

## **Clerk's Report – 17.05.2021 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Works completed:** All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. Contractor to strim and weed pull as an alternative to use of Glyphosate for the time being. Weed removal at various locations in the parish ongoing. Sweeping in main centre of parish completed. BDC road quarterly gutter sweep completed. Damaged Water Lane sign repaired. Discarded syringe packages found along Brookhouse Lane had been reported to BDC for collection and disposal.

**Waste:** BDC Commercial Waste team has confirmed continuation with the fortnightly collections of the trade waste bin at the Essex Knoll during 2021. All invoicing costs raised and completed. Recycling from blue bin at Bures Common transferred to clear recycling sacks for a fortnightly collection by BDC. Systems to ease waste issues currently under control.

**VAS at Colchester Road:** This has been reported to ECC Local Highways Panel for repair and to lower the height for better vision to motorists.

**Effluent at Ferriers Lane:** The Environment Agency Officer has visited the site and has since been requested to arrange a follow up visit as the issue has not been resolved. Reported to EA again.

**Flytipping:** A large amount of builders waste left at Hornes Green has been reported online.

**Dog fouling:** The BDC Street Scene Protection Officer has agreed to visit the parish to monitor dog fouling issues. Appropriate advertising reminding dog owners of their responsibilities to pick up after their dogs has been circulated and submitted to the parish magazine. Dog fouling incidents can be reported online via the BDC website.

**Highways Devolution:** Quarterly reports being completed when requested. Fingerpost requests completed by ECC Rights of Way Team. ECC Highways has reimbursed the FP32 closure costs and the parish council has received a Locality fund award of £140 to cover any remaining costs from the FP closure.

**Recycling sacks:** The parish council has been asked if a collection point could be made available in the parish for local residents to collect a single roll of recycling sacks if they run out before the next District Council delivery to all residents. Clerk following up.

**Shrubs:** It has been agreed that the height of the shrubs along Colchester Road will be reduced by about 1 foot following the bird nesting season. This would allow better vision for vehicles accessing onto the highway from the rear of the properties.

**Normandie Way playarea fence:** The fence has been reported to BDC for repair.

**BALC:** The Chairman attended the EALC and BALC virtual meeting to discuss proposals to reform the Braintree Association of Local Councils. The meeting was attended by over 25 Parish and Town Councils and Chaired by Peter Davey, Chairman of EALC. It was agreed to reform BALC. Inaugural meeting of BALC has been held on 15<sup>th</sup> April. A small annual membership to be met.

**Funding Grants update:** NALC Funding Bulletin circulated and information held on file. Details of other grants available – BDC Councillors Community Grant, National Lottery Community Fund, Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme, ECC Community Initiative Fund (CIF) 2021, ECC Lockdown Support Fund, ECC Contain Outbreak Management Fund

**Training:** The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Clerk and Cllr Baker attended a virtual BDC Housing and Homeless briefing on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Shackell attending Councillor and Chairman training during the year. Clerk attended a Youth Engagement Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Power point slides to be circulated when received. Clerk has attended a Learning Disability Awareness training session. All events run by EALC.

**Census 2021:** The Census programme is coming to an end. Clerk has maintained contact with Census Engagement Manager for North Essex during the programme. The Manager has thanked the Clerk for her valued input on behalf of the parish and has an ONS certificate recognising that contribution.

**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 allowed Clerks to maintain good contact with Officers.

**Snippets page:** This has recommenced with a snippet page included in future parish magazines. The magazine Editor encouraged the parish council to submit articles of interest.

**Government guidance on Coronavirus:** All information received has been circulated as widely as possible. Government guidance on safe use of community facilities can be found at <http://bit.ly/Communityspaces>

**Vulnerable persons:** The Clerk has made all members aware that an Emergency Plan and a Vulnerable Persons plan were held as Case Sensitive for when emergency action was required within the village. The Vulnerable Persons plan has been active during the Coronavirus restrictions.

**NHW:** The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Thefts from sheds in the district remained a concern. Cyber & Fraud Protect messages advertised on the facebook pages. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website.

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

Details of funding for energy efficiency improvements in the home

EALC Certificate of Membership 2021/22 which includes affiliation to NALC

Details of an East Anglian Community Energy Webinar event on 24<sup>th</sup> May

Planning Newsletter No. 2 dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Details of the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**If you wish to attend the Forum please book via:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-dedham-vale-aonb-and-stour-valley-forum-tickets-148190928055>

Mrs Jenny Wright  
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council