

Clerk's Report – 20.03.2023 Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Works completed or in hand: All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. JPB Landscapes contracted until 31st March 2024. Costs to be held until that date. Contractor trialling New Way weedspray. Sweeping in main centre of parish ongoing. Leaffall and weed clearance ongoing. Bus shelters cleaned owing to the discovery of human faeces. The Clerk had been informed of a second incidence and therefore has asked residents to be vigilant and report any concerns to her. Weeds at bus shelter cleared. Mastic to be renewed on the riverbank display board.

Station Hill garden: A UK Shared Prosperity Community Gardens Fund grant has been submitted to BDC for £5,000. The grant to cover costs for a rainwater harvester and cabinet, guttering, various gardening tools, plants, soil, 2 benches and illustrated noticeboard.

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.

Station Hill footpath: ECC works order raised for the repair of the damage to the footpath from the tree roots. No scheduled date for the repair.

ECC Salt Bag Scheme: Some gritting done in the parish – Station Hill and Lamarsh Hill bungalows. Contractor has replenished all the grit bins. No stored grit left for this season. Request for a new grit bin to be placed at Tenterfield referred to the estate's Management Group.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Flytipping at Colne Road layby BDC Ref 191282. Damaged sign at junction of Pebmarsh Road and Fishpits – Ref 2762026 – ECC following up. Kerb opposite New Cut reported – Ref 2770305 – ECC to monitor. Drain cover at Lamarsh Hill – Ref 2790492 – repaired. Street light No.11 The Paddocks not working – reported. Drain cover at Pebmarsh Road repaired. 2 no. streetlights in Parsonage Grove – light heads changed to new eco-friendly/ directional lighting. Blocked drain at Colne Road – Ref 282390. Road lining, dropped lay by edge and badger bank at Colne Road layby – Ref 2826399.

Roadbridge: SCC has installed protection barriers across the damaged railings temporarily until a works order to close the road can be put in place to do the repairs. Painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure scheduled for next summer.

Retail users at Essex Knowle; The Clerk has been following up on the members decision to raise hire contracts for users of the Essex Knowle. It is noted that the parish council is reimbursed 50% of the trade waste bin costs from BCLT annually. The current fish & chip retailer often does not arrive on the agreed day owing to van maintenance issues. The Clerk has currently put this matter on hold until this extra information has been discussed by members.

Telephone box re-paint: Clerk is seeking a quotation to re-paint the outside of the telephone box at Station Hill. In hand.

Waste: To review the need for a further seasonal trade waste bin in spring 2023. BDC Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee has held a Scrutiny Review into litter management across the Braintree District – Clerk has circulated her response to all members. Still waiting on a report of the review.

Penlan telephone mast: Clerk and Tree Warden monitoring the implications of the proposed new telephone mast at Penlan. Removal of trees may be required to install the mast and therefore a planning application may be required by Cellnex.

Training: The training record has been updated and can be found on the parish council website. The EALC training calendar 2023 received.

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.

Vulnerable Persons: The Clerk has signed up with Streetlink which monitors the homeless across the district. BDC Handyman Service for elderly and vulnerable owner occupiers and private residents - details available from the Clerk.

NHW: The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website.

Donation requests: Members had previously agreed not to offer donations to charitable requests this financial year owing to the Council's financial situation. The Clerk has informed those charities who had put forward requests during the year of this decision.

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

ECC Landowners urged to keep on top of vegetation maintenance with ditches and low hanging trees near roads cleared and cut back.

Essex Cheaper bus travel scheme for Essex passengers extended to end of June – Bus Cap Fare - £2 for an adult single fare on routes operated by bus firms opted into the scheme

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

NALC Legal Topic Note 39 - Copyright

NALC Legal Topic Note 60 – Copies of Planning Documents

Notification of Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2023-24

Guidance on protocol for pre-application meetings for major developments

EALC The Men's Shed Programme

Bus fares on ECC supported services in Essex set to rise by 5.9% from 1st April 2023

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council