

Clerk's Report – 19th January 2026 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. Benches still to be revarnished. Edge of Station Hill garden still to be tarmaced – NN, FP7 damaged sign to be repaired – NN. Cutting of grassed area at Bures Station – JPB.

Street Clean Agreement: The Street Clean Agreement Activity Report has been completed and returned to BDC. This is a requirement of the agreement. Parish Council to confirm continuing with the BDC Street Clean Agreement for 2026-27.

Waste management: Matt Ward 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 £950 BDC Microgrant application has been successful. This will enable the garden to be refreshed 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.

Bures Speedwatch: Following the disbandment of the team, the Clerk forwarded a letter of thanks on behalf of the parish council to Cllr Aries to express appreciation for all the hardwork and valued efforts over the past years.

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.

Essex Knowle traders: The Thai food trader is 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. Some gritting has been done in early January.

Riverbank at Millennium footpath: The willow trees are under the care of R Fordham Tree Surgeons 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.

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. 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. Ref 4006093 – request for Bridleway signage at Bakers Hall.

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. New training E-bulletin 2026-27 calendar circulated to members.

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. 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. Six monthly newsletter ready for circulating In January/February.

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

ECC – Stanstead Airport expansion set to help Essex. ECC welcomes news that Uttlesford District Council has granted planning permission to expand Stanstead Airport

ECC – Essex secure over £68m in government funding to support and improve bus services across the county over the coming years

ECC – Travel Essex - integrated passenger transport delivers across Essex – Travel Essex Website is an excellent point of reference

ECC – Highways £300,000 winter damage repair plan launched

ECC – Statement on provisional Local Government Finance Settlement December 2025

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

Details of the launch of Council/Wise Training and Support, a new company dedicated to delivering high quality and innovative training and ongoing support to parish and town councils, their staff and members

Transport meeting update and feedback – presentation slides available

Notification of Colchester Local Plan Preferred Options Regulation 18 Consultation - 26th November to 14th January 2026

Details of Anglian Water's Thriving Communities fund offering grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to support projects that are focussed on the water environment whilst also delivering social benefits

Notification of the launch event of the Stour Power Community Benefit Society – Thursday, 29th January 7pm to 9pm at Sudbury Arts Centre