

Clerk's Report – 20.11.2023 Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Works completed or in hand: All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. JPB Landscapes contracted until 31st March 2024. Costs to be held until that date. Contractor using New Way weedspray. A one off thorough weed clearance completed throughout the parish. One more thorough weed and leaf fall clearance scheduled for the 29th November. Tree branch at Hamlet Court to be trimmed back. Road signs at Station Hill turned to correct position. All grit bins checked and filled as required. Wooden tether on landing stage to be repaired. Tree branch at Essex Knowle trimmed back. Essex Knowle bench to be re-oiled when weather suitable. Normandie Way bench repaired. Hedge trimmed around 30mph sign at Lamarsh Hill.

Station Hill garden: A UK Shared Prosperity Community Gardens Fund grant has been received from ECC for £5,000. The grant covering costs of a water tank, guttering, bowser on wheels, plants and planters, weeding and concreting. Agreed not to proceed with a new bench as no suitable site found. Winter planting done. 3 new planters installed. Weeds kept at bay by contractor.

Station Hill boundary wall: This has been reported to ECC for re-pointing – Ref 2793222. Officers to make a site visit to inspect the wall.

Station Hill footpath: ECC works order raised for the repair of the damage to the footpath from the tree roots. No scheduled date for the repair.

Solar light: The solar light installed along Station Hill continues to be vandalised. Replacement light to be trialled once again.

Parking Advisory notices: Cllr Baker is nominated as the councillor to place a parking advisory notice on any offending vehicles. These notices are for vehicles which are creating a hazard for pedestrians only.

ROW Service Level Agreement: Agreement duly signed and £435.73 grant received from ECC. All footpaths listed cleared, some by contractor and some by local farmers. Parish ROW Officer to check if any footpaths require a second cut this financial year end.

Gritting and flooding: 1 tonne of salt (25kg) has been ordered and received for gritting during the winter via the ECC Winter Salt Bag Scheme. Clerk has arranged for the parish contractor to make up a further 50 sandbags for this coming winter for residents whose property is vulnerable to flooding.

Eastlight Community Homes: Eastlight Homes currently have a tender out to award the new Grounds Maintenance tender commencing 1st January 2024. Changes intended to the Parish Agreement. Parish Council to consider continuing with the parish contractor or for Eastlight Homes contractor to take on the grounds maintenance when tender costs received.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Damaged sign at junction of Pebmarsh Road and Fishpits – Ref 2762026 – ECC following up. Kerb opposite New Cut reported – Ref 2770305 – ECC to monitor. Blocked drain at Colchester Road – Ref 2854388 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Parsonage Hall entrance – Ref 2846792 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Ferriers Lane entrance - Ref 2846772 – ECC monitoring. Water Lane pothole – Ref 2865235 – still to be repaired. Pothole at Station Hill repaired. Pothole at Bridge Street repaired under an emergency repair. Vehicle Activated Sign repaired.

Roadbridge: SCC has installed protection barriers across the damaged railings temporarily. Repairs scheduled with two way traffic control being set in place. Rotten deck board to be replaced. Suffolk Highways has advised that owing to a change in contracts from Kier to Milestone there is a delay in progressing the works. Painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure scheduled for next summer.

Rural Coffee Caravan: The caravan visited the village on three dates over the summer with at least 30 residents attending. As the Caravan was so welcomed, organisers agreed for it to return on a further three Tuesdays 28th November, 23rd January and 27th February 1pm – 3pm at Bures Common Barn. All welcome.

Housing Briefings: Briefings are held at Causeway House, Braintree District Council and are aimed at Parish Councillors to give an overview of the Gateway to Homechoice system and Allocations Policy. All members welcome and list of dates circulated.

Rough Sleepers: Braintree DC conducted an evidence based estimate of the number of people rough sleeping in the district on the night of Wednesday 1st November. The Clerk returned a NIL return for Bures.

Training: The training record has been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Any questions relating to the law process or procedure of local councils should be forwarded by the Clerk to EALC – legal@ealc.gov.uk Training calendar circulated to all members. Councillor Bursary Scheme available to parish councils with a budgeted income under £25,000.

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 allow Clerks to maintain good contact with Officers.

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.

NHW: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website.

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

Have your say on future funding for Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Consultation for people to share their views on Essex County Council's budget plans for the coming financial year

Primary School applications are now open for children set to commence school in September 2024. Apply online at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions Closing date 15th January 2024.

ECC – families encouraged to find out about the breadth of SEND inclusive clubs, activities and groups listed on the Essex Local Offer website – send.essex.gov.uk/get-listed

ECC RAAC Schools updates

Essex councils awarded more funding to tackle rough sleeping forming part of the Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme

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

Details of Essex LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) – primary strategic plan in England to tackle the demands of the ecological emergency and help reverse biodiversity declines

Minutes of Braintree Local Highway Panel of 21st September

Essex Highlights – September and October

Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC) draft minutes of 18th October

Details of the Rural Prosperity Fund launch in support of rural businesses and communities

FESX First in Essex timetable dated 29th October for Journey No. 83/83B

Details of Colne Valley Community Energy Project – request for support to the scheme for Bures

ECC public consultation regarding the future of Recycling Centre bookings

Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) Consultation for Essex

Braintree District Council Garden Waste Subscription Service – BDC will be introducing a garden waste subscription service from March 2024. Early Bird discount available if residents subscribe before 30th November

Essex Explorer Magazine Autumn/Winter 2023

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

