

Clerk's Report – 18th May 2020 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Grounds maintenance: JPB Landscapes was continuing to complete the contracted works on a monthly basis throughout the Coronavirus lockdown with social distancing observed. The Clerk had written to all parish contractors to ensure any concerns they may have could be followed up. All contractors had agreed to investigate alternative options to Glyphosate.

Works completed: All grounds maintenance as per contract. Spring litterpick of all outer areas of the parish. Verge trimmed opposite Masters Farm. Normandie Way bench revarnished. Bench at Essex Knoll washed down. Broken fence panel along Millennium footpath repaired. Lamarsh Hill entrance gate refurbished. Lettering and missing ECC shield to be rebuilt on the gate. Hedge cut back at Old Barn Road to enable road sign to be visible.

Maintenance Agreements: The BDC Street Cleaning Agreement 2020-21 had been duly signed and returned with the sum of £856.16 received. The Greenfield Housing Grounds Maintenance Agreement 2020-21 also duly signed and returned with the sum of £152.48 received. The ECC Highways Devolution Agreement 2020-21 had also been duly signed and returned with the sum of £1,000 still to be received.

Spring & Autumn Rural Verge Cutting: BDC had highlighted changes to the Spring cutting programme. It proposed a one year trial of dispensing with a Spring cut of some verges in the district following a call nationally from leading environmental organisations. Bures Hamlet was not in the initial trial but if successful then all parishes would be included for future cutting programmes.

Road closure: Ringway Jacobs had notified the Clerk of a pending road closure for Water Lane to enable County Broadband to do undergrounding works. The closure to be for 19 days from 8th June with resident access only.

Use of Electoral Registration Data: The Clerk had received and circulated details of new guidance on use of the data from the BDC Democracy Manager.

PFCC event: Essex police to hold a Braintree District online meeting on 19th May at 7pm. Do you have a question for the Fire & Rescue Service? Do you want to know the latest on crime trends and proactive policing? Join in Facebook Live Event @ PFCCESSEX.

FP30: The first section of the footpath leading from The Paddocks to the lamp post had been resurfaced via the Cabinet Member scheme.

Ferriers Pits & Ferriers Lane: The landowners had reported several incidents of Motorcross and Quad biker incidents at the pits. Essex police attending and regularly patrolling. The Clerk had reported the sewerage leakage at Ferriers Lane to the Environment Agency. Ref No. 1793249. Monitored and matter now resolved. Karl Weavers had kindly cleared the hay bale from the ditch along Ferriers Lane and tidied the field line. He was concerned that hedge cuttings were being thrown into the field from neighbouring properties. Clerk to follow up with Greenfield Housing.

Lights at Lamarsh Hill bungalows: The situation had improved and agreed by neighbouring residents to now be satisfactory.

Lights: Light at Hamlet Court reported as unlit Ref 20480568. Lights at Water Lane also reported as unlit Ref 20464643.

Mount Bures Crossing Cottage: The cottage lies within the parish of Bures Hamlet. The Arch Company acquired the cottage in the sale of properties from Network Rail and have responsibility to ensure it is safe and secure. They are arranging for the vegetation to be cut back. Cllr Aries (Station Adopters) and Cllr Woodman (MBPC) are in contact with Arch.

Oak tree at Colchester Road: The Clerk had submitted an online report to ECC Highways following advice from Landscape Services. Photographs had been submitted along with a request for an inspection of the tree owing to its excessive height and deadwood. ECC initial assessment completed. A second report submitted early January however no further update.

Manhole cover: The damaged manhole cover at Lamarsh Hill had been reported to ECC. Ref 2634191. Referred again to ECC and has been assessed and repairs pending.

Colne Road development: The Clerk liaising with the developer to alleviate any residents concerns while the works continued on site. Mud on road continuing to be cleared as per agreement. Burning materials on site had been inconsiderate during the lockdown and the Clerk had liaised with the developer on this.

Scheduled Events: All scheduled community events had been cancelled under the current Coronavirus lockdown. However it was hoped to reschedule some of the events for a later date.

Training: The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website.

Government guidance on Coronavirus: All information received had been circulated as widely as possible.

Vulnerable persons: The Clerk had 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 was now active during the Coronavirus lockdown.

NHW: The Clerk continued to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Cyber & Fraud Protect messages advertised on the facebook pages.

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

BDC Planning Department information on changes to the delivery of the planning service during the Coronavirus lockdown

Details from Chambers Bus Service on its review of services during the lockdown.

Essex Highways Highlights March & April editions

AONB Monthly updates March & April

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council