

Bures Hamlet Parish Council Environment Policy

1. Purpose

To promote and ensure appropriate consideration is given to the environment whilst Bures Hamlet Parish Council and its employees or contractors are conducting its business and activities. In order to do this, the Parish Council needs to take responsibility for its actions and need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

2. Scope

All employees, contractors, those receiving grant funding from the Parish Council and users of Parish Council owned resources (land and buildings). This document also has a bearing on those with delegated authority to purchase materials and or goods from suppliers and to instruct/employ contractors to undertake various types of work with or on behalf of Council; as these third party activities can have a direct impact on the environment.

3. Policy Statement

Bures Hamlet Parish Council is committed to protecting and maintaining the quality of the environment by managing its land and properties and carrying out its services in an environmentally sensitive way where this is practicable. It recognises the growing importance of environmental considerations and will promote the concepts of sustainable development. Sustainable development is about 'meeting the needs of today's society without compromising future generation's ability to meet their own needs'.

The Parish Council believes it has a responsibility to care for and protect the environment in which it operates. It is fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of its activities, and will encourage our delivery partners and members of the wider community to join us in this effort.

Bures Hamlet Parish Council has signed up to the Friends of the Earth 20 Actions for Parish Councils on the Climate and Nature Emergency and to the Tree Charter.

Bures recognises its key impacts to be in the areas of:

energy use, raw material use, waste generation, emissions to air/water, water use, transport, procurement

It will strive to:

- Adopt the highest environmental standards in all areas of operation, meeting and exceeding all relevant legislative requirements.
- Assess its activities and identify areas where it can minimise impacts.
- Minimise waste through careful and efficient use of all materials and energy.
- Purchase sustainable products wherever feasible [e.g. recycled, FSC or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources].
- Publicise its environmental position.

- Ensure contractors use good environmental practice and encourage involvement in environmental action.
- Reduce risks from environmental, health or safety hazards for parishioners.
- Adopt an environmentally sound transport strategy.
- Aim to include environmental and ethical considerations in purchasing decisions where appropriate.
- Assist in developing solutions to environmental problems.
- Continually assess the environmental impact of all our operations.

Bures Hamlet Parish Council supports Braintree District Council's Environment Policy and the aspirations of Essex County Council in regard to Climate Change.

4. Energy

The Parish Council will reduce the amount of energy and water it uses by careful housekeeping and where possible use energy from sustainable sources.

5. Paper

The Parish Council will reduce the amount of paper it uses by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of the paper whenever possible
- Filing photocopies for use at a later date if appropriate
- Sending information electronically where appropriate
- Buying paper that is environmentally friendly

Any paper that cannot be re-used will be recycled

6. Purchasing & Contracts

Where possible and practicable Bures Hamlet Parish Council will purchase its goods and services from local suppliers who share the Council's environmental viewpoint:

- Purchase and use products, which have been manufactured from recycled materials and can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way.
- Use contractors (as and when required) who share the Council's environmental objectives or when working for the Council, adopt equivalent environmental standards.

7. Waste Disposal

Council (and contractors) will aim to reduce the amount of waste produced and where practicable recycle/re-use so reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill.

Bures Hamlet Parish Council fully supports Braintree District Council's recycling door step/kerbside collection scheme and will support and promote recycling facilities within the Parish.

All other forms of green waste collected (where practicable) will be recycled through Composters and turned into a garden mulch/soil for use in Council maintained areas.

8. Management and Maintenance

Bures Hamlet Parish Council (or council contractors) will:

- Only use Glyphosate in the management of weeds if absolutely necessary in line with Essex County Council's revised policy on the use of glyphosphates.
- Compost and shred green waste and not use burning
- Routinely service and maintain equipment to ensure efficient operation.

9. Transport

Council will liaise with the County Council and other relevant bodies in embracing all initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of, and improvements to, the public transport infrastructure. This will include schemes aimed at increasing the number of people who walk or cycle to work/school and the use of public footpaths for pedestrians and the less able bodied people to use and enjoy.

10. Litter & Dog Fouling

The Council will actively seek to discourage all forms of littering in particular Dog Fouling. Any incidents brought to the Council's attention will be investigated and reported to the relevant authorities.

11. Natural & Historic Environment

Bures Hamlet Parish Council will work to protect, enhance and preserve the natural environment within the Parish for today's and future generation's enjoyment.

12. Building & Development

Bures Hamlet Parish Council will support National and District Council Planning Policy managing the impact of development on the local natural and historic environment.

13. Adherence to Policy

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to notify and provide copies of this policy to contractors and councillors.

14. Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2023 to ensure that it is in line with the Bures Neighbourhood Plan.

Adopted September 2022 – reviewed 21st September 2026
Next review – September 2027