

Clerk's Report – 18.09.2023 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. A one off thorough weed clearance completed throughout the parish with a weedspray to follow. The Common Land boundary strimmed. Millennium footpath nettles cleared. Damaged dog waste bag holder repaired. Millennium fence panels repaired. Footpath vegetation cut back – rail crossing, along Secretaries wall and Chambers meadow, Ferriers Cottage copse. Tree Warden cut back low branches from the trees at Normandie Way splay.

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 water tank, guttering, bowser on wheels, gardening tools, plants and planters. Agreed not to proceed with a new bench as no suitable site found. Winter planting in hand. 3 new planters installed. Weeds kept at bay by contractor.

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.

ROW Service Level Agreement: Agreement duly signed and £435.73 grant received from ECC. All footpaths listed cleared, some by contractor and some by local farmers.

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.

Gritting programme: The Clerk submitted a request for Colne Road to be included in the ECC Highways gritting programme for 2023/24. However this has been refused owing to the road not being a bus route.

Parish lights: Annual maintenance of the parish lights completed by A and J Lighting and all lights found in full working order. New tariff for Unmetered Supply of electricity via Npower.

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. 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. Water Lane pothole – Ref 2865235 – still to be assessed. Pothole at Station Hill – referred to County Cllr pot hole scheme.

Vehicle Activated Sign: ECC has agreed to repair the VAS at Colchester Road.

Roadbridge: SCC has installed protection barriers across the damaged railings temporarily. Repairs scheduled with two way traffic control being set in place. Rotten deck board to be replaced. Painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure scheduled for next summer.

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 Councillors are invited to attend a free Local Climate Engagement online training event on 27th September 2023 run by ECC.

Rural Coffee Caravan: The caravan visited the village on 22nd August with at least 30 residents attending. Next visits - 26th September and 24th October, 2- 4pm at Bures Common. All welcome.

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.

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

Details of new ticket prices for Essex Park and Ride services

ECC – launch of a new strategy to support the county's arts, cultural and creative sectors

Backing Essex Business delivered by Let's Do Business Group and funded by ECC

Launch of new Read and County with Me book bags in Essex County Parks and libraries

Update on ECC Broadband improvement programme in Essex – improved connections to one in five addresses in the county over the past decade

Relaunch of BEST Growth Hub secures additional support for Essex businesses

Revised Essex Climate Action Plan which will see a 25% increase in climate-related investment has been approved by ECC Cabinet

Launch of a joint ECC and Essex Police online safety map for women and girls in Essex

Essex Country Parks have secured Green Flag status

Essex Energy Switch September 2023

ECC invite organisations offering Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) support to join the Essex Local Offer

Launch of ECC small grants element of its new £7.5million grant scheme, the Essex Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) programme

Social tariffs offer eligible households an affordable broadband

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

DEFRA announces launch of Coronation Living Heritage Fund to support tree planting projects

EALC AGM scheduled for Thursday 21st September 2023 at The Layer Suite, Colchester Stadium

Braintree Association of Local Councils minutes of 19th July 2023

Community360 is offering free sessions to help residents to tackle the cost of living crisis - advertised on Facebook pages

Details of ECC Food Support and Winter Warmth Essential Funding

The Essex Waste Partnership's Waste Strategy for Essex – Consultation launch

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council