

## **Clerk's Report – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2026 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Works completed or in hand:** All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. No grass cutting completed in August. Recommence late September. JPB Landscapes re-contracted until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. Sweeping and weedspraying completed throughout village – CS. Station Hill weedsprayed – CS. 4 Benches still to be re-varnished when weather suitable – R White. Edge of Station Hill garden still to be tarmaced when weather suitable – NN. Lifebelt covers to be cleaned – NN. Grasscutting at Station now being done – JPB. Damaged Water Lane sign now missing but if found will be repaired – NN.. Splays to be trimmed alongside No. 18 Cambridge Way and to be included in JPB's contract. Also small sections of highway land at Normandie Way leading to Cambridge Way to be included in JPB's contract. Ditches behind Beautiful You to be cleared in the autumn. Normandie Way sign to be repaired by BDC – Ref 1342337. Two fallen trees in river near Rookery cleared by Adam and Lee Norton. Have now cleared all trees along that section which were vulnerable to falling into the river. Hedge adjoining the Normandie Way playing area now reverted back to JPB for maintaining as new owner in adjacent property. Fencing and rails along Millennium footpath damaged – NN to repair.

**Waste management:** Matt Ward kindly moves out the trade waste bin on alternate Mondays. A second trade waste bin has been delivered to stand at Essex Knowle for the summer months. Costs to be shared between the parish council and BCLT.

**Station Hill garden:** Clerk has asked the contractor to tarmac over the end section of garden around the green telephone box as this area only attracts chickweed. The garden has suffered severely during the recent drought. Several plants have been cut back to base to hopefully encourage autumn growth with ground dug and weeded. Members to consider if remaining grant from Cllr Holland can be used to replenish planting for the autumn. This is an agenda item.

**Lamarsh Hill closure:** Closure due to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> September for 3 days to enable Openreach to undertake cabling.

**Telephone kiosk:** Teenagers have been urinating in the telephone kiosk. Complaints received. Contractor Charlie Series to wash out the kiosk and the adjoining pavement. The kiosk remains under BT management and is registered as a Grade 2 listed building.

**DaRT 3:** DigiGo has expanded into the area from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026 replacing the existing DaRT contracts. DigiGo is Essex County Council's flexible, on demand public transport service with no fixed routes or timetables. Advertising in hand.

**Greater Anglia works:** Notification has been received of the planned closure at Bures Station from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> November to allow works to the platform to proceed. There will be no trains running and the station including the carpark will be closed.

**Cricket Club:** A Microsoft Teams meeting to be held to discuss the Cricket Club's CIL bid for funding to rebuild the Cricket Pavilion. A revised 25 year lease has been signed between the Cricket Club and the two parish councils showing where the new pavilion will stand.

**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.

**Nayland First Responders:** Two Nayland First Responders have moved into the village and will be continuing their volunteering to include Bures. They are looking to recruit more volunteers. New advertising material in noticeboard. Basic First Responder sessions being arranged for September in the Community Centre. To be advertised.

**Eastlight annual grounds maintenance:** The Clerk continues to follow up with Eastlight Housing on the 2026/27 Grounds Maintenance Agreement which is up for renewal.

**Grit & Sandbags:** The Clerk completed the Salt Partnership Scheme request form. 1 tonne of grit has been ordered for the coming winter. A supply of sandbags is stored in the village for those residents in need.

**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:**

Drain cover at Station Hill reported – Ref 2895767. Blocked drain at River House reported – Ref 2970019. Blocked drain at Parsonage Hill – reported Ref 4000557 Request for Bridleway signage at Bakers Hall - Ref 4006093. Blocked drain at The Paddocks junction reported – Ref 4021192 – repaired. Pothole at bottom of Parsonage Hill reported – Ref 4037005 – repaired . Pothole at Water Lane triangle repaired. Damaged lamppost at Station carpark – Ref 4041538. Hedge at Colchester Road, Ref 404438.- ECC not following up. Pathway repair at Colchester Road.

**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](mailto:legal@ealc.gov.uk) The parish council now able to claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training. Training courses are now being delivered through a network of regional training hubs located across the county. New training E-bulletin 2026-27 calendar circulated to members. Cllr Child and the Clerk to attend a Zoom NALC training event entitled New Generation Leadership in October.

Tree Warden training – Nigel Norton has been booked onto a Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**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. From 2026 the meetings will be reduced to twice yearly. The February meeting highlighted the forthcoming Devolution.

**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 circulated. Police contact James Draper has moved on and has advised the Clerk to contact Sgt Kevin Mayle for future police matters. Several residents have joined the scheme recently.

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

Notice of the EALC AGM to be held via Zoom on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 7 – 9pm

Details of the 2026 Dedham Vale Form – free event to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Firstsite

Details of the AGAR Digital Portal – Clerk has noted and has logged in to update information

Bramford to Twinstead project September update

Information on pending changes for Smaller Authorities Proper Practices

Digital Health and Care Survey