

Clerk's Report – 14th July 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. Noticeboard to be revarnished. Sweeping completed around village – CS. Signs cleaned – SKF. Station Hill to be cleared of leaves and debris and weed sprayed – CS. FP30 trimmed back alongside Tenterfield and along the Paddocks footpath – NN. Water meadows field gate padlock removed to avoid further incidents of cutting through the boundary hedge – NN. FP33 has been cut back and tidied – NN. Contractor suggests leaving the Essex Knowle bench untreated. Essex Knowle waste bin liner replaced – NN. Water Lane verge to be strimmed – JPB. Tree branch cleared beside Beautiful You – R Chambers.

Waste management: Dean Manning kindly moves out the trade waste bin on alternate Mondays for emptying by BDC. The waste is from the various waste bins in the parish emptied by JPB via his Parish Street Clean contract with the parish council. However during the summer season the waste generated increases. At the moment Dean is shuffling waste from week to week to keep the trade waste bin lid down to comply with BDC rules. Hopefully this is once again this year just a seasonal issue. Monitoring.

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 winter bedding 2025. Water butt tap connector has been replaced. Charlie Series to dig over and tidy the garden this summer. One planter to be repaired.

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.

Hedingham and Chambers: Hedingham and Chambers buses launched and branded as Konect buses Essex and Suffolk from June. New digital bus shelter screens installed at various locations around Essex.

Village sign: Kevin Baxter has painted the post and surround in June.

Grit & Sandbags: The Clerk completed the Salt Partnership Scheme request form. No further grit is needed for the coming winter as plenty of stock in hand. 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.

Riverbank at Millennium footpath: The damaged willow trees now removed by Fordham Tree Surgeons. The willow trees are under their care for at least 2 further years. Fencing is the parish council's responsibility. Landowner of the riverbank remains unknown following the sale of the land to Strat Land.

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 at Lamarsh Hill reported – Ref 2955380. Missing white lines at Mount Bures junction - Ref 2964234 – installed. 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.

Footpath 30: Temporary closure of the footpath scheduled for 14th to 18th July while a new electricity supply is undertaken by UKPN.

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.

Anglian Water Community Outreach: Jessica Bell Customer Engagement Co-ordinator for Anglian Water attended the Saturday market in May to promote exploring ways of saving water for our residents. A number of money saving items were offered free of charge to residents and visitors attending the market.

Eastlight Housing: The 2025 Eastlight Housing grounds maintenance agreement has been duly signed by both the parish council and Eastlight Housing. The grant of £743.68 has been received. The Clerk has written to the Tenancy Team to discuss garden issues at Lamarsh Hill.

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 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. From September training courses will be delivered through a network of regional training hubs located across the county.

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. These will be available at the Saturday markets for residents.

NHW/Police: 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:

A total of 1,099,295 trees have been planted across Essex to exceed a five year commitment. An independent commission published its report on the 6th May which outlined the need to improve outcomes for Essex residents after identifying urgent challenges facing health and social care. The £25 million Priority One programme launched by ECC in August 2024 has resulted in thousands of fixes to overgrown vegetation, tired signage, damaged drains and broken bollards. £4.1 million has been secured by ECC to deliver Skills Bootcamps in Greater Essex. Essex residents are being urged to voice their concerns to help police and local authorities tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/equalities-and-partnership/community_safety_survey_2025

Essex businesses urged to donate tech for offline residents – ECC is inviting local organisations to donate unused devices and help residents to get online – known as bridging the digital gap.

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

Transport East's Travel Behaviour Survey report for Essex has been published.

Notification of Discharge Requirement 4 (1) (c) Construction traffic management plan in respect of the National Grid (Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement) Order 2024.

Details of Braintree District Council's agreed changes to the future of waste and recycling services for households, which will be introduced from 1st June 2026.

Devolution update dated 3rd June.

Notification of Annual PFCC Essex public meeting - 8th July at Braintree Town Hall.

Notification of a RCCE training event – Martyn's Law webinar – July 21st.

New grant funding for Rural Businesses and Community.