statutory consultation by way of a formal letter of support.
- 2 The statutory notice of a Casual Vacancy, as issued by MSDC, was posted on Thursday 23.04.2026. As no request for an election was made I shall advertise the post as open for co-option giving the same 14 working-day timescale for response by Application as per the statutory 2006 Rules.
- 3 I have circulated correspondence regarding the perceived long-term parking hazard at Wetherden Road, being the latest complaint from a resident and the Police response which remains, as before, that there is not a problem justifying action on their part.
- 4 Cllr Hancock has, to the public good, indulged two of his personal interests by persuading Ordnance Survey to update their mapping to show the Elmswell Tavern correctly named as such. They have since confirmed that the location is at British National Grid reference of **TL 996 636** and that the relevant co-ordinates are: **Easting: 599600 Northing: 263600** (just opposite the chip shop).
- 5 I agreed to host at Wesley on 12th May a meeting of the group which has been working since 2007 towards delivery of the Elmswell to Woolpit pedestrian & cycle community path. There has, over the past 2 years been an unhelpful merry-go-round of SCC agencies & officer personnel and a consequent frustrating lack of progress. The scheme is now managed by the Growth, Highways and Infrastructure (GHI) Directorate at Suffolk County Council which manages economic development, infrastructure projects, transport strategy, and public highways and is, 'responsible for sustainable transport initiatives designed to support growth and improve network resilience'. The meeting was convened by the Project Manager of the Infrastructure Works Delivery Team and offered a far more realistic and hopeful picture of the proposed outcomes including the funding channels. I have circulated the updated preliminary designs which show certain permitted compromises to the absolute Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 Standard for the scheme to be feasible. [LTN 1/20 (Cycle Infrastructure Design) is the current UK Department for Transport guidance setting mandatory standards for high-quality, safe, and coherent cycle infrastructure]. The works will be contracted to M-Group Services who are the current SCC preferred contractor. The projected build programme begins, 'early to mid 2027'. The next meeting of the group will be potentially significant in giving some idea as to whether the welcome new momentum is maintained.
- 6 Cllr Pallett has painstakingly pulled together the statutory and regulatory certification relating to the Tavern project and the last of the Planning conditions, as at 27.3 is signed off. Snagging issues and recent teething problems with the drainage and heating have been dealt with and the facility is open for business.
- 7 The damage to the underground collector pipe network servicing the ground source heat pump at Blackbourne remains live as a claim against the contractor's insurers who have acknowledged their involvement in the matter. The sum claimed is £8,750.69. Should this claim fail for whatever reason, EPC's own insurers would be obliged to consider some, but not all, of the damages claimed as they include an element of inconvenience and upheaval to user groups when the system was down.