

Clerk's Report – 17th March 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.

Station Hill garden: Grant to be fully spent by 31st March 2025. Nigel Norton watering with the trolley mounted waterer purchased from the grant as and when needed. Grant monies still remaining to meet the costs of the spring bedding, weeding and digging in improver soil.

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.

Bridge Street resurfacing: Resurfacing completed and drains cleared of debris. Advisory notices to inform residents more clearly of the parking restrictions along Bridge Street have been installed by North Essex Parking Partnership.

Damaged bollard: Damaged bollard at the Colchester Road Millennium gate entrance reported – Ref 2943732 – ECC confirmed this would be monitored – Clerk arranged for the damaged bollard to be removed and the area to be filled by the contractor to prevent a trip hazard.

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.

Overhanging trees: The overhanging trees and vegetation alongside Colchester Road near the Boat House – tree application submitted by the Angling Club – works approved and all now completed,

Joint village litter pick: This is kindly being organised by Ken Jackson – Saturday 22nd March at 10am at the War Memorial.

Village sign: Kevin Baxter has agreed to paint the post and surround in Spring 2025.

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.

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 – on order. A road sign for Hall Road ordered via Street Clean.

Road closure: An intended road closure at Pebmarsh Road is due to commence on 23rd April for 3 days - surface dressing being undertaken.

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.

Electoral Role: The Clerk has been issued with the new Electoral Role for Bures Hamlet.

Bleed Kits: Three bleed kits have been donated to the village by the Daniel Baird Foundation. Suitable sites being agreed and a 'Tell and Show' event being planned. Representative from the Daniel Baird Foundation to be a Speaker at the Joint APM on March 24th.

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.

BDC Indoor Sports Strategy: The Clerk has completed the BDC indoor sports and leisure facilities and playing pitch and outdoor sport survey on behalf of both parish councils.

Snippet page: A joint parish council snippet page has been submitted for the March magazine. The parish councils are looking for volunteers prepared to help with unspecified projects which improve the village amenity.

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. Clerk has also attended the EALC Devolution Clerks Forum on 27th February- to discuss the upcoming devolution process. Notes circulated to members.

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 Clerk and Mark Smith, St Mary Co-ordinator will be showcasing NHW at the Joint APM on 24th March.

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

ECC continues to prioritise areas important to residents in its budget plans for the coming financial year. An additional £12.3 million funding boost for Highways has been announced. Summary changes to the National Planning Policy Framework briefing note 12th December 24. ECC – new funding gives Essex residents more choice of travel – ECC has secured £7.3million from Active Travel England to improve walking and cycling across the country. ECC – Essex Councils accepted onto Devolution Priority Programme – Essex is among areas chosen to be front of the queue for devolution.

Essex Air Quality Strategy public consultation launched commencing 20th January and ending on 2nd March

ECC Dedicated winter crews for Essex Highways – specialist repair crews will tackle potholes and road surface damage across Essex

Essex Councils unite to tackle fly-tipping

ECC meets with Stansted Airport to discuss expansion plans – the airport recently announced a huge £1.1 billion investment programme over five years

ECC – 30Km of additional roads have been resurfaced by Essex Highways since the launch of its Priority One programme

ECC – East Coast Council allies demand fairness for rural areas – a united cross-county call to protect the East Anglia and Lincolnshire countryside from and invasion of pylons has been made by Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire councils

Essex residents urged to prepare for major digital switchover – the Essex telephone network will switch to a new system as analogue phonelines are replaced by digital landlines by the end of 2027

The Government have launched the statutory public consultation into the proposed 'Greater Essex Mayoral County Combined Authority' for the local government areas of ECC, Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea City Council

ECC – Essex is using microbiology to clean up fuel spills as one of the first authorities to deploy microorganisms on a road network

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

In person events focussing on Climate Change and Nature Recovery being organised by the Rural Community Council of Essex – Cllr Keeble- Fox has put forward her hedgehog project at the Grove

Grants for community projects in the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley available via the Sustainable Development Fund

Free swift boxes for swift projects plus artificial nest cups for housemartins available from the National Landscape Officers – Transition Group following up

Details of the Dedham Vale National Landscape Award – nominations to be submitted

Details of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Development Scheme

BDC has commissioned a feasibility study to explore how a Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service could meet local travel needs