

Clerk's Report – 21st November 2016 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Buckingham Palace Garden Party Award: Following the Clerk's nomination to EALC for Chairman Cllr David Lee to be considered for the award it is with great pleasure to advise that David has been chosen as Parish & Town Council Chairman to represent Essex Councils in 2017. The Award nomination is chosen by the EALC Team via a points system and a 50 written word expression. Cllr Lee and the Clerk had attended the Award's Ceremony.

Grounds maintenance: Works completed: Waste bins emptied as required. All grassed areas cut as per grounds maintenance contract. Gutters and paths swept at station, Station Hill, Water Lane and outside Swan PH area. Colchester Road verges flailed on both sides. Ivy cleared along road boundary wall of Maltings Close. Leaves cleared from Bridge Street and along Secretaries wall.

Work in hand: 3 lifebelts to be cleaned. Leaf fall clearance.

Village sign bedding: Neil Haswell had replanted the circular bed with winter pansies. All maintenance costs held as previous year, £81 which included plants, labour and soil.

Channel sweeping: The Clerk had advertised the BDC Channel Sweeping dates for the coming year, 29th December 2016, 31st March, 6th July and 6th October 2017.

Recycling centre at Swan PH: The recycling centre had now been re-situated outside the 8 Bells PH near the sign. A letter of thanks had been sent to Willie Amos for agreeing to the recycling centre being placed within his land boundary.

Bus timetables: Two up to date timetables now in place in the bus shelters at Colchester Road.

Rural Services Survey: As part of the Local Plan the District Council is required to undertake a rural services survey. The Clerk had forwarded the details to the Planning Officer stating the services within the village as a whole.

ECC Improved Highways reporting and tracking tool: This can be accessed via www.essex.gov.uk/highways.

Electoral Register 2016/17: The Clerk had requested to receive the Electoral Register with usage to be confined to parish matters only and access to be strictly controlled by the Clerk to ensure that the confidentiality of the data contained therein will be maintained.

Parish Street Lighting: A & J Lighting Solutions had completed the annual maintenance plan for 2016-17 and details had been circulated to all members.

Normandie Way play area fencing: Wiring had been looped together to prevent the damage increasing.

Cambridge Way hedge: Although assurances had been given from the Estates Manager that the maintenance of the boundary hedge at No.18 would be completed by Circle Anglia contractors this work had not been done. Clerk continuing to follow up with the Estate Manager.

Millennium Bridge clean: Still to be cleaned. Community Payback Scheme to be asked to do when working at the sportsground early December.

The Paddocks line painting: Following the parish council's request to the Essex Parking Partnership this work had now been completed.

Allotments: The Clerk had followed up on a number of requests for one of the vacant unkempt allotments to be cleared as this was creating a health nuisance. She had gained some interest from the village for persons to take over the problem allotment and had forwarded the details to the Allotment Manager.

Defibrillators: Following on from the successful defibrillator demonstration early in November the Clerk had obtained information for members to discuss whether a second defibrillator could be considered for the Essex side of the village.

Rough Sleepers in the District: The 16th November had been designated as the date for BDC to estimate the number of those sleeping rough in the district. A nil return for Burs Hamlet had been forwarded to the Housing Options Team.

County Broadband meeting: James Salmon of County Broadband had advised the Clerk that he was still following up with those residents who had shown an interest at the meeting in June. However he was unsure whether County Broadband would be brought to Bures Hamlet as a much greater interest was needed than already shown.

EALC Annual Conference: The Clerk had attended the Police Conference at Great Dunmow on 22nd September with presentations from Leader of ECC, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable given.

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

Details of the Insurance Act 2015 coming into effect on 12th August 2016 – circulated.

Information on Safe Speed – Community Road Safety System – circulated.

Information on ECC Highways Practice Note – Temporary closure of flooded roads – circulated.

Details of the EALC Facebook Training Page – Chairman, Councillors and Clerk invited to request access to the page – circulated.

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council