

Clerk's Report – 15th September 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 revarnished - RW Sweeping completed around village – CS. Signs cleaned – SKF. Station Hill cleared of leaves and debris and weed sprayed – CS. Water meadows field gate padlock removed to avoid further incidents of cutting through the boundary hedge – NN. FP33 has been cut back and tidied – SKF All benches to be retreated - NN. Water Lane verge to be strimmed – JPB. FP7 damaged sign to be repaired – NN. Panel refixed back onto landing stage – NN.

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. A seasonal trade waste bin has been hired from BDC for this summer. Costs to be shared between BHPC, SG and BCLT.

Station Hill garden: Grant fully spent at 31st March 2025. . Donations received for the winter bedding 2025. Charlie Series dug over and made the garden tidy for the summer. However it has been a very dry summer therefore Nigel Norton has been watering with the trolley mounted waterer purchased from the grant. One planter repaired. Clerk revisiting the suggestion to tarmac over the end section of garden around the green telephone box as this area only attracts chickweed.

River Stour survey: Update on survey – whilst the river would have suffered from the acute pollution of the mains burst and will continue to underperform from the chronic small discharge from the surface water sewer on the left handbank, the river appears to be reasonably well buffered to cope.

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.

Essex Knowle traders: The Thai food trader will be visiting the Essex Knowle on the first Thursday evening of the month on a regular basis. Howes fish'n'chips visits every Monday evening and Pizza on the Green every Friday evening.

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. Clerk following up on the ownership.

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. 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. Closure dates may be extended if needed.

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 has surrendered the lease on 42B High Street, Great Dunmow 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. Essex County NW Association has reviewed its Safeguarding Policy.

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

ECC – landowners urged to cut vegetation now bird season is over.

ECC – E-scooters will again be available for hire in Essex starting end of August. Voi will be the operator for the new trial

ECC – Roadmender is a new system for repairing shall potholes quickly and effectively

ECC appoints ECR HopOn to deliver new country wide digital transport mobile app

ECC has revealed a map of how three brand new unitary councils could replace the 15 current local authorities across Greater Essex

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

A better connected Essex – public consultation on Essex transport strategy

Open letter from the Chair of NALC – Seizing the opportunity of Devolution

National Grid Norwich to Tilbury submits Development Consent Order application

Details of the EALC AGM – now online 25th September at 6.30pm

Temporary Road Closure – Parsonage Hill/Colne Road - 27th October for 5 days

Information on Community Agents as part of the Essex Wellbeing Service

Details of Earls Colne & Halstead Education Charity – grants available