

Clerk's Report – 18th January 2016 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Grounds maintenance: New contract agreements in hand. **Works completed:** Waste bins emptied as required. General weedkilling completed in main areas. All grassed areas cut as per grounds maintenance contract. Hedge at Normandie Way cut back. No works currently outstanding under Chris Mortimer's grounds maintenance contract.

Bus shelter: Gary Vaughan had agreed to wash down the panels on the bus shelter and strim and tidy inside and out.

Landing Stage: The landing stage was unsafe and Nigel Norton had kindly cordoned off. Geoff Davies had agreed to arrange for the necessary repairs to be completed as soon as possible.

Leaves: The leaf fall in the village had been cleared by Adam Norton.

Ash tree at Essex Knowle: Adam Norton had completed the crown lift and branch removal as per his quotation of £130.00.

Damaged fence along Millennium footpath – Nigel Norton had repaired the damage and put in two new fence posts.

Street lights: Three street lights had been reported as not working – Pole No. 2 Normandie Way, Pole No. 15 Colchester Road and Pole No. 4 Station Hill.

Bakers Hall pothole: The pothole continued to re-appear following several repairs by ECC Highways during last year. The Clerk had reported again for a further repair.

Faster Broadband: The Clerk had circulated details of Phase 2 and the email from Alistair Jones of Station Hill who was pushing for the current timetable to be brought forward for Bures Hamlet.

Replacement bus timetable: Hedingham & Chambers Bus Company had kindly contacted Essex County Council to replace the timetable at the bus shelter at Normandie Way.

Parked car at Station Hill: The Clerk had reported the car which had been parked on a number of occasions on the blind bend at Station Hill. Essex Police had placed a warning notice on the car and advised that penalty notices would be implemented if found parked there again.

Complaints to the BDC Dog Warden: The Clerk had referred a further dog incident to the BDC Dog Warden involving the same dog as in the two previous incidents. The Dog Warden had advised that a dog is not necessarily considered to be under proper control if on a lead. It is an offence if any person is under the reasonable apprehension they may be injured by a dog even if they are not. The Dog Warden had subsequently liaised directly with all complainants to follow up. Mark Garnham, Estate Manager for Greenfield Housing was also investigating a dog incident and had informed the Clerk that he would liaise with BDC Dog Warden on the matter.

Lamp bollard: A & J Lighting had repaired the lamp bollard along the Normandie Way to The Paddocks footpath over the Christmas period.

Sponsorship for flower tubs: The Clerk had written to Chambers Coaches to see if they were willing to sponsor a wooden barrel style flower tub ready planted for the spring.

Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons: It has been agreed that the beacon on the Bures Sports Ground will be lit on 21st April 2016 as part of the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. A community group to make the arrangements.

James Cleverley MP's Advice Surgeries: The Clerk had advertised contact details for the surgeries. She had also suggested to James to consider attending a Wednesday morning coffee and cake morning at St Mary's Church.

Rights of Way & Byways Course: Hugh Turner, Parish ROW Representative had agreed to attend this course on 25th January at Great Horkesley Village Hall.

Parish Safety Volunteers: The Clerk had circulated and advertised details of this new initiative by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Essex Police. The aim was to recruit two Parish Safety Volunteers per parish in Essex tasked with arranging and conducting home safety visits. For further information and to show an interest please email: PSV@essex-fire.gov.uk Co-ordinator Kieron Moir was willing to attend a parish council meeting to gain interest.

Winter Salt Bag Scheme: Bures Hamlet Parish Council had signed up for the scheme and one tonne of 25kg bagged palletted salt had now been delivered to Fysh House Farm for use during the winter. Gritting to be done jointly with Bures St Mary Parish Council by Gary Vaughan. Clerk to call him out as and when necessary to grit paths in the parish. Grit bins stocked full ready for use. The gritter also now stored at Fysh House Farm.

Electoral Register: The Clerk had duly signed the paperwork from BDC Electoral Services and was now in receipt of a copy of the Electoral Register for the parish.

Christmas Lights risk assessment – To note that the Clerk still waiting on the Street Lighting risk assessment from Cllr Butcher for the insurance file.

Training: The Clerk had circulated the EALC training calendar of events to all councillors. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to attend any of the events.

The Clerk was in receipt of the following:

Details of Microchipping of Dogs Regulations – circulated

Greenfields Community Housing Press Release regarding reduction of rents – circulated

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council