

Clerk's Report – 18th November 2025 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 completed around village – CS/JPB. Station Hill cleared of leaves and debris and weed sprayed – CS. Water meadows field gate padlock removed to avoid further incidents of cutting through the boundary hedge – NN. Water Lane verge strimmed – JPB. Benches still to be revarnished. Edge of Station Hill garden still to be tarmaced - NN. FP7 damaged sign to be repaired – NN. Panel refixed back onto landing stage – NN.

Street Clean Agreement: The Street Clean Agreement Activity Report has been completed and returned to BDC. This is a requirement of the agreement.

Waste management: Dean Manning kindly moves out the trade waste bin on alternate Mondays for emptying by BDC. The waste is from the various waste bins in the parish emptied by JPB via his Parish Street Clean contract with the parish council.

Station Hill garden: A Microgrant application has been submitted to BDC for £950 to refresh the garden again with some new bedding plants, peat and an additional planter. Leaf fall has been cleared ready. Clerk revisiting the suggestion to tarmac over the end section of garden around the green telephone box as this area only attracts chickweed. An extra barrel planter has been ordered for Lamarsh Hill. To be bedded out by Bures In Bloom group and tended by a resident.

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.

Hedingham and Chambers: Hedingham and Chambers buses launched and branded as Konect buses Essex and Suffolk from June. New digital bus shelter screens installed at various locations around Essex.

Essex Knowle traders: The Thai food trader will be 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.

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. A further supply ordered to replace several which have rotted over the last winter.

Traffic Regulation: Parsonage Hill closed from 17th November for 5 days while Cadent undertakes new gas connection.

Riverbank at Millennium footpath: The damaged tree which fell recently along the footpath has kindly been cleared by volunteers at no cost to the parish council. The damaged willow trees now removed by Fordham Tree Surgeons. The willow trees are under their care 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. Clerk following up on the ownership.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Damaged kerbs at The Paddocks – Ref 2931473 – repaired. Damaged road signs at Colchester Road reported – Ref 29339426. Drain cover at Station Hill reported – Ref 2895767. Damaged road sign at Lamarsh Hill reported – Ref 2955380 – to be monitored. New road sign at Hall Road installed. Pavement for repair reported outside No. 16 The Paddocks – to be monitored. Damaged drain at River House reported – ref 2970019. Blocked drain at Parsonage Hill – reported Ref 4000557.

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.. From September training courses are being delivered through a network of regional training hubs located across the county.

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. The Clerk noted that the parish council is exempt from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

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. These will be available at the Saturday markets for residents.

NHW/Police: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. Essex County NW Association has reviewed its Safeguarding Policy.

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

ECC - Highways User Survey – closes 23rd November 2025

ECC – Raising awareness of domestic abuse in older people

ECC – Funding boost for community events promoting healthy lifestyles – grants offered

Notification of the Members Highways Initiative (MHI) – this gives every Essex County Councillor a dedicated Essex Highways crew to carry out repairs every few weeks

ECC -Three unitary council proposal backed by ECC Members

ECC – Residents asked to share their views on bus services in Essex

Essex – Keep up to date with Local Reorganisation LGR and your questions answered - see website – A stronger Greater Essex/Essex Local Government Reorganisation Hub

Information on ECC Highways – new road surfacing technology – use of graphene

Information on process to improve the county's road network – a tender to be published in the autumn enabling interested suppliers to submit their bids for maintenance and repair of Essex roads

ECC - Skills Bootcamps expand across Essex with guaranteed job interviews

ECC – Police Fire Crime Commissioner PFCC – have your say on funding

ECC – Apply now for 2026 primary school places

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

Braintree DC Slipper Swap events – various events around the district in November/December

Transport Engagement Meeting on 19th November at Chelmsford – **Cllr Welch to attend**

Safer Essex Roads Partnership – Driving with Confidence free courses available

RCCE information on Affordable Housing

Notification that the Development Consent Order (DCO) for Norwich to Tilbury has been accepted for examination

Information on The Major Housing Grant to install hot water or heating systems + repairs

Notification of new community messaging service for Suffolk Police – Suffolkconnected

Notification of BDC review of polling places within the district

Details of current position of the BDC Local Plan Review

Details of EALC Launch of Community Initiative Fund 2025/26 and Microgrants