

Clerk's Report – 15.01.2024 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 weed spray. A second thorough weed and leaf fall clearance completed at the end of November. Tree branch at Hamlet Court to be trimmed back. Wooden tether on landing stage to be repaired. Essex Knowle bench to be re-oiled when weather suitable. Fallen tree at Lamarsh Hill cleared.

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.

Village sign: The contractors have washed the sign and metal post – members to decide if any further action is needed to improve the sign.

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. Continuing issues with a resident persisting in placing their own warning notices on vehicles. Clerk following up.

Gritting and flooding: 1 tonne of salt (25kg) has been 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. Suggest a community grit bin could be installed at the roadbridge location.

Eastlight Community Homes: Eastlight Homes have awarded a new tender for their Estates Ground Maintenances commencing 1st January 2024. Changes agreed to the Parish Agreement and awaiting redrawn agreement for signing.

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 to be repaired under routine inspections.

Roadbridge: Rotten deck board on footpath replaced with temporary boarding. Suffolk Highways has advised that permanent deck boarding is scheduled for next summer when painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure will be completed.

Potential Open Space Improvements Plan: This has been updated online showing Jubilee Grove as now under the ownership of the parish council

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.

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/Police: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. 6 monthly NHW newsletter currently being circulated. Information on the Rural Engagement Team received from PC Callum Barber the new point of contact.

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

ECC Winter Conditions January 2024 – Advice and helpful information

Essex to receive £121 million of funding for road repairs and resurfacing between 2024-2034

ECC Ongoing Investment in Essex Bus provision confirmation

ECC Visit Essex – seeking your views tourism survey

ECC special education needs and disabilities SEND – improved Local Offer website

Information on DigiGo services extended until March 2026

ECC has been granted White Ribbon Accreditation by White Ribbon UK, the country's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls

EssexAir website – raises awareness of air pollution in Essex and actions which can be taken to reduce emissions

Details of the launch of a new £1.75 million grant fund for unpaid carers in Essex

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

ECC Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

Information on the Housing Delivery Test and the National Planning Policy Framework

EALC Legal Bulletin January 2024

LO2-23 Power to Fund Works to Property Relating to Affairs of the Church or Held for an Ecclesiastical Charity

LTN 31E Local Council General Powers effective 26th December 2023

LTN 87 Procurement

Section 19A Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

Details on Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Details of Earls Colne and Halstead Educational Charity Grants

ECC Climate Action Annual Report 2022/23

Details of the Essex Minerals Local Plan review and to extend Plan date to 2040

To note Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty renamed National Landscapes

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council