

Clerk's Report – 6th May 2025 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. Grasscuttings being collected at river bank and Normandie Way playarea at each cut - JPB. Bench at riverbank to be cleaned in the spring. Noticeboard to be revarnished. Weedspraying and sweeping in hand – CS. Sign cleaning in hand – SKF. Hole in The Paddocks footpath repaired – NN. Branch debris cleared along Lamarsh Hill – SKF.

Station Hill garden: Grant fully spent at 31st March 2025. Nigel Norton watering with the trolley mounted waterer purchased from the grant as and when needed. Donations received for the spring and winter bedding 2025.

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.

Damaged bollard: Clerk arranged for the trip hazard at the Millennium gate area to be filled with soil by contractor.

DaRT 3: The transport service serves North East Braintree area. Details have been advertised and the Clerk has circulated a supply of advertising leaflets at the markets.

Joint village litter pick: This was a successful event. Thanks to Ken Jackson for organising..

Village sign: Kevin Baxter has agreed to paint the post and surround in June. A date has been provisionally booked.

Sandbags: A supply of sandbags is stored in the village for those residents in need. A further supply to be ordered in the autumn to replace several which have rotted over the last winter.

Bus shelter licences: Passenger Transport has requested that all Parish Council owned bus shelters located on Highway land should be properly licenced. The Clerk gained support from Cllr Schwier and a licence for each Colchester Road bus shelter has been submitted, agreed and signed by both parties.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Damaged kerbs at The Paddocks reported – Ref 2931473 – to be monitored. Damaged road signs at Colchester Road reported – Ref 29339426. Drain cover at Station Hill reported – Ref 2895767. Damaged road sign at Lamarsh Hill reported – Ref 2955380. Missing white lines at Mount Bures junction - Ref 2964234 – on order. A road sign for Hall Road ordered via Street Clean. Pavement for repair reported outside No. 16 The Paddocks – to be monitored. Damaged drain at River House reported – ref 2970019.

Temporary FP 7 closure: ECC has given notice of a temporary closure of FP7 effective from 14th March 2025 to 8th September 2025 while works relating to a new dwelling are undertaken.

National Grid: Targeted consultations on proposed changes to Norwich to Tilbury commenced on 25th February until 27th March.

Anglian Water Community Outreach: Jessica Bell Customer Engagement Co-ordinator for Anglian Water has agreed to attend the Saturday market in May to promote exploring ways of saving water for our residents. The Clerk has received a number of money saving items to offer free of charge to residents and visitors attending the markets.

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 2025 Training calendar circulated to all members. The parish council now able to claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training. EALC is to surrender the lease on 42B High Street, Great Dunmow to look for a new appropriate location. The Association is to undergo a restructure to transform the way it works, to improve member communications, engagement and visibility.

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. The Clerk noted that the parish council is exempt from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

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. The Braintree District NHW Chair, Clive Stewart attended the recent Friday Club to engage with local residents. The Braintree District NHW AGM is scheduled for 30th April . Clerk to attend.

Messages of interest via Cllr Schwier – all circulated, advertised and details held on file:
Free Festival of Essex Archaeology & Heritage to be held at Cressing Temple Barns on 24th July

ECC – Devolution proposals are a huge opportunity to shift the balance of power to Essex residents –says the Leader of Essex County Council

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

Rural Braintree District Social Supermarket launch held on 28th April marking the beginning of an important community initiative aimed at providing affordable groceries and friendly advice to local residents in the Braintree District.

RCCE Climate Change Webinar to be held on 21st May

Notification of the Section 137 expenditure limit for parish councils is £11.10 per elector

Relaunch of the BDC Cost of Living grants commenced on 31st March

The Suffolk Tree Guard Recycling Hub will be at Charity Farm, Great Barton on the 9th and 10th July. To book your drop-off time please email EasterClaylands@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Wild in the Stour Valley – Friday 30th May from 11am to 4pm at Friars Meadow, Sudbury