

Clerk's Report – 18th January 2021 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Works completed: All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. JPB investigating Foamstream as an option to glyphosate. Weed removal at various locations in the parish. Sweeping in main centre of parish. Top and sides of hedge along Colchester Road flailed. Brambles along footpath leading from Ferriers Cottage footbridge trimmed back. Debris along Water Lane cleared. Carabiner clip for dog leads fixed on post beside dog waste bin at Station Hill. Damaged Water Line sign to be refixed. Flytipping at Colne Road cleared. Bridge strike at railway reported to Network Rail. Tree removed from river near spinney.

Thorn hedge at Normandie Way playarea: The Clerk and Cllr Baker had followed up with the neighbouring property who had requested the thorn hedge to be reduced in height and width. The quotation from JPB for £250 had been accepted and work completed. Follow up requested by the adjacent property owner – JPB revisited the site and further works completed.

Waste: Dean Manning kindly putting out the trade waste bin fortnightly at the Essex Knoll for emptying by BDC. Recycling from blue bin at Bures Common transferred to clear recycling sacks for a fortnightly collection by BDC. Systems to ease waste issues currently under control. Gary Vaughan kindly emptied dog waste bins over the Christmas period.

Sandbags: A stock of sandbags had been received and stored for use by residents on request.

Effluent at Ferriers Lane: The Environment Agency Officer had visited the site and dealt with the issue. No further complaints to date.

Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal (RFCC): The Clerk had completed the online survey regarding flood risk plans for the parish and details of emergency plans held.

Kerb and drains: Several damaged kerbs and broken drains in Normandie Way had been reported. Some agreed to be repaired and others to be monitored.

Ref Nos. 2677150/151/152.

Millennium gate and advisory notices: Signs to encourage visitors to close the gate for safety reasons have been ordered plus 3 signs advising no entry into the cow field

Highways Devolution: Quarterly reports being completed when requested. The requests for a new fingerpost at Fishpits Lane and another at Ravensfield Farm had been closed with no action to date. Clerk continuing to follow up with ECC Highways as these requests were made via the Devolution Scheme. Request for a new fingerpost at FP33 still ongoing – Ref 2680968. Waiting on approval to install the fingerposts to allow Locality Award claim to be submitted.

Road closures: Lamarsh Hill, Springetts Hill and Bell Hill – 25th January for 5 days – County Broadband installation works.

Request for Register of Electors: The Clerk has received the copy of the full Register of Electors from BDC for holding on file.

Census 2021: The census date is 23rd March 2021. Advertising via community engagement. The Clerk had advertised the information and date as widely as possible via facebook, NHW and email contacts.

BALC: The Chairman attended the EALC and BALC virtual meeting to discuss proposals to reform the Braintree Association of Local Councils. The meeting was attended by over 25 Parish and Town Councils and Chaired by Peter Davey, Chairman of EALC. A task and finish group set up to move the initiative forward.

Funding Grants update: NALC Funding Bulletin circulated and information held on file. Details of other grants available – BDC Councillors Community Grant, National Lottery Community Fund, Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme, Magic Little Grants, ECC Community Initiative Fund (CIF) 2021.

Training: The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Clerk attended the Health & Wellbeing Virtual Conference on 26th November run by EALC. Health & Wellbeing Free District Forums being held for Members and Clerks during February and March. Clerk and Cllr Baker to attend the BDC Housing and Homeless briefings later in the year. Clerk and Cllr Ellis to attend the Climate Crisis Conference on 28th January. Cllr Jackson to give a presentation at the Conference. Cllrs Baker, Monk and Shackell to attend the EALC planning briefings in January.

Snippets page: This had recommenced with a snippet page included in future parish magazines. The magazine Editor encouraged the parish council to submit articles of interest.

Government guidance on Coronavirus: All information received has been circulated as widely as possible. Extremely good response from local residents regarding request for laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to Covid-19 restrictions.. Volunteers needed to support local Covid-19 vaccination programme –

<https://eput.nhs.uk/vaccine-recruitment>

Vulnerable persons: The Clerk had made all members aware that an Emergency Plan and a Vulnerable Persons plan were held as Case Sensitive for when emergency action was required within the village. The Vulnerable Persons plan was now active during the continuing Coronavirus restrictions. Grants available for groups to support the vulnerable – ECC Lockdown Support Fund – applications to be submitted 14th January to 5th February.

NHW: The Clerk continued to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Thefts from sheds in the district remained a concern. Cyber & Fraud Protect messages advertised on the facebook pages. Beware Fake Text re Covid 19 tests and vaccinations.

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

Cllr Finch Parish Update December 2020

Essex Climate Action Commission report

ECC Floods update December 2020 – includes its response to Essex Climate Action Commission recommendations

ECC Public Notice (District of Braintree) Covid-19 E-Scooter trial 2021

Essex Rural Partnership month bulletin January 2021

NALC PC13-20 Standards Matter 2 – Public Consultation

AONB Newsletters November, December and January.

Thank you letter from Community Centre Management Committee for the BHPC donation to the recent emergency repairs for the centre

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

