

Clerk's Report – 21st March 2016 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Grounds maintenance: New contract agreed. **Works completed:** Waste bins emptied as required. General weedkilling completed in main areas. All grassed areas cut as per grounds maintenance contract. Nettles cleared at Lamarsh Hill. Woolpit Downs carpark litter picked. Village sign flower bed bedded out with spring flowers. Gutters and paths swept at the railway bridge and station areas. Tree work at the Essex Knoll completed. Spring parish boundary litter pick completed. To note Chris Mortimer offering a selection of waste bins at a reasonable price.

Pyracantha hedge at Normandie Way: The Clerk had received two complaints. The contractors had left cuttings and debris on the grassed area and on the road plus vehicle tyre damage in the grass. The contractors had returned to the site and raked and tidied the area.

Bus shelter: Gary Vaughan had washed down the panels and strimmed and tidied around the shelter. Still unable to make good the damaged panels.

Landing Stage: The landing stage was unsafe and Nigel Norton had kindly cordoned off. Nigel Norton to do the repair work under the supervision of Geoff Davies as soon as weather conditions permitted.

Lamarsh Hill entrance gate: Ken Brightwell had agreed to clean and tidy the entrance gate within the next couple of months.

Street lights: Two street lights at Parsonage Grove had been reported as not working. Pole No. 15 Colchester Road and Pole No. 4 Station Hill both repaired. Pole No. 2 Normandie Way – fault still being investigated.

Footpath No. 7: FP7 at corner of Bridge Street and Station Hill – the poor surfacing along the section behind The Secretaries and No. 1 Bridge Street had been reported to ECC.

Replacement bus timetable: The Clerk had contacted Essex County Council to replace the timetable at the bus shelter at Normandie Way. This had been agreed.

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 but no reply received to date.

Cycle races: The Clerk had received complaints regarding the recent cycle race events which tour via Bures Hamlet and other neighbouring parishes on a regular basis. Many of the routes the cyclists use are narrow single tracks and not suitable for such events. The matter had been referred to District Cllr Wendy Scattergood for following up.

James Cleverly MP parish visit: James had been invited to the parish but had informed the Clerk that owing to his parliamentary commitments he would only be available to visit events on a Friday or a Saturday.

Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons: It had been agreed that the beacon on the Bures Sports Ground would be lit on 21st April 2016 as part of the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. An event in the Community Centre had been arranged to commence at 7.30pm. Finger buffet. Tickets available £5. Time of lighting of the beacon still to be agreed as all beacons across the country to be lit simultaneously.

Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Forum Conference: The conference to be held on Thursday 12th May at The Venture Centre, Lawford, Manningtree 9.30am – 4pm. Chairman had agreed to attend.

BDC Housing Breakfast Briefings: BDC to hold workshops on the choice based lettings system, housing options and homelessness during the year. Cllr Barnham and the Clerk had agreed to attend a Housing Option workshop on 12th April.

Data Protection Registration: The Clerk had completed the renewal for the data protection register entry with the Information Commissioner's Office – website www.ico.org.uk/registered

Agewell Guide: The Clerk was in receipt of the Agewell booklet, a guide to services and information for people in later life in the Braintree District. Also available online.

Greenfield Housing Be Connected Online: The Clerk had circulated and advertised details of the scheme to increase online skills for Greenfields Housing residents. Any persons interested to contact the Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator Val Thompson on 01376 535400 Ext 5678 Email: Val.Thompson@GreenfieldsCH.org.uk

ECC Temporary Traffic Orders for Braintree District: The Clerk had circulated the notice for several temporary road traffic orders locally across the Braintree District affecting many minor roads in and around the parish.

Letter of appreciation: On behalf of the parish council, the Clerk had sent a letter of appreciation to Mrs Jacqui O'Sullivan for her work and commitment to the parish during her 4 years as parish councillor.

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:

Essex County Council consultation regarding proposals to introduce charging for pre-application advice and developer contribution enquiries on Strategic Development (transportation) and Community Infrastructure - circulated

Details of the Essex County Council Replacement Waste Local Plan Engagement Plan – circulated

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council