

## **Clerk's Report – 15<sup>th</sup> March 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 completed. BDC road quarterly gutter sweep completed. Damaged Water Lane sign still to be re-fixed. Bridge strike at railway repaired.

**Waste:** BDC Commercial Waste team has confirmed continuation with the fortnightly collections of the trade waste bin at the Essex Knoll during 2021. Recycling from blue bin at Bures Common transferred to clear recycling sacks for a fortnightly collection by BDC. Systems to ease waste issues currently under control. Andy Ward local EA Fisheries Officer had kindly cleared debris along the river banks stretching from Lamarsh fishing platforms down to Bures.

**Grit bin:** An additional grit bin to be requested at entrance to Parsonage Grove at Parsonage Hill. Application to the ECC Local Highways Panel.

**Sandbags:** A stock of sandbags had been received and stored for use by residents on request.

**Road Traffic Order:** Road closure at Colchester Road scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March to enable Anglian Water to undertake new connection.

**Effluent at Ferriers Lane:** The Environment Agency Officer had visited the site and had since been requested to arrange a follow up visit as the issue has not been resolved.

**Millennium gate and advisory notices:** Signs to encourage visitors to close the gate for safety reasons installed plus 3 signs advising no entry into the private cow field.

**Highways Devolution:** Quarterly reports being completed when requested. Fingerpost requests completed by ECC Rights of Way Team. FP33 – two fingerposts installed. Two fingerpost requests remained outstanding and being followed up. Clerk continuing to work with ECC Highways to transfer the fingerpost Locality Award towards the cost of the FP32 closure. Flood signs have been removed. Gritting of paths had been done as needed. Damaged manhole cover at Hobbswell repaired.

**County Broadband:** ECC Flood Environment Officer had visited the village and considered that the laying of cables was satisfactory and any ditch clearance work required could proceed.

**Census 2021:** The census date is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Advertising via community engagement. The Clerk had advertised the information and date as widely as possible via facebook, NHW and email contacts. It is a legal requirement to complete the Census.

**BALC:** The Chairman attended the EALC and BALC virtual meeting to discuss proposals to reform the Braintree Association of Local Councils. The meeting was attended by over 25 Parish and Town Councils and Chaired by Peter Davey, Chairman of EALC. It was agreed to reform BALC. Inaugural meeting of BALC scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> April. A small annual membership to be met.

**Funding Grants update:** NALC Funding Bulletin circulated and information held on file. Details of other grants available – BDC Councillors Community Grant, National Lottery Community Fund, Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme, ECC Community Initiative Fund (CIF) 2021, ECC Lockdown Support Fund, ECC Contain Outbreak Management Fund

**Training:** The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Cllr Ellis and the Clerk attended the Climate Crisis Virtual Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> January run by EALC. Health & Wellbeing Free District Forums being held for Members and Clerks during February and March. Clerk and Cllr Baker to attend the BDC Housing and Homeless briefings later in the year. Cllrs Baker, Monk and Shackell attended the EALC

planning briefings in January. Cllr Shackell to attend Councillor and Chairman training during 2021. Clerk to attend a Youth Engagement Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Snippets page:** This had 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. Extremely good response from local residents regarding request for laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to Covid-19 restrictions. Volunteers engaged to support local Covid-19 vaccination programme –

<https://eput.nhs.uk/vaccine-recruitment>

**Vulnerable persons:** The Clerk had made all members aware that an Emergency Plan and a Vulnerable Persons plan were held as Case Sensitive for when emergency action was required within the village. The Vulnerable Persons plan was now active during the continuing Coronavirus restrictions. Grants available for groups to support the vulnerable – ECC Lockdown Support Fund. Clerk attending the monthly BDC Communities virtual meetings to bring attention to any needs of the parish and parish council.

**NHW:** The Clerk continued to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Thefts from sheds in the district remained a concern. Cyber & Fraud Protect messages advertised on the facebook pages. Beware Fake Text re Covid 19 tests and vaccinations. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website.

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

BDC Local Plan Section 1 Adoption Statement

Information Commissioner Office Certificate for Bures Hamlet Parish Council 2021-2022

Freedom of Information Legal Guidance

NALC Legal Update – February 2021

PC2-21 NALC Model Design Code

AONB Sustainable Development Fund applications for grant funding

Notification from Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club, Wormingfield Airfield advising of Instructor Essential Currency Flying

Details of River Stour river and floodplain enhancement project – Environment Agency input provided by the Fisheries Biodiversity and Geomorphology team and Environment Programme teams

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

