

Clerk's Report – 30th September 2024 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. Replacement dog waste bin installed at the Paddocks to Normandie Way footpath – N Norton. Strimming along the footpath from the Paddocks completed. Strimming at front area of Station carpark and NHW sign cleaned – Cllr Keeble-Fox. Weed spraying around the village – C Series. Parsonage Hill verges strimmed. FP33 Mount Bures vegetation cut back and footpath mown – N Norton. Ferriers Lane to be tidied and overhang cut back in the autumn by the landowner. Nettles cleared along FP7.- Cllr Keeble-Fox. Grasscuttings to be collected at river bank and Normandie Way playarea when cut - JPB. Letters sent to Lamarsh Hill bungalow residents to move vehicles while strimming takes place in September.

Dog waste bag dispenser: Should we encourage dog owners to provide their own bags? Posters by Primary School to be followed up.

Controlled waste transfer note: BDC 2024/25 transfer note duly signed and returned.

Station Hill garden: Grant to be fully spent by 31st March 2025. Nigel Norton watering with the trolley mounted waterer purchased from the grant as and when needed. Shed also purchased from grant for storing trolley. Looking at if best to shingle end section behind the broadband green box.

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.

Bench: One bench along the riverbank has been removed due to safety reasons. This has been replaced with an old picnic bench for the time being. To monitor.

Water Lane sign: The sign has been damaged. An order has been placed with BDC Street Scene.

Vegetation issues: ECC Ref Report No.2939371 – overgrowth at FP30 being investigated. Signs not visible. Cllr Keeble-Fox to post notices in the local retailers and hand out leaflets at the market asking residents to keep their boundary vegetation cut back.

Overhanging trees: The overhanging trees and vegetation alongside Colchester Road near the Boat House have been reported to ECC Highways for action – Ref 2929121. The Angling Club advised that the trees are their responsibility. The Clerk has also forwarded photos of the trees within the area of land next to the Millennium footpath to the Angling Club who are applying for a Tree application as it is within a Conservation Area.

Market signage: Cllr Jackson in her role as Secretary of the Bures Common Land Trust has kindly followed up on the parking issues when the monthly Markets take place. Signs will now be placed in strategic points in the village advising visitors to park at the Station with their parking fees being refunded by the Trust if presented on the day.

Street lighting: The annual street lighting check has been completed by A & J Lighting. All lamps cleaned and in good order. It has been brought to the Clerk's attention that the LED light installed at the Lamarsh Hill bungalows continues to give poor visibility for the residents when parking their vehicles during the darker evenings. This will be followed up with Eastlight Homes Housing Association.

Village sign: Boo Baxter has agreed to paint the post and surround in Spring 2025.

ECC Winter saltbag scheme: The Clerk has completed the application for the parish council to receive the free 1 tonne of salt from ECC for this coming winter.

ECC Service Level Agreement: The 2024 SLA for ECC footpaths has been completed for the season and grant request payment submitted.

Footpaths 7: Notification received of an application to provide a temporary diversion for FP7 whilst construction work on a new building commences alongside the footpath in mid September.

Ferriers Pit: Clerk, Cllr Keeble-Fox, Cllr Aries and the Clerk have met to revisit the suggestion of restoring Footpath 3 and extinguishing Footpaths 1 and 4. It has since come to light that these are legally stopped up footpaths. Further discussions with the landowner required.

Footpath 30 Temporary Closure: FP30 between The Paddocks and Normandie Way now opened and works completed. Overgrown vegetation cleared.

Flytipping: Flytipping at Colne Road layby reported and cleared – Ref 593299.

Items reported on Highways reporting tool: Kerb opposite New Cut reported – Ref 2770305 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Parsonage Hall entrance – Ref 2846792 – ECC to monitor. Drain at Ferriers Lane entrance Ref 2846772 – ECC monitoring. Poor road surface at Station Hill reported - Ref 2936117. Pot hole at Parsonage Hill reported – Ref 2930514.

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.

Joint Emergency Plan: Clerk has updated the plan and forwarded a copy to all interested parties.

Bleed Kit: Cllr Schwier has added Bures to his list for a Bleed Kit.

Rural Coffee Caravan: The caravan visited the Common Barn over the summer months The caravan needs to remain supported as many other villages are waiting to be scheduled on the rota. C360 Mobile Hub also visited Bures in August.

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 Training calendar circulated to all members. Cllr Chambers to attend Intro to Planning in October. The Clerk to attend a Crisis Communications webinar later in the year. Cllr Keeble-Fox to attend Protecting PROWs in November. Parish Council now able claim 75% EALC training bursaries for both Clerk and Councillor training.

BSMPC is looking at training for Scribe software to help Clerk's manage accounts and cemetery mapping more efficiently and securely. Clerk will follow up with BSMPC.

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. Tammy Blest, North Essex Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator to attend the October market. NHW Co-ordinators for Bures and nearby parishes attended the September market along with Suffolk and Essex Police Officers. A supply of free items were made available at the market promoting NHW.

Messages of interest via Cllr Schwier – all circulated, advertised and details held on file:
ECC – Priority One £25m boost to help change the face of Essex's road network
Public consultation launched on the Essex Transport Strategy formerly known as the Local Transport Plan

The Essex Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) is now open and offering grants up to £10,000

ECC remains opposed to pylons proposal for the Norwich to Tilbury route

Essex Record Office to receive £60,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to create a project 'Open the Box: Connecting Communities Through Archives'.

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ECC adopts a new Waste Strategy for Essex

ECC Rigid plastic recycling scheme – listed available sites in the area

ECC - Environmental skills made more accessible as Green economy grows in Essex info

ECC - an extra discount on compost bins is available to Essex residents throughout September

ECC – County helps Essex homeowners upgrade heating ahead of winter

ECC information on ditches to help clarify responsibilities and associated maintenance

ECC – Details of ambitious Essex Business Summit – Wednesday 9th October at Hylands House

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

Braintree District transport June/July meeting notes

Notification that Arrow Taxis and Essex & Suffolk DaRT have ceased trading which affects the DaRT 3 Braintree North route. To be taken over by Flagfinders (CTB) .

Notification of Campaign supported by NALC & SLCC re safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal – Parish Council has given it's support to the campaign.

Notification that on 1st January 2026, historical routes in England that aren't properly recorded will be lost. Volunteers being sought to help identify and register these routes

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document

Braintree DC Local Plan consultation – Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

