

## Clerk's Report – 16.05.2024 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. Wooden tether on landing stage to be repaired. Essex Knowle bench to be re-oiled. Weeds to be cleared at Station Hill. Litter bin at Colchester Road in need of repair

**Station Hill garden:** Weed and leaf clearance done. Moss cleared. Spring bedding purchased and being planted for Open Gardens weekend.. The Community Gardens Project Progress Report has been submitted to BDC as required under the terms of its grant offer.

**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 lights:** 2 LED wall lights purchased to replace damaged lights. Still to be fixed in place.

**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 ROW Service Level Agreement:** The Clerk has signed and returned the 2024 agreement for cutting the Public Rights of Way to the PROW Lead Officer. ECC to contribute a sum of £435.73 for works undertaken by the parish contractor. FP16 to be cut back this month.

**Ferriers Pit:** Clerk, Cllr Keeble-Fox and Cllr Aries to meet to revisit the suggestion of restoring Footpath 3 and extinguishing Footpaths 1 and 4. ECC to be included if the suggestion is moved forward.

**Footpath 30 Temporary Closure:** FP30 between The Paddocks and Normandie Way to be closed temporarily for installation of a new HV cable. The Order commences 24<sup>th</sup> June and remains in force until works completed.

**Colne Road Temporary Closure:** Intended closure scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**Jubilee Grove:** 3 new benches installed. Information board being designed. The benches to be gifted to the parish council and shown the Asset Register.

**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. Pothole at Station Hill repaired.

**Roadbridge:** Rotten deck board on footpath replaced with temporary boarding. Suffolk Highways has advised that permanent deck boarding is scheduled for this summer when painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure will be completed.

**Supporting Hedgehogs:** Cllr Keeble-Fox attended a webinar on hedgehogs in the community. Suggestions given for liaising with schools and residents to encourage supporting hedgehogs.

**Rural Coffee Caravan:** The caravan visited the Common Barn on four dates over the winter and spring. Next date for the summer is 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2 – 4pm at Bures Common. All welcome.

**Free portrait of His Majesty the King:** The Clerk ordered 2 free portraits via a Government scheme on behalf of BCLT and Bures Community Centre Management Group. Received and in storage for display at suitable events.

**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) Training calendar circulated to all members. Cllr Chambers to attend Councillor Training in June and 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.

**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. The Clerk and Cllr Aries attended the BDC NHW AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2.15pm at Maurice Rowson Hall. Guest Speaker – Essex Police Superintendent Naomi Edwards. Naomi speciality is Hate Crime, ASB and Prevent. Very informative meeting. Tammy Blest, North Essex Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator has agreed to attend the September monthly market.

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

Information on the ECC Climate and Planning Unit (CaPU) to drive forward net zero and sustainable development in the county

ECO4 Flex and the Great British Insulation Scheme Flex (GBIS) are being offered by ECC through Better Housing Better Health to help improve energy inefficient properties

Essex Highways calling on landowners to keep on top of vegetation maintenance

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

Request from Gosfield School to erect advertising boards for its summer fete. 2 boards agreed.

Nominations open for the Robert Erith National Landscape Award

NALC Practitioners Guide 2024 Changes

Notification of Trail running event scheduled through Bures on August 3rd

ECC Local Highway Panel Criteria

BDC Local Plan Review 2033 – extended to 2041 plus Call for Sites

Details of Raising Awareness for the Digital Phone Line Switch

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council