

## **Clerk's Report – 17.07.2023 Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Works completed or in hand:** All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. JPB Landscapes contracted until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Costs to be held until that date. Contractor trialling New Way weedspray. Sweeping in main centre of parish ongoing. Weed clearance ongoing. Weed clearance along Station Hill garden ongoing. FP5 cleared of overgrowth. Light at Woolpit Downs cleared of vegetation. The Common Land boundary strimmed. Millennium footpath nettles cleared. Weeds at Parsonage Grove, Secretaries boundary wall and Water Lane in hand to be cleared. Hedge along footpath leading beside No. 8 Parsonage Grove cleared by volunteers. Cllr Baker has washed down bus shelters and cleared weeds. Cllr Baker has also cleaned the dog waste bin in Bridge Street.

Village sign to be washed down. Malting Close road sign corrected. Information board repaired. Cutting back vegetation along The Paddocks footpath in hand. Supply of purple waste bags ordered and received. Overhanging lime trees to be trimmed back by owner.

**Station Hill garden:** A UK Shared Prosperity Community Gardens Fund grant has been received from ECC for £5,000. The grant to cover costs for a rainwater harvester and cabinet, guttering, various gardening tools, plants, soil, benches and illustrated noticeboard. Site for a bench still to be agreed as residents have asked for it not to be installed in front of their properties. Extra shrubs planted to replace those which had perished. Watering being done by volunteers. Weeding 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.

**Mount Bures footpath:** A contribution of £100 per year agreed to reimburse Mount Bures Parish Council for strimming and tidying the footpath. Footpath vegetation cleared.

**DaRT Transport:** A meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 1pm at Sudbury Town Hall to promote the DaRT 3 currently operated by Essex and Suffolk Dart and Arrow Taxis. ECC Transport Cllr Welch attended on behalf of the parish council. DaRT3 to have increased advertising and social media coverage.

**Salt Bag Scheme:** 1 tonne of salt (25kg) has been ordered for gritting during the winter via the ECC Winter Salt Bag Scheme. Delivery has been arranged for early October.

**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. Road lining, dropped lay by edge and badger bank at Colne Road layby – Ref 2826399. - ECC confirmed not a priority. Drainage issues at Colchester Road – Ref 2696680 – completed. Blocked drain at Colchester Road – Ref 2854388 – being inspected. Drain at Parsonage Hall entrance – Ref 2846792 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Ferriers Lane entrance - Ref 2846772 – ECC monitoring.

**Vehicle Activated Sign:** The VAS at Colchester Road is currently not working and has been reported for repair to ECC.

**Temporary Traffic Regulation Order:** Ravensfield Farm Road - 24<sup>th</sup> July for 2 days.

**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.

**Gritting programme:** The Clerk has submitted a request for Colne Road to be included in the ECC Highways gritting programme for 2023/24.

**Penlan telephone mast:** Clerk and Tree Warden monitoring the implications of the proposed new telephone mast at Penlan. Removal of trees may be required to install the mast and therefore a planning application may be required by Cellnex.

**Community Ownership Fund:** Cllr Aries attended the webinar held on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Presentation slides have been circulated. The webinar gave insight into the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 which is now available for parish and town councils. Expressions of interest for any project to save any local asset which is in danger of being lost.

**Training:** The training record has been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Cllr Keeble-Fox completed two days of new councillor training in June. Any questions relating to the law process or procedure of local councils should be forwarded by the Clerk to EALC – [legal@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:legal@ealc.gov.uk)

**Parish Online subscription:** Parish Online Support has confirmed the parish council has a further year of free subscription for its NHP.

**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:** The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. Thefts from sheds reported.

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

Essex electric vehicle charge point strategy consultation

ECC has announced a 3 year agreement to host ForRideLondon.

The launch of the Summer of Volunteering Campaign inviting more residents to support their community by volunteering

Details of the ECC Community Initiatives Fund offering grants of up to £10k

Details of the ECC free one-to-one financial coaching with a qualified coach

The Carbon Literacy Project has awarded ECC with a Bronze accreditation recognising the council as a Carbon Literate Organisation

Essex County Council's all-age careers magazine – on Essex Opportunities website

Information on the Restart Scheme via Reed in Partnership to help people who receive

Universal Credit find sustainable work

Information on ECC healthcare training available for anyone in Essex looking to enter or upskill in the care sector

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

Notification of BDC independent survey of demand for taxis and private hire care

Details of AONB restoring ancient woodlands in the Stour Valley project

EALC Legal Bulletin June 2023

Information on Rural North Braintree District request for residents to be part of a Community

Reference Group for the Levelling Up project in Rural Braintree

Emergency Planning for Heatwaves toolkit – circulated and placed on website

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

