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## **Clerk's Report – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Works completed or in hand:** All grounds maintenance completed as per contract.

JPB Landscapes re-contracted until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. Costs to be held until that date.

JPB Landscapes Certificates of Employers Insurance and Public Liability duly updated.

Contractor using New Way weed spray. Ferriers Lane to be tidied and overhang cut back by the landowner. Grasscuttings being collected at river bank and Normandie Way playarea at each cut - JPB. Strimming at Lamarsh Hill bungalows completed. Bus shelters cleaned, life belt string untangled, wisteria cleared from lamppost, The Paddocks NHW sign cleaned – Cllr Keeble-Fox. Bench at riverbank to be cleaned in the spring. Noticeboard to be revarnished. Bag dispenser installed – Nigel Norton. Leafall cleared – C Series.

**Dog waste bag dispenser:** Cllr Chambers has kindly filled the dispensers and will continue to top up as necessary. The dispenser on Secretaries wall was damaged has been replaced.

**Station Hill garden:** Grant to be fully spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Nigel Norton watering with the trolley mounted waterer purchased from the grant as and when needed. Winter bedding planted and garden tidied of leafall.

**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.

**Water Lane sign:** An order has been placed with BDC Street Scene for a damaged sign.

**Damaged bollard:** Damaged bollard at the Colchester Road Millennium gate entrance reported – Ref 2943732 .

**DaRT 3:** The transport service serves North East Braintree area. Details have been advertised and the Clerk has requested a supply of leaflets to advertise at the markets.

**Vegetation issues:** ECC Ref Report No.2939371 – overgrowth FP30 - resident has now duly cut back vegetation. Notices asking residents to cut back overhanging vegetation from pathways have been advertised in the parish magazine and facebook pages.

**Overhanging trees:** The overhanging trees and vegetation alongside Colchester Road near the Boat House reported – Ref 2929121. Tree application submitted by the Angling Club and parish council has responded with no objection. Waiting on BDC to grant permission.

**Village sign:** Boo Baxter has agreed to paint the post and surround in Spring 2025.

**ECC Winter saltbag scheme:** The free 1 tonne of salt from ECC has been received and stored safely. Nigel Norton checking all grit bins and will fill and keep topped up throughout the winter.

**Items reported on Highways reporting tool:** Damaged kerbs at The Paddocks reported – Ref 2931473. Damaged road signs at Colchester Road reported – Ref 29339426. Drain cover at Station Hill reported – Ref 2895767.

**Roadbridge:** Rotten deck board on footpath replaced with temporary boarding. Suffolk Highways has advised that the works for permanent deck boarding has been put back until summer 2025 when painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure will also be completed.

**Joint Emergency Plan:** Clerk has updated the plan and forwarded a copy to all interested parties.

**Bleed Kit:** Three bleed kits have been offered to the village by the Daniel Baird Foundation. Suitable sites being agreed and a 'Tell and Show' event planned for 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Rural Coffee Caravan:** The Clerk has been informed that the caravan will no longer visit Bures owing to a drop in demand for its services. Hopefully the caravan may return in 2025 when amicable dates and times for all parties can be agreed.

**Christmas Lights:** The lighting up event has been scheduled for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Lights to be installed around the village over two weekends in November. Extra lights and tree have been purchased. The lights to be extended up Station Hill this year. Thanks to Tracy Saer for organising the lights again.

**Memorial bench:** The family of the late Anne Underhill have asked to install a memorial bench at Wind Whistle Ridge. Landowner, Geoffrey Probert has agreed with the proviso that an amicable site can be found.

## 2.

**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.

**.gov.uk Domain Names & Emails:** Clerk continuing to keep abreast of the offers on .gov.uk Domain names and emails for parish councils. Still to be discussed further in the coming year.

**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](mailto:legal@ealc.gov.uk) Training calendar circulated to all members. Cllr Chambers attended Intro to Planning training and the Clerk attended a Crisis Communications training in October. Cllr Keeble-Fox attended a Protecting PROWs in November. Parish Council now able claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training. Claims awaiting payment.

**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/Police:** The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. Tammy Blest, North Essex Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator attended the October market. Suffolk and Essex Police Officers invited to attend the November and December Christmas markets. A supply of free items made available at the markets promoting NHW.

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

Safer Essex Roads Partnership raises awareness in local pubs of the perils of drink driving  
ECC Household Support Fund Allocation

ECC Essex ranked in top three most productive councils in the country

ECC is running sessions where parents and carers can access SEND information, advice and guidance

ECC Fund support for initiatives by local communities to improve safety in their areas via the Community Safety Initiatives Fund

ECC Additional £250K funding available for local foodbanks and voluntary groups

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

Notification of Governments announcement on remote meetings – consultation paper open  
Braintree Association of Local Councils minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Braintree DC Winter Fuel Allowance Guidance booklet

Information on DaRT 3 Service covering North East Braintree – to book call 0115 777 3187 or email [dart@central-connect.co.uk](mailto:dart@central-connect.co.uk)

Notification of temporary traffic closure at Hall Road on 6<sup>th</sup> January for 4 nights (8pm to 5am) for surface dressing programme – <https://one.network/?tm=140319765>

Notification of temporary traffic closure at Colchester Road on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for 2 nights for carriage patching - <https://one.network/?tm=1407579779>

Notification of temporary traffic closure of Hall Road/Chappel Road/Bures Road/Station Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> November for 11 nights for surface dressing programme - <https://one.network/?tm=140319765>

Funding information on the new Heritage Fund available via Dedham Vale National Landscapes  
Earls Colne NHP Regulation 16 Consultation

Details of Revelation Countryside training aimed at involving volunteers successfully – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 9.45am to 3.30pm at the Stowmarket Food Museum

BDC Planning Policy consultation to produce a new Design Code Supplementary Planning Doc  
Free electric blankets and support measures to Octopus Energy & Ovo vulnerable customers