

Clerk's Report – 15th July 2024 Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Works completed or in hand: All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. JPB Landscapes re-contracted until 31st March 2027. Costs to be held until that date. Contractor using New Way weed spray. Costs being obtained from JPB to cut and collect at the riverbank and the Normandie Way playarea. FP16 cut back. Costs being obtained from JPB to cut back the encroaching grass at the Paddocks to Normandie Way footpath. Replacement dog waste bin installed at the Paddocks to Normandie Way footpath – N Norton. Bus shelters cleaned – Cllr Chambers. Strimming along the footpath from the Paddocks completed – Cllr Keeble-Fox. Weed spraying around the village – C Series Strimming around the dog waste bin at Masters Farm completed, waste bin at Colchester Road repaired, tree branches trimmed back around Woolpit Downs light and nettles strimmed around the Millennium footpath fence - N Norton.

Station Hill garden: Weed and leaf clearance done. Moss cleared. Summer bedding purchased and planted. The Community Gardens Project Progress Report has been submitted to BDC as required under the terms of its grant offer. Grant to be fully spent by 31st March 2025. Nigel Norton watering with the trolley mounted waterer purchased from the grant as necessary

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 lights: 2 LED wall lights purchased to replace damaged lights. Still to be fixed in place.

Overhanging trees: The overhanging trees and vegetation alongside Colchester Road near the Boat House have been reported to ECC Highways for action – Ref 2929121.

Bures Hamlet sign: The Bures Hamlet entrance sign on Colchester Road has been defaced and a Street Clean report submitted.

ECC Winter saltbag scheme: The Clerk has completed the application for the parish council to receive the free 1 tonne of salt from ECC for this coming winter.

ECC ROW Service Level Agreement: The Clerk has signed and returned the 2024 agreement for cutting the Public Rights of Way to the PROW Lead Officer. ECC to contribute a sum of £435.73 for works undertaken by the parish contractor. The parish council has taken over the maintenance of FP33 from Mount Bures Parish Council this year. Members agreed for Nigel Norton to do a one off tree and shrub maintenance in July and to mow the path approximately 3 times a year. Costs to be met from the SLA.

Ferriers Pit: Clerk, Cllr Keeble-Fox, Cllr Aries and the Clerk have met to revisit the suggestion of restoring Footpath 3 and extinguishing Footpaths 1 and 4. ECC to be contacted for follow up.

Footpath 30 Temporary Closure: FP30 between The Paddocks and Normandie Way is closed temporarily for installation of a new HV cable. The Order commenced 24th June and remains in force until works completed or for 6 months. The issue for the nearby residents being unable to access to the rear of their properties has been resolved. Residents advised that the signage at the bottom of the access track can be moved as and when needed when no workmen on site.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Blocked drains at Station Hill – Ref 2920817 – works completed.. Kerb opposite New Cut reported – Ref 2770305 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Parsonage Hall entrance – Ref 2846792 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Ferriers Lane entrance Ref 2846772 – ECC monitoring.

Roadbridge: Rotten deck board on footpath replaced with temporary boarding. Suffolk Highways has advised that the works for permanent deck boarding has been put back until summer 2025 when painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure will also be completed.

Joint Emergency Plan: Clerk has updated the plan and forwarded a copy to all interested parties

Food Retailer request: Members agreed that a request for a further food retailer in the parish should be referred to BSMPC for a suitable site to be found on the Suffolk side of the village.

Rural Coffee Caravan: The caravan visited the Common Barn on four dates over the winter and spring. Next date for the summer is 23rd July, 2 – 4pm. The caravan needs to remain supported as many other villages are waiting to be scheduled on the rota.

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.

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. Cllr Chambers has attended Councillor Training in June and to attend Intro to Planning in October. The Clerk to attend a Crisis Communications webinar later in the year. Cllr Keeble-Fox to attend Protecting PROWs in November. Parish Council now able claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training.

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/Police: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. Tammy Blest, North Essex Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator has agreed to attend the September monthly market along with the NHW Co-ordinator for Little Cornard. One damaged NHW sign has been replaced on the lamppost near the Normandie Way bus shelter.

Messages of interest via Cllr Schwier – all circulated, advertised and details held on file: Information on ECC award winning team exemplifying Essex's commitment to net zero housing ECC Community Safety Survey asks Essex residents to voice priorities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

ECC Project Pegasus campaign which aims to identify the scale of trafficking in Essex Essex Highways prioritises roadside safety and wildflower conservation this cutting season Free climate action packs have been created by ECC to help residents and businesses become more sustainable.

Further £2.9million allocated to address SEND assessment wait times in Essex Free courses available to residents and businesses across Essex via Multiply

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

Review of the BDC Local Plan - to be extended from 2033 to 2041 –

BDC asking all Parish and Town Councils for ideas, issues or suggestions for consideration in the review process

Details of Raising Awareness for the Digital Phone Line Switch

Outcome of local bus consultation/tendering July 2024

Dedham Vale National Landscape 2024/25 newspaper

Police information on taking photos and video footage in public

Digital copies of the New Good Councillor Guide 2024

Great Bardfield NHP pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14)

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council