

## Clerk's Report – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 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.

Contractor using New Way weed spray. Grasscuttings being collected at river bank and Normandie Way playarea at each cut - JPB. Bus shelters cleaned, Bench at riverbank to be cleaned in the spring. Noticeboard to be revarnished. FP30 trimmed back – Cllr Keeble-Fox.

**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 leaf fall. Grant monies still remaining to meet the costs of the spring bedding and leaf clearance.

**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:** Damaged sign repaired.

**Damaged bollard:** Damaged bollard at the Colchester Road Millennium gate entrance reported – Ref 2943732 – ECC confirmed this would be monitored – Clerk arranged for the damaged bollard to be removed and the area to be filled by the contractor to prevent a trip hazard.

**Lamp bollard:** Parish contractors A & J Lighting have repaired the lamp bollard. They have also completed their annual maintenance agreement for all parish lights.

**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.

**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 plus noticeboard.

**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. Approval given.

**Village sign:** Kevin 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 has checked and topped all grit bins for the coming winter.

**Bus shelter licences:** Passenger Transport has requested that all Parish Council owned bus shelters located on Highway land should be properly licenced. The Clerk gained support from Cllr Schwier and a licence for each Colchester Road bus shelter has been submitted.

**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. Damaged road sign at at Lamarsh Hill reported – Ref 2955380.

**Parked vehicle at Station Hill:** Cllr Welch has reported this vehicle to Essex Police as it has no MOT. Patrol officers to follow up.

**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.

**Bleed Kits:** Three bleed kits have been donated to the village by the Daniel Baird Foundation. Suitable sites being agreed and a 'Tell and Show' event being planned.

**Anglian Water Community Outreach:** Jessica Bell Customer Engagement Co-ordinator for Anglian Water has agreed to attend the Saturday market in May to promote exploring ways of saving water for our residents. The Clerk has received a number of money saving items to offer free of charge to residents and visitors attending the markets.

**Christmas Lights:** The lighting up event held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November was once again a huge success and appreciated by both residents and visitors to the village. A grateful thanks to Tracy Saer for organising the event once again this season.

**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) 2025 Training calendar circulated to all members. The parish council now able to claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training.

**SLCC:** Society of Local Council Clerks Membership renewed for 2025.

**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. Suffolk and Essex Police Officers attended the December Christmas market. A supply of free items made available at the November and December markets promoting NHW. Six monthly newsletter January to June 2025 being distributed by volunteers.

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

ECC The future of Essex – ECC Councillors to debate on Essex's participation in the Government's devolution priority programme including local government reorganisation.

Information on ECC new flood grant

Consultation on connecting Essex through cycling and walking

ECC Autumn Climate Summit held with key theme to explore benefits of new net zero carbon homes

Carers' Rights Day held on 21<sup>st</sup> November – national campaign aimed to raise awareness of carers' rights and signpost to information and guidance

ECC Sustainable travel prioritised during 2024 bringing wide-ranging benefits for Essex

ECC Highways Report It Tool streamlined for easier reporting

New method to drain high water levels is being trialled by Essex Highways to combat seasonal flooding in rural parts of the county

ECC Commissioner's engage with Essex communities to transform public service outcomes

ECC third Climate Action Annual Report is now available along with the ECC Climate Action Plan

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

Information on T.A.P.S a local registered charity helping to fund travel expenses to and from medical appointments for families with children aged 0 to 18 years needing medical/clinical visits.

Information on AgeWell East giving advice and welfare support for people aged over 60 years

Notice of the Adoption of Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils Housing Supplementary Planning Document and Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming SPD

Transport Meeting Drop-in Session meeting notes giving information on local transport matters

Information on National Landscapes Community Grants update

Details of event training for Community Volunteers as part of the Wilder Together Stour Valley partnership

Details of the English Devolution White Paper published on 16<sup>th</sup> December

SLCC Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England Government Consultation

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan update to review the plan