

Clerk's Report – 15.11.2021 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Works completed: All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. Contractor to strim and weed pull as an alternative to use of Glyphosate for the time being. Weed removal at various locations in the parish ongoing. Sweeping in main centre of parish ongoing. Leaf fall clearance ongoing. Grounds maintenance at the Eastlight Estates, Woolpit Downs and Lamarsh Hill bungalows completed and satisfactory. Old sandbags cleared and replaced with new. Parsonage Hill verges strimmed. Damaged rails along Millennium footpath repaired. Layby cleared at Colne Road. Hedge cut back to rear of bus shelter. New bus timetables installed in the bus shelters. Ken Jackson kindly cut back around the signage at Lamarsh Hill..

Contractor's insurance certificates received and held on file.

Highways Devolution: Quarterly reports being completed when requested. £1,000 grant received from ECC for 2021 to meet costs of maintenance works via the Devolution Scheme.

ECC Salt bag scheme: The 1 tonne of salt received and stored. Contractors aware and all grit bins restocked. New grit bin at Parsonage Hill installed and stocked with salt.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Seepage from drain cover at Lamarsh Hill – Ref 2747503. Damaged drain cover at Hornes Green – Ref 2747504.

County Broadband: Letter to residents circulated from County Broadband notifying that it is currently investigating an underground solution to provide properties in Normandie Way, Cambridge Way and The Paddocks with access to its Hyperfast full-fibre network.

BDC Bulb and Tree planting project: The Clerk had ordered and received 400 free bulbs from BDC. The bulbs to be planted at various locations in the parish. A site to be agreed for 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'. BCLT investigating if free tree whips still available via the project for planting at Brook Field Grove.

Recycling sacks: The Clerk has agreed to hold a stock of recycling sacks enabling local residents to collect a single roll of recycling sacks if they run out before the BDC annual delivery to all residents. Clerk has advertised and residents have welcomed the initiative.

Street lighting: The Clerk has received an updated Unmetered Supplies Certificate from UK Power Networks for the street lights managed by Parish Council. E.ON has advised of an energy price increase from 1st December 2021 for the parish lights.

The 5 year Street Lighting Maintenance agreement held with A & J Lighting Solutions has expired and the Clerk has requested a revised agreement for approval by the parish council.

Possessory Title - Essex Knowle: From the 5th November the parish council may apply to upgrade the Possessory Title to Freehold Title for the Essex Knowle. Clerk following up with Wayman and Long Solicitors.

2021/22 Electoral Register: The Clerk requested the supply of the full register on behalf of the parish council. Usage to be confined to parish matters and access strictly controlled as per BDC instruction.

Training: The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Cllr Shackell attending Councillor and Chairman training during the year. Clerk attended Dementia Friends training in September. Cllrs Shackell and Monk attended the Community Specials briefing. Cllr Shackell, Monk and the Clerk attended an Essex Highways Multi Topic briefing in October. Cllr Ellis attending a 7 module course on Climate Crisis during 2021-22.

BDC Supporting Communities meetings: Clerk has been attending these virtual meetings with other parish clerks and BDC Officers during the past year. Varying topics covered and the meetings allowed Clerks to maintain good contact with Officers. An online planning session scheduled 17th November. Clerk to attend. The contact for Braintree District Dementia Action Alliance is Kryshia Fuller.

Snippets page: This has recommenced with a snippet page included in future parish magazines. The magazine Editor encouraged the parish council to submit articles of interest.

Government guidance on Coronavirus: All information received has been circulated as widely as possible.

NHW: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. The six monthly newsletter from the Chair of Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch circulated to all those on the mailing list. Hardcopies of the newsletter delivered at various locations in the parish by volunteers. The Clerk thanks those volunteers for giving up their time to do this.

Messages of interest via Cllr Schwier – all circulated, advertised and details held on file:

Details of the Essex High Street Business Summit 24th November, 10am – 4pm at Hylands House, Chelmsford

Free webinar event highlighting support for women in business – 10th November at 2.30pm
ECC Walking Active Travel information

Essex Explorer Magazine information

Consultation on Essex Bus Service Improvement Plan

The Clerk is in receipt of the following and all circulated and held on file:

EALC Notification of Essex Honours initiative headed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex

Notification from NALC AGM – the term chairman in the NALC constitution to be replaced with the gender-neutral term chair

Details of the launch of the Essex Climate Action Commissioner's report

Safer Essex Roads Partnership 'Vision Zero' engagement workshops – Cllr Aries attended

Details of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend and beacon displays 2nd – 5th June 2022

RCCE Essex Warbler newsletter

Dedham Vale Society newsletter Summer 2021

Essex Heritage Trust News 2021 – funding available for heritage projects

To register to become a digital champion visit – www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council