

12th May 2014 Bures Hamlet Parish Council Clerk's Report

Grounds maintenance: All waste bins had been emptied and dog waste bins checked and emptied as necessary. Dog waste bag dispensers now remaining empty as agreed at last parish council meeting. All grasscutting and strimming completed as per contractor's agreement under BDC and Greenfields. Banks under the railway bridge strimmed. Footpath along to Maltings Close weedkilled and swept. Water Lane verges strimmed. Following a request from No. 35 The Paddocks, the Clerk had arranged for that section of path and road to be swept owing to a drainage flood. Other Items in hand: Nettles to be strimmed around fenceline along the Millennium footpath. Bridge Street to be swept. All lifebelt casings to be cleaned.

Mrs Kate Butler had asked the Clerk if she could arrange for the build up of soil along the White House wall in Water Lane to be cleared to allow the drains to be visible and thus allow excess surface water to flow away. Clerk had written to the Highway Rangers to investigate and also contacted Chris Mortimer for a quotation for the work.

Essex Wide Litter Campaign: This was a county wide campaign running from 2nd June to the end of July. BDC had joined forces with ECC, all Essex Local Authorities, all Essex McDonalds, KFC and Dominos restaurants, Highways Agency and Keep Britain Tidy to deliver an Essex wide litter campaign. All parishes asked to join in on 14th June to litter pick their area.

Brooks Newmark MP: Brooks was keen to be involved in parish events and requested the parish council to forward him any event details that he could attend. Circulated to all members for comment.

Greenfields Estate visits: Mark Garnham, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator was to visit Lamarsh Hill bungalows and Woolpit Downs on Tuesday 15th July at 1.00pm.

Closure of Recycling Centres: The Clerk had received clarification from BDC that whilst ECC is reviewing the future of recycling centres for household waste, no proposals had been developed or decisions taken. ECC to ensure full and open consultation with partners would follow in 2015.

Giant Hogweed: The Clerk had received notification from the Environment Agency of findings of Giant Hogweed in the river near Nether Hall. Information circulated to all members of both parish councils.

Bottle banks: At the request of the Clerk the two bottle banks on the Essex side of the village had been cleared prior to the Bank Holiday. The Operations Team had apologised for the delay in clearing which had been due to Easter and shortage of manpower.

Street Cleaning Agreements: Both sets of paperwork for the agreements with Greenfield Housing and also Braintree District Council had been duly signed and returned including copies of Chris Mortimer Grounds Maintenance insurance policy and risk assessments. The Clerk had written to Greenfields Housing as their maintenance team had cut the grass areas at Lamarsh Hill and Woolpit Downs in April. These areas were included in the agreement for the parish contractor to undertake cutting. She would monitor on the next monthly cutting regime.

Repairs: Two damaged panels in the fence running along the Millennium footpath had been repaired. Village sign reported as unstable. Necessary repairs still being assessed.

Temporary road closure: The Clerk had circulated details of the pending temporary road closures at Colne Road and Station Hill coming into effect from 1st May until works had been completed.

Environmental incident on River Stour: The incident was causing grave concern in relation to fish stocks and other aquatics. During April, Officer had been taking readings and samples between Nayland and Bures. Information circulated to all on Clerk's mailing list.

Mrs Jenny Wright
Parish Clerk

