

Clerk's Report – 16.01.2023 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 trialling New Way weedspray. Sweeping in main centre of parish ongoing. Some ProW being strimmed. Leaf fall and weed clearance ongoing. Lamp bollard along the Paddocks footway torn from its footings by persons unknown has been set back in place. May need to be more securely concreted at base. Goat Willow tree overhanging tree branch along the Millennium footpath removed – cost £80 + VAT. Fence damaged between the Essex Knowle and No. 1 Colchester Road. Property owner of No. 1 Colchester Road following up.

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.

ECC Salt Bag Scheme: Some gritting done in the parish – Station Hill and Lamarsh Hill bungalows. Stored salt bag stock sufficient for this season. Contractor to replenish grit bins and grit pavements in the parish as required.

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. Drain cover at Lamarsh Hill – Ref 2790492 – ECC to clean gully and then investigate road surface repairs. Street light No.11 The Paddocks not working – reported.

Roadbridge: SCC has installed protection barriers across the damaged railings temporarily until a works order to close the road can be put in place to do the repairs. Painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure scheduled for next summer.

Bridge Street road closure: Scheduled for February 5th and 6th to allow a new gas service pipe to be laid to an existing property. Cadent Gas confirmed its agreement is to work on the Sunday and clear the site by Monday 6am with no interference for bus services.

Waste: To review the need for a further seasonal trade waste bin in spring 2023. BDC Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee has held a Scrutiny Review into litter management across the Braintree District – Clerk has circulated her response to all members.

Ferriers Lane site: The Clerk followed up on the last Enforcement Officer's report for the site following an enquiry by a resident. The Chairman visited the site and agreed that there appears to be no breaches detected at present.

Bures Joint Emergency Plan: The Plan has been updated and forwarded to Braintree and Babergh District Councils.

Braintree District Rough Sleeper evidence: The Clerk had submitted a Nil return for rough sleeper evidence for Thursday 17th November.

Notification of External Auditor appointment: Details of the Parish Council's appointed auditor circulated. PKF Littlejohn LLP appointed again for a further 5 years.

Training: The training record has been updated and can be found on the parish council website. The EALC training calendar 2023 received.

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. Last meeting held 15th December and 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.

Vulnerable Persons: The Clerk has signed up with Streetlink which monitors the homeless across the district. 6 Community 360 bags containing items to help protect the vulnerable from the cold have been given out at the Thursday Food Drop In session.

BDC Handyman Service for elderly and vulnerable owner occupiers and private residents

- details available from the Clerk.

NHW: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. The Clerk thanks the volunteers who assist in distributing the six monthly newsletters to residents.

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

ECC Inflation -busting budget 23/24 puts the vulnerable first – sets out ECC budget proposals for the coming financial year

Information on ECC Household Support Fund

ECC Foster Carers in Essex information

ECC Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities system (SEND) update

ECC Online co-design session on the development of a new Transport Information Website for Essex

ECC Essex Carers information – Essex All-Age Carers Strategy 2022-26

Guidance on Strep A and Scarlet Fever – ECC Director of Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities

ECC DigiGo – Additional Electric minibus public transport information on £2 bus fare cap

Details of the £2 Bus Fare Cap – more information via www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap

Low cost broadband deals for residents who receive benefits – www.essex.gov.uk/broadband

Details of the Essex Wellbeing Service – <https://www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk>

HR and Personnel Matters regarding Employee Appraisals – for follow up in May 2023

ECC Essex Homes for Ukraine sponsors to receive additional financial support update

Call for Essex residents to shape future – ECC Disability Strategy - consultation closes 23rd February 2023

Updated information, new resources and improved access to services across Education, Health and Social Care via the new Essex Local Offer website

Gigaclear Community Hub for Community Centres

ECC Libraries information

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

BDC Healthy Housing Strategy 2023-2028 Consultation 13th December 2022 to 7th February 2023

Census 2021 Housing, Labour market and Travel to work results received

Nominations for the Robert Erith National Landscape Award – closing date 31st January 2023

Grant funding information for the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley available for community projects

ECC Highway Highlights December 2022

EALC Legal E-bulletin December 2023 received

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council