

Clerk's Report – 18.03.2024 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 using New Way weed spray. A thorough weed and leaf fall clearance completed in February. Wooden tether on landing stage to be repaired. Essex Knowle bench to be re-oiled when weather suitable. Colchester Road hedge flailed as parish contractors advised it was too dangerous to cut the verge. Colne Road layby cleared. Damaged bat willow tree removed

Station Hill garden: Weed and leaf clearance done. Moss cleared. Spring bedding in hand.

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.

Station Hill footpath: ECC works order raised for the repair of the damage to the footpath from the tree roots. No scheduled date for the repair.

Parking Advisory notices: Cllr Keeble-Fox nominated as the councillor to place a parking advisory notice on any offending vehicles. These notices are for vehicles which are creating a hazard for pedestrians only. Continuing issues with a resident persisting in placing their own warning notices on vehicles has been resolved.

Flooding issues: The Clerk has ordered 2 flood warning signs for Colchester Road. Parish contractor to put out as necessary.

ECC ROW Service Level Agreement: The Clerk has signed and returned the 2024 agreement for cutting the Public Rights of Way to the PROW Lead Officer. ECC to contribute a sum of £435.73 for works undertaken by the parish contractor.

Braintree District Council: The Street Clean Agreement 2023/24 expires on 31st March 2024. Agreement for 2024/25 received and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the parish council. BDC to contribute a sum of £881.70 for works undertaken by the parish contractor.

Eastlight Community Homes: Eastlight Homes have awarded a new tender for their Estates Ground Maintenances commencing 1st January 2024. Changes agreed to the Parish Agreement with the redrawn agreement received and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the parish council. Eastlight Homes to contribute a sum of £690.26 for works undertaken by the parish contractor.

Jubilee Grove: Transfer of parcel of land from James Webber now complete. The Clerk in receipt of the Transferor's completed signed Land Registry form. Registration of the Transfer and the Land Registry to follow.

Parish owned street lighting: Clerk investigating costs for LED lights for the parish owned street lights. ECC offer free recycled LED heads with installation costs met by the parish council.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Kerb opposite New Cut reported – Ref 2770305 – ECC to monitor. Blocked drain at Colchester Road – Ref 2854388 – repaired. Drain at Parsonage Hall entrance – Ref 2846792 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Ferriers Lane entrance - Ref 2846772 – ECC monitoring. Water Lane pothole – Ref 2865235 – repaired
Pothole at Station Hill to be repaired under routine inspections

Roadbridge: Rotten deck board on footpath replaced with temporary boarding. Suffolk Highways has advised that permanent deck boarding is scheduled for this summer when painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure will be completed.

Rural Coffee Caravan: The caravan visited the Common Barn on three dates over the winter. It is returning for the summer months commencing on 26th April, 2 – 4pm at Bures Common. All welcome.

Free portrait of His Majesty the King: The Clerk has ordered 2 free portraits via a Government scheme on behalf of BCLT and Bures Community Centre Management Group.

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 Training calendar circulated to all members. Cllr Keeble-Fox to attend a course on Protecting PROW and the Roles of Local Councils in November.

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.

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. 6 monthly NHW newsletter circulated. BDC NHW AGM scheduled for 30th April, 2.15pm at Maurice Rowson Hall. Guest Speaker – Essex Police Superintendent Naomi Edwards. The Clerk and Cllr Aries to attend.

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

New £1.4 million Poppins Bursary to support training and qualifications in Early Years
Details of additional funding for Essex Highways for the county's roads, pavements and potholes
Details of £2 million for Local Highway Panels to deliver large schemes, freeing up existing budgets for smaller schemes

ECC recycling centres bookings trial made permanent

ECC call for more residents to take action and benefit from Essex-focused climate app

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

Details of the BDC Changes to Household Waste and Recycling Service

Bures Common Land Trust report

BDC Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy Consultation

Safer Essex Survey – closing date 28th March

Launch of Rural Connections – Transport Challenges and Opportunities for Communities in the East report

Essex Minerals Local Plan Review consultation – deadline extended to 9th April

Details of a RSPB event at Flatford Wildlife Garden on 21st May, 6 - 8pm

Details of Community Payback Projects via the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Details of grants open for National Landscapes 2024/25

Babergh Parking Charges consultation

TravelEssex survey to better understand public opinion of the bus services in Essex

Details of the BDC Community Infrastructure Grant

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council