

Clerk's Report – 17.01.2022 - 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. Village road sign cleaning in hand. Bulb planting in hand. Quotation in hand to replace the rotten posts and wire along the left of the Millennium footpath.

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.

Flooding: Sandbags available from the parish council. Please contact the Clerk.

Road closures: Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for Fishpits Lane due to commence 28th January for 6 hours – advertised.

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

BDC Bulb and Tree planting project: The Clerk has ordered and received 400 free bulbs from BDC. The bulbs to be planted at various locations in the parish. No suitable location could be established in the parish for the 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' initiative.

Free tree whips available via the project and Woodland Trust for planting at Brook Field Grove.

Recycling sacks: The Clerk holds 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 5 year Street Lighting Maintenance agreement held with A & J Lighting Solutions has been renewed. Parish light at The Paddocks footpath has been repaired.

Possessory Title - Essex Knowle: From the 5th November 2021 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: A supply of the full register has been received. Usage to be confined to parish matters and access strictly controlled as per BDC instruction.

Training: The training record has been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Cllr Ellis attending a 7 module course on Climate Crisis during 2021-22. The EALC training calendar 2022 received. Data Protection online training presentation circulated.

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.

Snippets page: This has recommenced with a snippet page included in future parish magazines. The magazine Editor encourages 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:

Information on ECC Climate Action Fund available until March 2023 via

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities>

ECC has formally responded to the Essex Climate Action Commission's report – Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral – www.essexclimate.org.uk/

Collaboration of ECC and Essex Area Ramblers to ensure crossfield public paths, that are being illegally obstructed by growing crops, are cleared to be enjoyed by walkers

Transport offer for Essex residents unable to get to Covid-19 booster appointments

Launch of Arts & Culture Fund to support the Essex art and culture sector over the next 5 years

Details for reporting highway drain/flood issues online via

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/flooding-drainage-and-manhole-covers>

Information on Eyes in the Sky – drones providing safer, more cost-effective technology to inspect more than 1,500 bridges and culverts in Essex

Essex Children's Social Care Ofsted Report – <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Details of the Essex Lottery – www.essexlottery.co.uk or 0300 302 32 32

ECC Free cycle training available until the end of March 2022 for all who wish to take up or return to cycling – Sign up at

<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/registerinterest/registerselectcoursetype>

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

AONB 2022 grants and nominations for individuals, groups or organisations to win The Robert Erith National Landscape Award

Information leaflet on the AONB

Details and advertising of how to help hedgehogs – www.hedgehogstreet.org

Braintree Local Plan Section 2 Consultation – 6th December 2021 – 24th January 2022

Details of the ECC Food Support Fund – applications accepted between 10th December and 25th February 2022 – funds administered by EALC

Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership Annual update newsletter 2021

AONB new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme – applications welcomed

PFCC Crime Prevention Fund 2021/22 – applications via

<https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/giving-you-a-voice/commissioning-services/>

LTN 65 Closed Churchyards and Disused Burial Grounds

LTN 37 Freedom of Information

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council