

## Clerk's Report – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

**Grounds maintenance: Works completed:** All grounds maintenance as per contract. Various signs cleaned. Fencing along the Millennium footpath repaired. Water Lane and Parsonage Grove signs both repaired.

**Works pending:** Spring bulbs to be planted at the Water Lane grass triangle.

**Essex Policing precept 2018-2019:** The Clerk had circulated information on a public survey being held by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to identify the general appetite for investing more in Essex Police, what reasonable level of investment and the areas for extra investment. Survey online at <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/policeprecept>

**Braintree District rough sleepers:** BDC was carrying out an annual count or estimate of rough sleepers in the district. The estimate is a snapshot of the situation on a typical single night in October or November and this year's date being 15<sup>th</sup> November. Clerk had circulated to relevant parties to inform her if aware of rough sleepers in the parish.

**Woolpit Downs:** Greenfield Housing had cut back foliage around the lamp at the entrance to the estate. Resident at No. 3 had cleared the ditch of overgrowth. Resident at No. 5 keen to remove all trees and overhang at entrance to estate. Clerk to follow up with Estate Manager as these works may be under Braintree District Council and some residents were strongly against.

**Village sign flower bed:** Neil Haswell had kindly agreed to plant winter and spring bedding for 2017/18 at a cost of £79.

**Minor Works Preferred Builders List:** This had been updated and held on file.

**B1508 Bridge Street:** Suffolk Highways had confirmed that works had not been programmed yet as it was still trying to secure funding but scheduled for financial year 2018/19. A suitable location for a compound was still to be agreed locally.

**Inventory for Unmetered Supplies:** The Clerk had written to UK Power Networks to confirm that there had been no change in the inventory of parish lights.

**Essex highways Service Delivery Survey:** The Clerk had completed the survey online on behalf of the parish council. The survey was to enable Essex Highways to better target its resources for future service delivery.

**Rural Community Survey for Essex:** The Clerk had completed the survey online and submitted as a joint parish survey. The Rural Services Network was seeking improvements in communication for the rural areas through specific Sounding Boards and a Rural Panel.

**Electoral Register 2017/18:** The Clerk had requested a copy of the register from Braintree District Council and agreed that usage would be confined to parish matters only and access strictly controlled to ensure that the confidentiality of the data contained would be maintained.

**Defibrillator:** Ferriers Barn Administrator Nikki Goodman had asked the parish council to consider upgrading a defibrillator which she had acquired to enable shared use of it within the village and at Ferriers Barn. As members had previously agreed not to invest in a further defibrillator for Bures, the Clerk discussed the matter with Nikki and agreed not to follow up. However Nikki kindly offered to give a monthly check on the defibrillator at Church Square and this had now been followed up with BSMPC.

**Website:** The Clerk had attended a briefing on SuffolkCloud with a view to updating the existing parish council website management. Current website under Community Action Suffolk. CAS had informed the Clerk that upgrades were due to be completed early 2018.

**DaRT:** Information on the Essex DaRT scheme can be found online at [www.essex.gov.uk/DaRT](http://www.essex.gov.uk/DaRT). Cllr Welch regularly attended the local Working Group meetings to keep abreast of changes to the service.

**Battles Over November 2018:** Details of the nationwide event scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 had been circulated. All villages were being encouraged to take part with the lighting of a beacon and ringing of church bells across the country.

**Training –** The Clerk had circulated the Calendar of EALC Training Events for 2017 to all members.

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

Flood and Water Management Planning News – details of Riparian Landowner Rights and Responsibilities

Making the Links bulletin November

AONB Monthly updates September, October and November

Details of Essex Crowd – community crowdfunding movement with a £500,000 fund

Details of funding available from Essex Heritage Trust for projects restoring and promoting heritage in the County

Mrs Jenny Wright

Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

