

## **Clerk's Report – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Grounds maintenance: Works completed:** All grounds maintenance as per contract. Sweeping at Bridge Street, Station Hill, Colchester Road and Station area. Extra verge cutting at Colne Road and Lamarsh Hill up to village entrance signs and at Water Lane. Railway banks strimmed. Colchester Road bus shelters cleaned. Weed spray in central areas. Nettles around dog waste bin cleared. FP at Ferriers Lane strimmed and tidied. FP leading from The Paddocks to Colne Road cleared.

**Essex Knoll bench:** Following an inspection report the Clerk had ordered a new 7 foot bench of local English Oak to replace the existing bench. Cost £504 plus £40 fixings.

**Oak tree at Colchester Road:** The Clerk had written to BDC Landscape Services regarding the Oak tree near the Millennium footpath entrance at Colchester Road. Photographs had been submitted along with a request for advice on whether this was Essex Highway responsibility. This had been referred to an Officer but no further information to date.

**Vehicle parked on pavement:** The Clerk had written to the vehicle owner and the matter was now satisfactorily resolved.

**Greenfield Housing:** The Clerk had met with the Greenfields Housing Estate Manager to follow up on various grounds maintenance matters. The agreed works to the rear gates at the Lamarsh Hill bungalows to be actioned during early July. Tree branches to be pruned from around the lamp at Woolpit Downs. Various trees to be pruned on both estates. The following works to be completed by the parish contractor under the Grounds Maintenance Agreement: weedspray, litter pick of carpark areas, strim of nettles on banks at both estates, verge at entrance to the right to be cleared of debris and strimmed.

**Memorial plaque:** An oak post had kindly been donated free of charge and a plaque to commemorate the late Pauline Phillips, creator of FP33 now in place. A donation towards the costs had been received from the Mount Bures Footpath Society and remainder of costs met by the Bures Hamlet Parish Council. An unveiling ceremony being arranged.

**Manhole cover:** The noisy manhole cover at Hamlet Court had been successfully repaired following many reports to ECC Highways. Thanks sent to District Cllr Finch for his help with getting the matter resolved.

**Street lights:** Street lights at Lamarsh Hill and outside Appletrees had been reported to ECC and repairs in hand.

**Flytipping:** Recent flytipping along Colchester Road had been reported and BDC had duly responded and offending debris cleared.

**Salt Bag scheme 2019:** The Clerk had submitted the requested information online to ECC. The parish council had sufficient stock of salt for the coming winter and therefore the Clerk had responded accordingly. It had been agreed that the salt stock would remain at its current location and she had expressed the parish council's thanks.

**NHW signs:** 6 replacement signs had been installed at various locations in the parish. These signs had partnership logos with Essex Police and BDC NHW.

**Training:** Cllr Welch to attend a Chairman's Day in October. Cllrs Baker and Ellis to attend Advanced Councillor training days in November. Clerk and Cllr Baker to attend Social Media training in October. Clerk and Cllr Aries to attend 2 courses relating to Cemetery Management in July and October.

**EALC Council of the Year:** The Clerk had submitted the questionnaire to EALC for consideration on behalf of the parish council. All questions were relevant to the council's activities over the period September 2018 – September 2019.

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

Details of the BDC 'You Decide' consultation – how to improve the place where we live – via [www.braintree.gov.uk/cs2020-24](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/cs2020-24)

ECC consultation on changes to the use of Concessionary Bus Passes on ECC run Park and Ride services

Details of the Essex Flood Alleviation Scheme and grant process via the ECC website

AONB June Monthly update

ECC Transport & Travel Update – June edition

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council