

Clerk's Report – 16th November 2020 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Works completed: All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. Several of the Millennium footpath fence rails repaired. JPB investigating Foamstream as an option to glyphosate. Weed removal at various locations in the parish. Sweeping in main centre of parish. Waste bin installed at riverbank. Leaffall being cleared as required. John Doe flailing top and sides of hedge along Colchester Road. Station Hill garden annual autumn tidy completed. Brambles along footpath leading from Ferriers Cottage footbridge to be trimmed back. Debris along Water Lane cleared. Carabiner clip for dog leads to be purchased for the large dog waste bin at Station Hill. Essex Knoll flower surround bedded out. Damaged tree branch in tree at Normandie way removed. Contractor's insurance details updated and held on file.

Thorn hedge at Normandie Way playarea: The Clerk and Cllr Baker had followed up with the neighbouring property who had requested the thorn hedge to be reduced in height and width. The quotation from JPB for £250 had been accepted and work completed.

Waste: The Clerk had returned the transfer note duly signed for the waste collected via the Trade Waste bin at Bures Common. BDC had agreed to empty the Trade Waste bin at Essex Knoll fortnightly instead of monthly owing to the increase in waste generated. Shared costs between BHPC and BCLT to recommence from April 2021. Wheelie bin housing installed to the side of the Black Barn on the Common.

Waste collection issues at Water Lane: The Clerk had followed up with BDC Waste team on the continuing issue of non-collection of black bin waste at Water Lane. The issue had arisen owing to parked cars on the access point to the road obstructing the collection vehicle. BDC had since returned on each occasion to empty the bins. Continuing to be monitored.

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

Damaged bollard at Colchester Road: This had been removed by N Norton and ground work made good following the ECC Highways decision to only monitor.

Trees: The large Oak tree near the Millennium footbridge gate entrance has been cleared of dead wood by ECC. Some minor deadwood still remained however as this work had been in the pipeline for 2 years it was considered an improvement. The extremely large trees along the railway at Normandie Way had become a concern. The Tree Warden had inspected and the Clerk has referred residents to Network Rail for follow up. Tree branch at the Knoll removed.

Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal (RFCC): The Clerk had completed the online survey regarding flood risk plans for the parish and details of emergency plans held.

Kerb and drains: Several damaged kerbs and broken drains in Normandie Way had been reported. Some agreed to be repaired and others to be monitored.

Ref Nos. 2677150/151/152

Network Rail leaffall work: All residents whose property adjoined the railway line had received written notification of the pending November night work along the line. 24 hour National Helpline 03457 1141411 or via www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus

Millennium gate and advisory notices: Signs to encourage visitors to close the gate for safety reasons have been ordered plus 3 signs advising no entry into the cow field. The safety grid has been reinstated on the Millennium footpath gate.

Highways Devolution Quarterly report: The June to September quarterly report had been completed and returned to ECC. The requests for a new fingerpost at Fishpits Lane and another at Ravensfield Farm had been closed with no action to date. Clerk to follow up with ECC Highways as these requests were made via the Devolution Scheme. Request for a new fingerpost at FP33 still ongoing – Ref 2680968.

Housing and Homelessness: BDC to recommence its Housing Briefings in February 2021. Cllr Baker and the Clerk to attend some sessions through the year. Tuesday 24th November was the BDC annual count night for people sleeping rough. Clerk had circulated for members to make her aware of anyone needing to be accounted for.

Locality Award: Cllr Finch had kindly given a £500 contribution to the CCTV installation costs from his ECC Locality Award scheme. This had been gratefully received.

Request for Register of Electors: The Clerk had submitted the request under Regulation 107 of the Representation of the People Act 2001 for a copy of the full Register of Electors.

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, Magic Little Grants, ECC Community Initiative Fund (CIF) 2020.

Training: The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Clerk to attend the Health & Wellbeing Virtual Conference on 26th November being run by EALC.

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. Information on how to get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to Covid-19 circulated. Braintree Area Foodbank request list for items circulated to interested parties.

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 Coronavirus pandemic.

NHW: The Clerk continued to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Cyber & Fraud Protect messages advertised on the facebook pages. 'No Cold Calling' window stickers circulated to residents.

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

Review of Scheme of Delegation & Proposals for Member engagement

Information on the Essex RCC Rural Housing Enabler outlining details of Community Led Housing and Neighbourhood Development Plans

Information on the Suffolk Health Watch End of Life Project advertised and circulated to those who may wish to complete the online survey

Hardwicke House and Siam Surgeries Patient Partnership Groups (PPG) Autumn 2020 Newsletter circulated and advertised

EALC Public Consultation & Public Sector Surveys – Standards Matter 2 – reviewing ethical standards the Seven Principles of Public Life - responses via policycomms@nalc.gov.uk by 4th December 2020

AONB September and October Monthly update

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

