

Clerk's Report – 18th May 2026 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. Sweeping and weedspraying to be done throughout village – CS/JPB. Station Hill to be weedsprayed - JPB 4 Benches still to be re-varnished when weather improves – NN. Edge of Station Hill garden still to be tarmaced – NN. FP7 damaged sign to be repaired – NN. Grasscutting at Station – JPB. Damaged Water Lane sign to be repaired – NN. Insurance cover details for C Series received and held on file.

Waste management: Matt Ward kindly moves out the trade waste bin on alternate Mondays. Surplus waste collection boxes removed from Colchester Road by BDC at the request of the Clerk.

Public Rights of Way: Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley are asking for projects in the parish to be put forward as they have money to improve the network across Suffolk and Essex. The Parish ROW Officer submitted a request for £30 costs to be paid annually towards her fuel costs when working in the countryside on ROW projects.

Station Hill garden: A £950 BDC Microgrant application has been successful. This will enable the garden to be refreshed with some new bedding plants, peat and an additional planter. Clerk revisiting the suggestion to tarmac over the end section of garden around the green telephone box as this area only attracts chickweed.

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.

Essex Knowle traders: The Thai food trader is visiting the Essex Knowle on the first Thursday evening of the month on a regular basis. Howes fish'n'chips visits every Monday evening and Pizza on the Green every Friday evening. The Curry market trader has asked to trade on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. To be discussed by members.

Eastlight annual grounds maintenance: The Clerk is following up with Eastlight Housing on the 2026/27 Grounds Maintenance Agreement which is coming up for renewal.

Street lighting maintenance: A & J Lighting has completed its annual maintenance plan 2026 with no works or parts needed for the parish street lights under the plan.

Grit & Sandbags: The Clerk completed the Salt Partnership Scheme request form. No further grit is needed for the coming winter as plenty of stock in hand. A supply of sandbags is stored in the village for those residents in need.

Riverbank at Millennium footpath: The willow trees are under the care of R Fordham Tree Surgeons for at least 2 further years. Fencing is the parish council's responsibility. Landowner of the riverbank remains unknown following the sale of the land to Strat Land.

Temporary traffic regulation: Notification received of the temporary traffic regulation order for Parsonage Hill/Colne Road and Bures Road, White Colne commencing 12th July for 17 days.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool:

Damaged road signs at Colchester Road reported – Ref 29339426. Drain cover at Station Hill reported – Ref 2895767. Blocked drain at River House reported – ref 2970019. Blocked drain at Parsonage Hill – reported Ref 4000557. Request for Bridleway signage at Bakers Hall - Ref 4006093. Blocked drain at The Paddocks junction reported – Ref 4021192. Pothole at bottom of Parsonage Hill reported – Ref 4037005.

Brook House, Colchester Road: The Clerk received a report of burning debris smoke from Brook House which was creating a severe nuisance for residents in Mount Bures. Clerk agreed to monitor the situation.

Tree at Station Hill: The tree which is under a preservation order although severely pollarded. is in good order.

Website hosting server: Community Action notified parishes of its intention to move all OneSuffolk websites onto a new server platform from week beginning 18th May. No action required by parishes and the website should seamlessly transfer to the new platform.

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 The parish council now able to claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training.. Training courses are now being delivered through a network of regional training hubs located across the county. New training E-bulletin 2026-27 calendar circulated to members. Cllr Keeble-Fox attended the People's Emergency Briefing (National) on 9th April run by RCCE. Notes circulated.

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. From 2026 the meetings will be reduced to twice yearly. The February meeting highlighted the forthcoming Devolution.

NHW/Police: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. Six monthly newsletter circulated. Garage and shed security information advertised.

Messages of interest via County Councillor – all circulated, advertised and details held on file:

ECC – Essex Primary School places announced April 2026. 98.16% of primary school age children starting reception in September 2026 offered one of their preferences

ECC – Essex Growth Agency launches refreshed business support programme for local businesses

ECC – Essex County Council has launched its 2026/27 resurfacing programme. This will see large scale improvements to many roads across the county.

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

Babergh Call for Sites – frequently asked questions for Town and Parish Councils

Information on radical changes to how planning appeals will work – a Government Procedural Guide for how planning appeals will work from 1st April 2026

BDC Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) Consultation – Waste & Affordable Housing

Creating a local nature plan for parishes – run by RCCE – free in person training - 6th May

Local Plan Sub-Committee considers next steps for the emerging BDC Local Plan

Details of the Earls Colne & Halstead Educational Charity- grants available

Gallagher Insurance 2026 guide for community events

Information on Member enquiries drop-in session – Wednesdays 9.30am – 10.30am launched by Essex Association of Local Councils

Notification of the closure of the BDC Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. 1,600 responses received. Next formal stage Regulation 19 expected in the autumn

National Grid notified the public of upcoming vegetation clearance and associated traffic management from May 2026 onwards