

## **Clerk's Report – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Grounds maintenance:** Weather has been extremely wet and given difficult working conditions for the contractor. However he has continued to respond to work requests.

**Works completed:** All grounds maintenance as per contract. Leaves cleared at Station Hill. Sweeping at Bridge Street, Station Hill, Colchester Road and Station area. Weeds cleared at Station Hill. Hedge at Colchester Road flailed. Lifebelts cleaned. Mesh on Millennium footpath gate removed. Waste bin post at Hamlet Court repaired. 3 benches pressure washed. Flat bench restrained. Dog waste bins cleaned.

**Sandbags:** The Clerk had arranged for the contractor to purchase 50 sandbags. These had now been delivered to vulnerable locations in the Bridge Street, Station Hill and Colchester Road area. Unused sandbags to be collected and stored at the end of winter.

**Gritting:** Contractor Gary Vaughan has agreed to grit the parish pavements over the winter months as necessary. He would replenish the grit bins from the parish stored grit stock. However a new gritter needed to be purchased by both parish councils.

**Wormingford Bridge:** Closure of the bridge advertised. A survey of the cast iron structure required. Extension on closure dates possibly to the end of the year.

**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.

**Flashing bollard:** Bollard at Station Hill reported to ECC. Ref. 20425002. To be repaired but no date given.

**Manhole cover:** The damaged manhole cover at Lamarsh Hill had been reported to ECC. Ref 2634191. Being monitored.

**Police & Fire & Rescue Conference:** Owing to the pending Parliamentary Elections the conference had been postponed. EALC to arrange a date for 2020 for it to be held.

**FP30:** Trip hazard reported. Application to be made to ECC for the re-tarmac of the path way.

**Greenfield Housing:** Camper van on pavement at Lamarsh Hill bungalows reported to Estates Manager. Request submitted to prune branches around light at Woolpit Downs.

**Memorial plaque:** An unveiling ceremony had been held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am. Representatives from BHPC, MBPC, ECC, Ramblers and the family of the late Pauline Phillips attended.

**Reducing Loneliness in Braintree District:** The Clerk had received an Action on Loneliness from Community Services. It also requested a parish council survey to be completed by the 25<sup>th</sup> November stating facilities and groups in the village along with parish council initiatives to combat loneliness.

**Rough Sleeper evidence:** An estimation of overnight rough sleepers in the Braintree District was been evidence based over the night of 27<sup>th</sup> November. Clerk to inform BDC of any such individuals in the parish.

**Community 360:** A mapping of less well known walks in the Braintree District initiative was being undertaken by Community 360. Information circulated to the Parish ROW Officer.

**Howe's fish and chip van:** The van was currently visiting the village on a Monday evening and stands at Bures Common from 5pm to 8pm. This agreement followed the Friday evening van being unable to continue owing to staff shortage.

**Telephone Kiosk:** Still waiting on internal clean by BT. Exterior tidied by Cllr Baker.

**Training:** Cllr Welch attended a Chairman's Day in October. Cllrs Baker and Monk attended the Advanced Councillor training days in November. Clerk and Cllr Baker attended Social Media training in October.

**EALC Conference:** The Clerk had submitted the questionnaire to EALC for consideration for a parish council award. All questions were relevant to the council's activities over the period September 2018 – September 2019. The Chairman and Clerk attended the Award Ceremony with BHPC being awarded a Special Commendation plaque in respect of its work in the community plus a £100 training voucher

**UK Parliamentary Elections – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019** – all notices being duly advertised.

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

AONB Monthly Update – October

Mrs Jenny Wright  
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council